

Report of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive

CAPITAL GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS1. Purpose of report

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

2. Grant Aid Application

An application for capital funding has been received from the Trent Vale Community Sports Association (TVCSA). TVCSA is planning to undertake an ambitious project to renovate its site in Beeston Rylands and provide a multi-sport facility with full disabled access and community function room. With support and financial assistance from Sport England and the Football Foundation, the scheme will cost in the region of £700,000.

TVCSA has requested grant aid from the Council of up to £10,000 towards the cost of new perimeter fencing and secure access doors for the storage facility as part of the wider redevelopment scheme. Details of the application are included in the appendix.

Given the nature of these capital schemes, any approved grant would normally be given on the basis of 25% of the actual costs incurred (given that it would relate to a non-Council owned asset) with a maximum figure specified in appropriate circumstances.

Whilst the request is within this limit when considered in context of the wider scheme, given that the perimeter fencing and storage doors have been identified as necessary regardless of the wider scheme coming to fruition, Members may wish to consider awarding a reduced grant in the first instance (up to the 25% level), with further monies only released pending evidence of financial commitment from the major funding partners or when significant funds are received.

3. Financial Position

No budgetary provision exists for capital grants to voluntary organisations. If Members were minded to approve the request from TVCSA, then an allocation from the Council's capital contingencies would be required from the anticipated 2018/19 budget within which £53,000 remains uncommitted.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to CONSIDER the request and RESOLVE accordingly.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX**1. TRENT VALE COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

An application for grant aid has been received from the Trent Vale Community Sports Association (TVCSA) for funding towards new perimeter fencing and improved security of storage facilities as part of a larger project to redevelop the sports and community facilities in Beeston Rylands.

TVCSA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) first registered with the Charity Commission on 19 August 2014. Beeston Football Club and Trent Vale Squash Club each contributed £4,000 to meet the initial set-up costs including the forming of the CIO. The charity is managed by five Trustees from both founding clubs. TVCSA was established for the provision of community participation in healthy recreation, in particular facilities for the playing of ball and racquet sports. Its current sporting activities include children's football (provided through Beeston Football Club) and squash (via the Trent Vale Squash Club). Beeston Football Club is a volunteer run club with over 200 children playing football every week. The club was recently runner-up in the Football Association community awards for its 16-week 'Wildcats' girls football course. The success of this course has led to four girls teams being established to play alongside the boys teams and weekly soccer school for younger children.

TVSCA holds a 99-year lease on the nine-acre sports site in Beeston Rylands. The site was formally a sports and social club for a large company and has been the home of Beeston Football Club for many years. The site has overgrown tennis and netball courts and a dilapidated clubhouse with no electricity or hot water. TVSCA believe that there is a need for better community and sports facilities in the area. Improved facilities would enable the football club to greatly increase the number of children involved (with the benefit of improving their physical and mental health through regular exercise and being part of club), with an emphasis on girls football and increasing participation of disabled players. Residents would also benefit from using community facilities for toddler groups, exercise classes, senior citizens group etc. The local athletics and cycling clubs have also expressed an interest in using the site as their base and have an outline plan to build a running track around the outside of the football pitches and to install indoor spinning bikes.

TVCSA has an ambitious scheme to renovate the whole site to provide a multi-sport facility with full disabled access and community function room. With support and financial assistance from Sport England and the Football Foundation, the scheme will cost in the region of £700,000.

TVCSA are currently completing the planning permission process, although the scheme has in essence been agreed before. Earlier plans for the development of the whole Beeston Business Park, including a new build pavilion were shelved when the landowner suddenly sold the site.

TVCSA has since agreed a long-term lease with the new landowner and has recommenced its funding applications to various charities and funding bodies.

The latest plans have been drawn up in consultation with the Football Foundation and Sport England. The local community have been considered in the decision not to install flood lights. The project could begin as early as spring 2019, although many ancillary aspects can start immediately such as reconnecting the electricity or replacing the perimeter fencing and access door to the outside equipment store - both of which are currently insecure.

The decisions relating to significant funding from the Football Foundation and Sport England are pending, although both organisations have been closely involved with the planning process and are committed to the project. TVCSA needs to raise around £70,000 and has so far received around £10,000 from fundraising events, merchandise sales and being awarded a selection of small grants including East Midlands Airport (£1,000) and Aviva (£500). Other bids from local companies and the Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme have been unsuccessful. All money raised to date has largely been spent on professional fees.

TVCSA has requested a capital grant of £10,000 from the Council towards the replacement of the perimeter fencing (£7,000) and a new access door to the external storage (£3,000). The fencing is insecure and, regardless of the larger development, will need to be rectified to ensure the safety and security of the site and its users. TVCSA currently stores over £10,000 worth of equipment onsite (goal posts etc.) and they are at risk of theft or vandalism until the fencing and storage unit are secured.

TVCSA state that this large scale, long-term project will be of direct benefit to the people of Broxtowe, provide a much needed facility and be a lasting legacy for generations to come.

TVCSA has provided its Charity Commission Annual Return for scrutiny. The financial statements as at 31 December 2017 show limited expenditure of £2,179 mainly relating to legal fees and insurance and no recognised income (the respective sports club's undertake ground maintenance, pay their own fees and collect income from their respective membership). Spending and grant funding to date in respect of the scheme have been received in 2018. As at 31 December 2017, TVCSA had £1,161 available in its bank account.

This is the first application that the Council has received from TVCSA and for 2018/19 it has requested a grant of £10,000 towards the cost of new perimeter fencing and a secure access door for the storage facility.

No approved capital budget exists for schemes of this nature and an allocation from Capital Contingencies would be required if a grant were to be awarded. Any approved grant would normally be given on the basis of 25% of actual costs incurred (given that it relates to a non-Council asset). Whilst the request is within this limit when considered as part of the wider scheme, given that the perimeter fencing and storage doors are deemed necessary regardless of the wider scheme coming to fruition, then Members may wish to consider awarding a reduced grant (at the 25% level) in the first instance, with further monies only released pending evidence of financial commitment from the major funding partners or when significant funds are received.