

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

**CAPITAL GRANT AID REQUEST – WATNALL ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**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 £2,000 has been received from the Watnall Allotments Association. 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 2023/24 of which £52,000 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. Climate Change Implications

The comments from the Interim Head of Environmental Services were as follows:

Allotments are an important natural resource in terms of tackling climate change. They sequester carbon and produce locally grown food (reducing the distance food is transported from where it is grown until it reaches the consumer). However, consideration should be given to other sustainable transport/active travel options to site rather than a focus on cars.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

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

11. Background Papers

Nil.

## APPENDIX

**WATNALL ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

The Watnall Allotments Association ('WAA') was established during the 1940's to manage a plot of allotments within Watnall which have been in existence since 1844. The allotments are subject to a tenancy, with 110 plots (a combination of full- and half-size plots).

WAA is managed by an elected committee and has approximately 180 members, all of whom live in Broxtowe and pay an annual membership fee of £5 (in addition to rent payable for individual plots).

The members of WAA enjoy the direct benefit from physical activity of looking after their plots as well the social aspect of being part of a mutually supportive community. In addition, since 2019 WAA has held an open day on the August bank holiday which is well attended by the local residents of Watnall and Nuthall.

Financial Information

WAA has provided its (unaudited) accounts for 2022 for scrutiny. Total income amounted to £2,554 (including open day net income of £1,329). Total expenditure for the year was £3,020 which mainly related to premises overheads and other premises expenses. The cash at bank and in hand at the end of the year was £1,167 with stock value estimated at £1,598.

Grant Request

WAA has requested a capital grant of £2,000 towards the cost of a project to level a car parking space in the middle of the site. At present, the ground is uneven and raised which limits the number of cars that can be parked during the busy growing season and will be especially beneficial for the open day. In previous years the WAA has had to request permission to use a company car park further along the main road.

WAA has obtained three quotations for the proposed works, of which the capital grant requested would amount to 21-30%. 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.

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

- Community / Conservation groups are specific categories of groups welcomed to apply for financial assistance.
- The services provided and facilitated by the WAA benefit the people of Broxtowe and are complementary to those services provided by the Council.
- The activities of WAA target the needs of potentially vulnerable sections of the community, helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness.