

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 2023/24**

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 in the appendix and RESOLVE accordingly.

3. Detail

Details of the grant applications received are included in the appendix for consideration. The amount available for distribution in 2023/24 is as follows:

	£
Revenue Grant Aid Budget	168,800
Less: Estimated requirements for:	
Citizens Advice Broxtowe	31,875
Rent Awards and Related Commitments	43,300
Less: Grant Awards to Date	68,375
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	<u>25,250</u>

The provision in respect of rental and support costs for tenants of Council-owned properties includes: Age Concern Eastwood, Toton Coronation Hall Community Association, 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts, 2nd Kimberley Scout Group, Phoenix Community Foundation, Bramcote Cricket Club, Stapleford Community Association, Eastwood People's Initiative, 5th Stapleford Scout Group and Chilwell Community Association.

4. Financial Implications

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

Any grant awards will be met from the established grant aid budget shown in the table above. Members are reminded that they will need to suitably constrain grant awards in 2023/24 if the budget is not to be exceeded. The total 'cash' grants requested in this report is £9,500. The additional sums requested in this report, when compared to the previous year, would amount to £500 if all applications are fully supported.

5. Legal Implications

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

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

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

The comments from the Unions were as follows:

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

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

No comments in relation to 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. Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

12. Updates from Scrutiny

This has not been a topic for scrutiny.

13. Background Papers

Nil.

APPENDIX

Applications

The following grant applications have been received for consideration in 2023/24:

		<u>Grant Award 2022/23 £</u>	<u>Grant Request 2023/24 £</u>
Toton Coronation Hall Community Association	1	7,000	7,000*
The Helpful Bureau	2	9,000	9,500
		Total	<u>16,500</u>

*The request of £7,000 from Toton Coronation Hall Community Association is wholly covered within the provision for rent awards.

1. TOTON CORONATION HALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Toton Coronation Hall Community Association ('TCHCA') is responsible for the management and operation of the Coronation Hall on Portland Road in Toton which opened in 1953 and is owned by this Council.

TCHCA tries to offer the Hall to as many different people and activities as possible, whilst also being mindful of the people who live in close proximity to the Hall (for instance, the group has turned down enquiries from people who wanted to have events finishing late in the night).

The Hall offers 'Zumba', 'Fitsteps', karate, sequence dancing, ballroom and Latin American dancing and tuition. TCHCA also welcomes drama groups for rehearsals, music concerts, presentation evenings and family parties and gatherings. TCHCA aims for affordability and will be reviewing its pricing structure in early 2024.

Financial Information

TCHCA has provided its annual accounts for the year ended 31 July 2023 for scrutiny. Annual income amounted to £16,622 (2022: £16,624), comprising almost entirely of rental income for the hall and Grant Aid (£7,000) from this Council. Expenditure of £12,958 (2022: £14,693) included rent (£7,000), utilities (£2,554), waste collection (£812) and insurance (£692). Cash and bank balances as at 31 August 2023 were £15,896. TCHCA has indicated that reserves are earmarked towards upkeep and general repairs.

Grant Aid Request

For 2023/24, Toton Coronation Hall Community Association has requested a grant of £7,000 to cover the market rental of the Coronation Hall. This grant award would be for a period of one year, with the potential award being

matched by allowances within the 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 TCHCA benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- TCHCA and the groups which operate from Coronation Hall 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 TCHCA are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.

The Council has previously supported TCHCA with grant aid towards its premises rental with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

2022/23	£7,000
2021/22	£7,000
2020/21	£7,000
2019/20	£7,000

2. THE HELPFUL BUREAU

The Helpful Bureau (THB) 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.

THB 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 3,300 clients, the majority being residents of Broxtowe.

Financial Information

The Helpful Bureau has submitted its draft Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 for scrutiny. The charity splits its accounts between restricted and unrestricted funds. Total income generated in the year amounted to £197,886 (2022: £148,249), including £105,158 as unrestricted funds, from fees and services (£92,191), donations and fundraising. Restricted grants totalling £92,605 were received in from Nottinghamshire County Council (£34,885), this Council (£11,353) and other institutional funders. Total expenditure was £215,791 (2022: £168,881), including £34,719 from the unrestricted fund, and related to wages (£142,499 split between restricted and unrestricted funds for an average of 13 employees), rent and services and other running costs. Total bank balances as

at 31 March 2023 were £78,234 (2022: £92,328), with Total Funds declared at £87,321 including £71,226 as unrestricted funds.

THB's policy on reserves is to retain three months' worth of operating costs in addition to provision for future developments and vehicles.

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

2022/23	£9,000
2021/22	£10,000
2020/21	£5,000
2019/20	£5,000

Grant Request

For 2023/24, The Helpful Bureau has requested a grant of £9,500. Of this, £7,830 is requested as a contribution towards general running costs, with the remaining £1,670 being a contribution towards the supply of two laptop computers necessary to enable staff to work in an agile manner at different locations.

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.

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.