

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

**GRANT AID REQUESTS FROM PARISH/TOWN COUNCILS**1. Purpose of Report

To consider requests for grant assistance in accordance with the protocol for the consideration of grant aid to parish and town councils.

2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to consider the requests and RESOLVE accordingly.**

3. Detail

Three requests for grant aid assistance from parish/town councils have been received:

- A request from Nuthall Parish Council of up to £2,290 towards the cost of traffic management for its Remembrance Sunday Parade.
- A request from Kimberley Town Council of up to £2,059 towards the cost of traffic management for its Remembrance Sunday Parade.
- A request from Eastwood Town Council for £2,250 towards the cost of cleaning two War Memorials in advance of the Annual Remembrance Service.

Details of the applications are included in appendix 1. The agreed protocol for assessing grant aid to parish and town councils is provided in appendix 2 with the grants previously awarded under this scheme listed in appendix 3.

4. Financial Implications

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

If Members wished to support these requests, these awards could be made from the £20,000 provision for grants to parish councils included in the 2023/24 revenue budget, of which £14,180 currently remains available.

5. Legal Implications

The comments of the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council is empowered to make grants by virtue of Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 (as well as other legislation). Having an approved process in line with the legislation and the Council's Grant Aid to Parish and Town Councils Protocol will ensure the Council's compliance with its legal duties.

6. Human Resources Implications

The comments of the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

The comments of the Union were as follows:

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

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

No comments regarding this report.

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 1

**Nuthall Parish Council**

Nuthall Parish Council has submitted a grant aid request of up to £2,290 towards the full cost of traffic management at its Remembrance Sunday Parade in 2023.

This parade has been running for many years. Following the police withdrawing traffic control by way of a rolling road block, updated regulations require a full road closure. Nuthall is unique in that it has to control traffic flows on the major island ('Nuthall Island') meaning that it has a far greater risk level than other parishes. With the police unable to offer any level of service, Nuthall has little alternative but to employ specialised contractors for the event. Also, since installing the new War Memorial at the Basil Russell Playing Fields in Maple Drive, the numbers attending the Remembrance events have increased. This has created additional risks and responsibilities. The cost of the traffic management service is £2,290 plus VAT and includes professionally liaising directly with the Highways Authority and other stakeholders, providing the appropriate signage and security on the day.

Such a request is in line with the Protocol for the Consideration of Grant Aid requests from Parish and Town Councils for the following key reasons:

- Though the award would be for a revenue grant (rather than for a specific capital project), events such as the Remembrance Service Parade complement the services provided by Broxtowe Borough Council and have historically been provided by this and other parish/town councils throughout the borough.
- The provision of events such as Remembrance Service Parades contributes towards community cohesion and helps to combat social exclusion and loneliness.

**Financial Information**

The closing balance of Nuthall Parish Council funds as at 31 March 2023 was £143,736 (2022: £131,624), with cash reserves of £165,261 (2022: £157,762), the difference between reserves and cash balances being net creditors and debtors. The Nuthall Parish Council annual precept for 2023/24 is £120,693 (2022/23: £120,748), an effective change of 0%.

**Kimberley Town Council**

Kimberley Town Council has submitted a grant aid request of up to £2,059 towards the full cost of traffic management and security stewarding at its Remembrance Sunday Parade in 2023.

The parade has been running for many years. Following the police withdrawing traffic control by way of a rolling roadblock, updated regulations require a full road closure. Kimberley's War Memorial, the location for the service, is situated at a

mini roundabout junction in the centre of Kimberley. The Parade begins at the Holy Trinity Church and follows a busy road up to the War Memorial with the police unable to offer any level of service, Kimberley has little alternative but to employ specialised contractors for the event in order to manage a safe event. The location of the event, in the Town centre close to a high-volume shopping precinct has created additional risks and responsibilities.

Such a request is in line with the Protocol for the Consideration of Grant Aid requests from Parish and Town Councils for the following key reasons:

- Though the award would be for a revenue grant (rather than for a specific capital project), events such as the Remembrance Service Parade complement the services provided by Broxtowe Borough Council and have historically been provided by this and other parish/town councils throughout the borough.
- The provision of events such as Remembrance Service Parades contributes towards community cohesion, helps to combat social exclusion and loneliness and assists with the development of Town Centres.

#### Financial Information

The closing balance of Kimberley Town Council funds as at 31 March 2023 was £353,058 (2022: £325,127), with cash reserves of £357,987 (2022: £327,782), the difference between reserves and cash balances being net creditors and debtors. The Kimberley Town Council annual precept for 2023/24 is £134,185 (2022/23: £128,941), an effective change of +2.5%.

#### Eastwood Town Council

Eastwood Town Council has developed plans to have two War Memorials (situated at Plumptre Way and Edward Road) professionally cleaned in advance of the Annual Remembrance Service in order to “bring them up to the standard expected to represent all those who dedicated and lost their lives protecting our country”.

The work is planned to be carried out by a firm specialising in the cleaning of memorials using steam-based methods which are “chemical free and environmentally friendly, non-toxic and non-hazardous” and which will not damage the stone surfaces of the memorials.

Eastwood Town Council has requested grant support for this project of £2,250, representing 50% of the total cost of £4,500 (for which the Town Council has received a formal estimate).

Such a request is in line with the Protocol for the Consideration of Grant Aid requests from Parish and Town Councils for the following key reasons:

- Though the award would be for a revenue grant (rather than for a specific capital project), events such as the Annual Remembrance Service complement the services provided by Broxtowe Borough Council and have historically been provided/supported by parish/town councils throughout the borough.
- Supporting events such as the Annual Remembrance Service contributes towards community cohesion and helps to combat social exclusion and loneliness.
- The cleaning of the memorials will have a positive effect on the veteran community for a significant time period beyond the Annual Remembrance Service.

#### Financial Information

The closing balance of Eastwood Town Council funds as at 31 March 2023 was £93,901 (additional fixed assets and long term investments totalled £831,832). The Eastwood Town Council annual precept for 2023/24 is £117,285 (2022/23 - £116,046), an effective change of 0%.

## APPENDIX 2

**Protocol for Consideration of Grant Aid to Parish and Town Councils**

The Protocol for the Consideration of Grant Aid requests from Parish and Town Councils was agreed by Cabinet on 8 June 2010. The key provisions are:

1. Grant aid will only be given in support of specific projects or services and not as a general grant towards the services provided by a parish/town council.
2. Revenue grant aid will only be considered towards services which act as a replacement for services which otherwise Broxtowe Borough Council would have to provide or which supplement services which the borough council provides so as to reduce the costs that Broxtowe would otherwise incur.
3. In applying for grant assistance the parish/town council will need to demonstrate how the service or project in question contributes to Broxtowe's aims and objectives as laid out in the Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy.
4. In applying for grant aid assistance the parish/town council will need to provide evidence as to why they do not have the financial resources to provide the services or project in question and what the consequences would be for local residents and businesses if the service was withdrawn or the project not completed. This will include a requirement for the parish/town council to detail what other funding sources they have secured (or otherwise) and to provide a statement as to any reserves held and their planned use.
5. Preference will be given to support for the provision of mandatory services as compared with discretionary services.
6. Where grant aid is to cover the cost of a specified service, the parish/town council will be responsible at its own cost for providing an audited statement within six months of the end of the financial year concerned to confirm the amount of expenditure incurred and income received against which grant aid may be payable. Any grant payable would then be adjusted retrospectively if necessary following receipt of such an audited statement.
7. Grant aid will only be in respect of additional costs directly incurred by the parish/town council and will not cover the cost of any general overheads which the parish/town council would otherwise incur anyway as a result of their operations.
8. Grant aid will be cash limited in each year and the responsibility for costs increasing beyond the cash limit will normally rest with the parish/town council. Where such cost increases are considered to be unavoidable and beyond the parish/town council's control, then Broxtowe may be approached to seek a further grant award.

9. Where the parish/town council wishes to vary the service provided for which grant aid has been awarded, this should only take place after full consultation and with the agreement of Broxtowe.
10. Preference will be given towards one off capital projects rather than as a regular annual contribution towards the ongoing costs of providing services.
11. The parish/town council shall be required to provide such information as Broxtowe may reasonably request as to the actual outputs and outcomes arising from any service or project where Broxtowe makes a contribution.
12. Any grant contribution that may be awarded by Broxtowe need not be at the rate of 100% of net expenditure incurred but may be at a lesser rate to reflect such as its own corporate priorities, budgetary constraints or the availability of similar services or projects elsewhere.
13. Revenue grants will normally only be awarded for one year although an indicative amount for the following year may be given at Broxtowe's discretion. Capital grant aid will be towards the cost of a specific one-off project.
14. Requests for grant aid in respect of a particular financial year should normally be submitted by the end of October of the preceding year at the latest to assist with forward budget planning for both Broxtowe and the parish/town council. Broxtowe will endeavour to make a decision on such requests by the end of December in the year preceding that for which grant aid is requested.

## APPENDIX 3

**Grant Aid Awards to Parish and Town Councils**

The table below lists the grants awarded under this scheme since 2018/19.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
15/08/19	Brinsley Parish Council	£2,070	Summer play day
10/10/19	Awsorth Parish Council	£1,250	Kitchen Refurbishment – Pavilion
10/10/19	Brinsley Parish Council	£2,300	Tree planting – commemoration
10/10/19	Nuthall Parish Council	£1,855	Remembrance parade
10/10/19	Stapleford Town Council	£2,010	Remembrance event
10/10/19	Trowell Parish Council	£3,500	Car park refurbishment
13/02/20	Brinsley Parish Council	£1,000	Festive lighting display
13/02/20	Brinsley Parish Council	£1,225	VE Day celebrations 2020
07/01/21	Kimberley Town Council	£1,200	New defibrillator
30/03/21	Kimberley Town Council	£1,200	New defibrillator
07/10/21	Nuthall Parish Council	£1,905	Remembrance parade
09/12/21	Awsorth Parish Council	£7,000	Play area improvements (Capital)
09/12/21	Stapleford Town Council	£1,994	Remembrance Sunday Event
09/12/21	Stapleford Town Council	£1,994	Remembrance Sunday Event
06/01/22	Kimberley Town Council	£1,200	Remembrance Sunday Event
19/07/22	Awsorth Parish Council	£500	Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
19/07/22	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,590	New defibrillators
19/07/22	Kimberley Town Council	£6,300	Christmas lights switch-on 2021
04/10/22	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,330	Remembrance Parade
04/10/22	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,100	Cemetery Maintenance
04/10/22	Stapleford Town Council	£2,194	Remembrance Event
01/11/22	Stapleford Town Council	£6,450	Contribution to refurbishment
01/11/22	Kimberley Town Council	£1,958	Remembrance Event
25/07/23	Eastwood Town Council	£820	Summer Activities for Young People
25/07/23	Awsorth Parish Council	£5,000	Various Capital Projects