

## Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

**CAPITAL GRANT AID REQUEST – THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (BEESTON) SOCIAL CLUB**1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to CONSIDER the request and RESOLVE accordingly.**

3. Detail

An application for capital funding of £5,200 has been received from The Royal British Legion (Beeston) Social Club. This has been considered in accordance with the provisions of the Council's grant aid policy. Details of the application are included within the appendix to this report.

4. Financial Implications

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

No budgetary provision exists for capital grants to voluntary organisations. Any grant award would have to be funded from Capital Contingencies in 2022/23 of which £34,000 currently remains available (subject to any other considerations as part of this agenda).

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****ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (BEESTON) SOCIAL CLUB**

The Royal British Legion (RBL) was formed in the aftermath of the First World War when four organisations came together to fight the injustices faced by those returning home after service and became the British Legion in 1921. From the beginning, it campaigned for fair treatment of those who had given so much for their country and provided much needed welfare support and comradeship. Today, RBL continues to respond to the changing needs of the Armed Forces community, providing small interventions to life-changing and sometimes lifesaving support.

The Royal British Legion (Beeston) Social Club ("the Club") was formed in 1949 and is located on Hall Croft in Beeston. The Club is a 'not for profit' registered society, which provides a social, community and entertainment venue and activities for residents of Beeston, Chilwell, Toton and the surrounding areas. Community Groups and similar activities held at the Beeston Club include the Beeston Folk Club, Beeston Cabaret Club, Nottingham Jazz Orchestra and Civic Society meetings. The Club also highlights the support it provides to veterans and bereavement support groups and is particularly proud to host the Studio Dementia Group.

The Club is currently refurbishing its premises (leased from The Royal British Legion (Regional Office Property Management)) with the next phase of this project being the installation of new flooring on the dance floor, stage and toilet area. The Club states that this will bring the flooring up to safety standards for the benefit of all patrons of the Club.

**Financial Information**

The Royal British Legion (Beeston) Social Club has provided its accounts for the year ended 30 September 2021 for scrutiny. Total income amounted to £44,047 (including turnover of £10,992 and government grants of £33,055) which increased from £43,423 in 2020. Total expenditure for the year was £39,442 (2020: £38,230) which mainly related to repairs and renewals, premises overheads and wages and salaries. The surplus for the year was £4,605 (2020: £5,193). The cash at bank and in hand as at 30 September 2021 was £13,648 with total net assets of £24,262.

The RBL national membership fees are not shared with the local clubs, although there is an option to join the Beeston Club for a nominal £1 (around 120 local members). The Club is open to non-members and guests.

**Grant Request**

The Royal British Legion (Beeston) Social Club has requested a capital grant of up to £5,200 to enable it to complete the installation of new flooring on the dance floor, stage and toilet area. The Club has provided an estimate from a local supplier in support of this, detailing the required work to remove the old flooring, 'make good' and replace with new carpet tiles including safety flooring in the toilet area.

Due to the nature of this scheme, any approved grant would normally be made on the basis of 25% of the actual costs incurred, given that it relates to a non-Council owned asset, with a maximum figure specified in appropriate circumstances. Members will recall that a grant of £8,645 for electrical safety works was awarded to the Beeston Club in June 2021 through the exercise of the Chief Executive's urgency powers, as reported to the Finance and Resources Committee in July 2021. A second grant of £6,000 was awarded by Cabinet in May 2022 for further works of a similar nature.

Such a grant award would be in line with the Grant Aid Policy for the following key reasons:

- Welfare Organisations are a specific category of groups welcomed to apply for financial assistance.
- The services provided and facilitated by the Club benefit the people of Broxtowe and are complementary to those services provided by the Council.
- The activities of the Club target the needs of vulnerable sections of the community, helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

No budgetary provision exists for capital grants to voluntary organisations. Any capital grant award would have to be funded from the Council's overall capital contingencies budget in 2022/23 of which £34,000 remains available (subject to the consideration of other requests as part of this agenda).