

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

**GRANT AID – SECOND CHANCE JUNIOR FOOTBALL ACADEMY**1. Purpose of Report

To consider the approval of a grant to a sporting group which works with refugees and young people.

2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to consider the granting of an award of up to £1,000 to Second Chance Junior Football Academy and RESOLVE accordingly.**

3. Detail

Second Chance Junior Football Academy runs two youth football teams for under 11's and under 9's respectively. The under 11 team has 18 registered players and the under 9 team has 12 registered players. The players are refugees and all are currently residents in Nottingham City.

The group holds its training sessions at Stock Hill Fire Station, Station Park in Aspley and plays its matches, free of charge, at the Inham Nook recreation ground in Chilwell. At the present time there are no goal posts at the facility at the Stock Hill Fire Station.

An approach has been made by the Academy for grant aid of up to £1,000 for the purchase of equipment, kit and boots for the players.

It must be noted that, as the group is not based in Broxtowe and does not draw a significant proportion of its membership from Borough residents, the academy is not eligible for a grant under the ordinary criteria of either the Broxtowe Refugee and Asylum Seekers Fund or the Council's Grant Aid Policy. It is suggested, however, that such a grant would serve to demonstrate the Council's commitment to supporting refugees across the East Midlands, leading the way and providing a welcoming space for any young refugee.

4. Financial Implications

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

Members are asked to consider the risk that an award of grant to this group may not comply with the Council's Grant Aid Policy. The policy requires that each application is considered on its merits although there are a number of fundamental principles underlying the policy, including:

- Organisations must be able to demonstrate that, either through the direct provision of services or by other means, it benefits the people of Broxtowe thereby enhancing the quality of life for the local community.

- Organisations must be able to demonstrate a link with Broxtowe such that an identifiable number of Borough residents would benefit from a grant award or the grant is towards an initiative that would generally benefit the local community.

Applications would normally be refused unless a strong link with the Borough can be demonstrated. For example, a majority of a group's membership living within the Borough or a group showing that it directly benefits an identifiable number of Borough residents.

If Members were minded to support a grant award to this group, the funds would be distributed from the grant aid budget. Whilst sufficient sums are still available (see elsewhere on this agenda), this budget is largely 'committed' with the anticipated regular grant aid applicants still to apply in 2023/24.

#### 5. Legal Implications

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

The report seeks to award funding to an organisation that is outside the Borough and as stated in the comments from the Head of Finance, by awarding this funding, the Council will not be compliant with its own Grant Aid Policy. However, the Council does have the power to depart from its own policy where it can be justified. In these circumstance it can be justified as stated in the report, this funding will demonstrate the Council's commitment to supporting refugees within a neighbouring authority and the East Midlands.

Furthermore, Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council power to do anything that individuals generally may do (known as the 'General Power of Competence') even if it is carried out in any way 'anywhere in the UK' Thus, the Council under this 'General Power' are permitted to award the grant funding and are not obliged to identify a particular benefit accruing from within its area.

#### 6. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not applicable.

#### 7. Union Comments

The Union comments 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. Background Papers

Nil