

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

**GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS,
CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS,
THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2022/23**

1. Purpose of Report

To consider requests for grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Grant Aid Policy.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to CONSIDER the requests and RESOLVE accordingly.

3. Detail

Details of the grant applications received are included in the appendix for consideration. The amount available for distribution in 2022/23 is as follows:

	<u>£</u>
Revenue Grant Aid Budget	168,800
Less: Estimated requirements for: Rent Awards and Related Commitments (<i>Note A</i>)	32,300
Less: Grant Awards to Date	125,950
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	10,550

Note A – This includes provision in respect of rental and support costs for tenants of Council-owned properties, including 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts, 5th Stapleford Scout Group, 2nd Kimberley Scout Group, Stapleford Community Association, Age Concern Eastwood, Bramcote Cricket Club, Chilwell Community Association and Eastwood People's Initiative.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

The grant aid budget will likely be fully exhausted following consideration and approval of these applications. The total grant amount requested in this report is £28,045, of which £10,000 is already provided for in the rent provision (see note A above). The remaining £18,045 would first be drawn from the balance available for distribution of £10,550, with the remainder needing to be financed through an unplanned withdrawal from General Fund Reserves.

5. Legal Implications

The Council is empowered to make grants to voluntary organisations by virtue of Section 48 Local Government Act 1985 (as well as other legislation). Having an approved process in line the legislation and the Council's Grant Aid Policy will ensure the Council's compliance with its legal duties.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

There are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

As there is no change to policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

10. Background Papers

Nil.

APPENDIX

Applications

The following grant applications have been received for consideration in 2022/23:

		<u>Grant Award 2021/22</u> £	<u>Grant Request 2022/23</u> £
Dig In Community Allotment	1	655	913
Support Through Sport Youth CIC	2	nil	8,132
2 nd Kimberley Scout Group	3	7,000	7,000*
Stapleford Community Association	4	3,000	3,000*
The Helpful Bureau	5	10,000	9,000
		Total	<u>28,045</u>

*The requests from 2nd Kimberley Scout Group and Stapleford Community Association for £7,000 and £3,000 respectively are covered within the provision for rent awards.

1. DIG-IN COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

The Dig-In Community Allotment scheme ('Dig-In') was established in 2004 and is based at the Albany Allotments on Pasture Road, Stapleford. Dig-In provides a facility for local groups and residents to grow fruit and vegetables and explore biodiversity and horticulture through running a sustainable community allotment, organising workshops, volunteer gardening sessions, organic food growing, environmental & food education and local community outreach and involvement.

The group aims to improve the mental & physical wellbeing of the local community through these activities. The group also acts as a community hub for outdoor events and workshops which are intended to bring the local community together with a shared purpose of combating social isolation and developing people's skills, knowledge and self-confidence. Training is offered on an informal and occasional basis and is "on the job" during normal gardening sessions.

Dig-In is free and open to all (the project asks for donations at its events). Community groups and families use the site as a resource. Dig-In is managed by a voluntary management committee made up of local residents, voluntary groups and local agencies/authorities. In 2021 the scheme has delivered:

- 60 volunteer sessions with an average of 6 attendees per session across the year totalling 768 hours.
- Other volunteer groups, including people with learning disabilities and members of 'Pulp Friction' have been welcomed onto the site at regular weekly sessions during the summer and early autumn.

- Five groups from local schools and uniformed groups attended the site, taking part in activities including pond-dipping and 'beast hunting'.
- 11 educational visits to local schools were made, involving 288 children and 62 supporting adults.

Financial Information

For the year ended 28 February 2022, income totalling £11,827 was derived from grants and donations. Expenditure of £8,928 related to wages (£6,779), activities and events, materials and other operating expenses. Stapleford Town Council supports the project by donating the three allotment plots for community use and as such no rental is charged. Cash and bank balances at 28 February 2022 amounted to £10,594 (2021: £7,695). The group states that as at 1 November 2022, the bank balance for the group was £15,131.

The Council have supported the Dig-In Community Allotment for several years with grant aid towards its running costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2021/22	£655
2020/21	£700
2019/20	£495
2018/19	£515

Grant Request

For 2022/23 the Dig-In Community Allotment has requested a similar grant of £913 towards insurance premium (£271), ICT costs (£180), water charges (£131), a donation to the Trussell Trust in lieu of accountancy fees (£120) and other miscellaneous support costs.

Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by the Dig-In Community Allotment benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of Dig-In Community Allotment target the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community, in particular helping to combat loneliness and social exclusion within the Borough, as well as providing educational and co-curricular benefits to local schools and children's uniformed groups.
- Conservation and Environmental groups such as the Dig-In Community Allotment are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.

2. SUPPORT THROUGH SPORT YOUTH CIC

Support Through Sport Youth CIC (STS) is a Community Interest Company, established in July 2021, which delivers sport-based activities (including boxing, football, basketball, tennis and multi-skills) to engage with young people within disadvantaged communities. STS aims to deter and tackle negative influences including anti-social behaviour and youth offending by steering young people away from such influences and providing positive experiences and opportunities in line with a theory of change and approach which works around the individual needs of young people with a child-first approach.

STS is keen to address emerging and existing issues which surround and involve young people within communities. STS feels that there is an existing need within Eastwood and Chilwell which is currently not being addressed. Young people feel that there is a lack of provision and these communities have seen a rise in anti-social behaviour from groups of young people as a result of an unaddressed need. STS has a commitment to community safety and hopes to engage with young people through positive intervention which supports the wider community by addressing local issues.

Project Proposal

After consultation with Nottinghamshire's Violence Reduction Unit, the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, youth service managers for Eastwood and Chilwell and local young people STS is looking to establish a sport-based diversionary programme for young people in Eastwood and Chilwell.

STS will have free access to facilities in both areas and hopes to deliver football, boxing and multi-skills once per week on an evening between 6pm and 8pm to promote community safety through sport and a positive diversionary activity which young people can get involved in for free. STS points towards great success with similar projects in Stapleford at Stapleford Young People's centre (funded via the Violence Reduction Unit) and Beeston at Beeston Rylands Community Centre (funded via Active Notts) where they have engaged with over 120 young people from both areas to raise activity levels and tackle local issues.

The project will support young people through a range of soft and hard outcomes which strive to achieve the development of pro-social behaviours in line with the STS theory of change which uses sport to tackle negative influences and provide intervention within communities of need. The project will promote a sense of community safety and STS will engage in regular outreach to promote the project locally. STS states that young people have already expressed an interest in this project, and the boxing in particular. Young people will also have the opportunity to attend positive experience events and trips such as sporting events, residential and youth social action projects as well as getting involved in their volunteering programme to support positive youth development.

Financial Information

As Support Through Sport Youth CIC was only incorporated in July 2021, the first set of formal financial statements is not required to be produced until April 2023. STS has, however, provided a bank statement which demonstrates income and expenditure consistent with the stated activities of the organisation. The closing balance on the statement was noted to be positive, with STS stating that its total reserves as at 21 November 2022 to be £3,000. These reserves are not earmarked for any particular purpose.

The Council has not provided any financial support to STS previously as this is the first time STS has submitted an application to the Council's Grant Aid scheme.

Grant Request

Support Through Sport Youth CIC has requested two specific revenue grants in support of the proposed programmes to be delivered in Eastwood and Chilwell. The total value of both grants is £8,131.55. A detailed breakdown of the costs has been provided by STS, as follows:

Expense	Eastwood £	Chilwell £
Staffing	3,240	3,240
Equipment	520	520
Travel	344	267
TOTAL	4,104	4,027

'Staffing' is the cost of 3 staff for 2 hours per session for 45 weeks at a rate of £12.00 per hour (3 x 2 x 45 x £12 = £3,240). 'Equipment' is the combined cost of a kitbag (£420) and flyers and a banner (£100). 'Travel' is the cost of mileage at a rate of 45 pence per mile, calculated as:

Eastwood 17 miles x 45 sessions x 45 pence = £344.

Chilwell 13.2 miles x 45 sessions x 45 pence = £267.

Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by the Support Through Sport Youth CIC would benefit Broxtowe residents and would be complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of STS target the needs of disadvantaged sections of the community, in particular helping to combat social exclusion and anti-social behaviour within the Borough, as well as providing educational and co-curricular benefits to local young people.

Members should note that the grant aid policy requires that grant awards of £5,000 or above may be subject to a Service Level Agreement.

3. 2ND KIMBERLEY SCOUT GROUP

The 2nd Kimberley Scout Group was established over 50 years ago and is based in Council owned premises at Kettlebrook Lodge on Eastwood Road in Kimberley. The Group continues to thrive and has over 200 members (both junior members and voluntary helpers) from within Broxtowe.

The aim of the Group is to provide activities within the Scout Association organisation. The Group is responsible for the maintenance and up-keep of Kettlebrook Lodge as a community venue. The facilities are currently utilised by the Scouts and Guides organisation, a playgroup and for other events and functions.

Financial Information

The latest accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 showed receipts of £28,888 (2021: £26,061) being generated from grants, donations, subscriptions, fundraising and other activities. Payments amounted to £27,354 (2021: £23,946) which included premises expenses (rent, heating, lighting, repairs and maintenance), cleaning and caretaking, cost of activities and other expenses. The General Fund is represented by cash and bank balances, which at 31 March 2022 amounted to £21,986 (2021: £20,452). This money is earmarked towards repairs and improvements to Kettlebrook Lodge and capitation to Scout Headquarters. The group states that as at 13 November 2022, the bank balances for the group totalled £14,126.

As part of the Council's aim to secure market rental on its properties, the annual rent has been assessed at £7,000 from 2019/20. The 2nd Kimberley Scout Group has suggested that it would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

The Council has regularly supported 2nd Kimberley Scout Group with grant aid towards its rental obligations with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

2021/22	£7,000
2020/21	£7,000
2019/20	£7,000
2018/19	£6,500

The Council also supported 2nd Kimberley Scout Group with £5,000 of capital funding in April 2018 for the full cost of replacing the boiler at Kettlebrook Lodge, with the Council's officers also providing technical support in the process of assessing the scheme and evaluating quotations.

Grant Request

For 2022/23 the 2nd Kimberley Scout Group has requested a grant of £7,000 to cover the market rental of Kettlebrook Lodge. This grant would be for a period of one year and would be matched by allowances within the premises income budget and therefore leave the Council's overall budget unchanged.

Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by 2nd Kimberley Scout Group benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of 2nd Kimberley Scout Group provide educational and co-curricular benefits to local children and young people.
- Uniformed Groups such as 2nd Kimberley Scout Group are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.

4. STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Stapleford Community Association was formed in 1954 and is responsible for the management and operation of the Council owned Community Centre on Cliffe Hill Avenue in Stapleford.

The aim of the Association is to provide a high quality, low cost centre for a variety of leisure, educational and community activities in Stapleford. Around 200 people of all ages use the facilities on a weekly basis with an estimated 80% being residents of the Borough.

Financial Information

For the year ended 31 December 2021, income of £28,274 (2020: £15,367) was generated from hall lettings and grants (including Covid-19 related business grants). Annual expenditure amounted to £10,276 (2020: £11,408) and included rent, repairs and renewals, cleaning and sundry expenses, insurance, heating and lighting, water charges and depreciation. Cash and bank balances at 31 December 2021 totalled £46,437 (2020: £27,464). Stapleford Community Association has indicated that the reserves as at 9 November 2022 were £46,000, with these funds being earmarked towards ongoing maintenance projects.

As part of the Council's aim to secure economic rents on its properties, the rent was assessed at £3,000 per annum. The Stapleford Community Association has suggested that it would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

The Council has previously supported Stapleford Community Association with grants towards its premises rental. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2021/22	£3,000
2020/21	£3,000
2019/20	£3,000
2018/19	£3,000

Grant Request

For 2022/23, Stapleford Community Association has requested a similar grant of £3,000 to cover the rental of the Community Centre on Cliffe Hill Avenue in Stapleford. This grant award would be for a period of one year and would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the award being matched in the Council's premises income budget.

Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by Stapleford Community Association benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- Stapleford Community Association and the groups which operate from the Cliffe Hall Community Centre target the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community, in particular helping to combat loneliness and social exclusion within the Borough.
- Community Associations such as Stapleford Community Association are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.

5. THE HELPFUL BUREAU

The Helpful Bureau is a registered charity and not for profit organisation based at the Carnegie Civic and Community Centre on Warren Avenue in Stapleford. Originally established in 1978, THB formally registered as a charity from 2001.

The Helpful Bureau provides services which support and encourage older and/or disabled residents to live safely and independently in their own homes including befriending, practical services, social activities, transport scheme and support services. Its work, including positive signposting, supports people to make choices about their lives. The activities provide opportunities for people to socialise and keep active, helping people to feel less isolated and maintain both physical and mental wellbeing; preventing costly interventions. The charity has over 2,900 clients, the majority being residents of Broxtowe.

The application made by The Helpful Bureau for 2022/23 relates primarily to their Community Transport scheme. The Helpful Bureau states that Community Transport is an integral part of supporting people to be independent for longer and helps carers to get out too. Feedback received by The Helpful Bureau from

users suggests that many of their members struggle to afford taxis and that wheelchair taxis are even costlier. The Helpful Bureau states that demand for the service has increased and continues to increase which makes it all the more important to be active in the recruitment, training and support of our volunteers.

Financial Information

The Helpful Bureau has submitted its draft Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 for scrutiny. The charity splits its accounts between restricted and unrestricted funds. Total income generated in the year amounted to £148,249 (2021: £219,867), including £72,259 as unrestricted funds, from fees and services (£64,706), donations, contracts and fundraising. Restricted grants totalling £75,990 were received in from Nottinghamshire County Council (£43,870), this Council (£12,509) and other funders. Total expenditure was £168,881 (2021: £151,191), including £29,147 from the unrestricted fund, and related to wages (£111,643 split between restricted and unrestricted funds for an average of 12 employees), rent and services and other running costs. Total bank balances as at 31 March 2022 were £92,328 (2021: £108,769), with Total Funds declared at £105,226, including £77,974 as unrestricted funds.

The Helpful Bureau has stated its reserves as at 24 November 2022 to total £42,173. THB's policy on reserves is to retain three months' worth of operating costs in addition to provision for future developments and vehicles.

The Helpful Bureau has received or applied for assistance for the Community Transport scheme from a number of other grant-giving bodies, including Awards for All (£10,000), The Wheatcroft Fund (£5,000), Inman Charity (£5,000), NCC Community Transport (£1,000) and a County Councillor donation of £500. No applications have been made elsewhere solely for general running costs, though a proportion is included in project-specific applications where the scheme allows.

The Helpful Bureau also notes in their application that support from the Local Communities Fund has been reduced and the difference was initially funded from The Helpful Bureau's reserves.

The Council have supported The Helpful Bureau for several years with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

2021/22	£10,000
2020/21	£5,000
2019/20	£5,000
2018/19	£2,000

Grant Request

For 2022/23, The Helpful Bureau has requested a grant of £9,000. Of this, £6,000 is requested as direct assistance with the Community Transport

Scheme, with the remaining £3,000 as a contribution towards general running costs.

Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by The Helpful Bureau benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of The Helpful Bureau target the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community, in particular helping to combat loneliness and social exclusion within the Borough and improving the mental health and well-being of residents.
- Caring Organisations such as The Helpful Bureau are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.