

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**

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 grant aid requests 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: Grant Awards to Date	117,750
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	51,050

The total amount requested in this report is £47,150, of which £23,900 constitutes 'cash' grants with the balance being rent awards to community group tenants of Council-owned properties which would be 'paid' via an internal transfer in the Council's financial systems.

4. Key Decision

This report does not relate to a key decision.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

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

Any grant awards will be met from the grant aid budget shown 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 £23,900, with the additional sums requested in this report, when

compared to the previous year, amounting to £4,600 if all applications are fully supported.

7. 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.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

Any climate change implications are considered within the report.

11. 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.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

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

13. Background Papers

Nil.

APPENDIX

Applications

The following grant applications have been received for consideration:

		<u>Previous</u> <u>Year Grant</u> <u>Award</u> £	<u>Current</u> <u>Year Grant</u> <u>Request</u> £
Eastwood People's Initiative	1	2,500	2,500*
5 th Stapleford Scout Group	2	4,500	4,500*
2 nd Beeston Sea Scouts	3	2,150	2,150*
Age Concern Eastwood	4	9,000	9,000*
2 nd Kimberley Scout Group	5	7,000	7,000*
Stapleford Community Association	6	3,000	3,000*
Broxtowe Women's Project	7	8,000	8,000
Phoenix Community Foundation	8	3,900	7,500*
DH Lawrence Music Festival	9	2,500	2,500
Young Individual Boxing Competitor	10	-	1,000
		Total	47,150

Note*: These requests are primarily for grants to cover the cost of rental for Council owned premises and, as such, are non-cash grants awarded via an internal transfer in the Council's financial systems. Of these, the following applications also include requests for a grant contribution towards general running costs:

- Eastwood People's Initiative – £750
- Age Concern Eastwood – £5,150
- Phoenix Community Foundation – up to £6,500 (utilities only)

No climate change implications have been identified in relation to any of the grant applications contained within this report, with the exception of item 10 which relates to the cost of travel (including flights) to a sporting event in Hungary.

1. EASTWOOD PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE

Eastwood People's Initiative is a registered charity that was formed in 1982 that serves Eastwood and the surrounding communities in north Broxtowe. The objectives of the charity are for the relief of poverty, assisting local people into employment and advancing education in the area.

Eastwood People's Initiative offers practical help and emotional support for any individual, with particular regard to people on low income or unemployed. The charity provides benefits advice and support, job search and CV preparation support, short courses and also basic items such as clothing and bedding. Liaison and partnership working with other local initiatives such as the Durban House Hub and Connected Nottinghamshire is engaged with or planned.

Financial Information

For the year ended 5 April 2023, Eastwood People's Initiative generated total receipts of £6,888 (2022: £30,118), primarily from grants and donations. Annual expenditure of £28,916 (2022: £18,399) related to costs for rent, telephone and utilities costs, office equipment, professional/legal fees and other operating costs including the provision of the job club. In particular, £12,080 was spent on ICT support and advice and a further net spend of £5,755 was incurred in relation to the hub at Durban House.

Cash at bank and in hand at 5 April 2023 totalled £19,427. In addition to this, Eastwood People's Initiative also holds £63,867 in an investment account, representing the balance of a capital receipt from the sale of a bungalow on Seymour Road in 2018/19.

Grant Request

The Council has regularly supported Eastwood People's Initiative with grants towards its operating costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2022/23	£2,500
2021/22	£2,500
2020/21	£2,500
2019/20	£2,500

For 2023/24, Eastwood People's Initiative has requested a similar grant of £2,500 to cover the market rent and buildings insurance (£1,750) and other associated premises costs (£750). Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by Eastwood People's Initiative benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of Eastwood People's Initiative target the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community.
- Caring Organisations such as Eastwood People's Initiative are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for grant aid.

2. 5TH STAPLEFORD SCOUT GROUP

The 5th Stapleford Scout Group was established in 1964 and is based at Stapleford House, Wesley Place in Stapleford. The Group currently has just under 100 members of all ages (scouts, cubs, beavers, leaders and voluntary helpers), the majority of whom are residents of Broxtowe.

The aim of the 5th Stapleford Scout Group is to provide activities within the scout association organisation. The Group provides a safe and fun environment for children aged between 6 and 18 to learn new skills, meet new people, have adventure and develop themselves.

Financial Information

For the year ended 28 February 2023, receipts of £18,754 (2022: £13,501) were generated from subscriptions, grants, donations and fundraising and other activities. Annual payments amounted to £19,310 (2022: £9,504) and included equipment, capitation, premises expenses such as rent, heating, lighting, repairs and maintenance and the cost of activities and fundraising events. Cash and bank balances as at 28 February 2023 were £14,330.

Grant Request

The Council has regularly supported the 5th Stapleford Scout Group for many years with grant aid towards its rental obligations. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2022/23	£4,500
2021/22	£4,500
2020/21	£4,500
2019/20	£4,500

For 2023/24, the 5th Stapleford Scout Group has requested a grant of £4,500 to cover the annual market rental of the accommodation at Stapleford House. This potential grant award would be for a period of one year and would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the award being matched in the Council's 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 5th Stapleford Scout Group benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of 5th Stapleford Scout Group provide educational and co-curricular benefits to local children and young people.
- Uniformed Groups such as 5th Stapleford Scout Group are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for grant aid.

3. 2ND BEESTON SEA SCOUTS

The 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts was established in 1928 and is based at Lilac Grove in Beeston. The group serves the South West Nottinghamshire Scout District, including Attenborough, Beeston South, Beeston Rylands and the west of Nottingham City. It currently has 110 members (including 80 junior members) with the majority living in Broxtowe.

The aim of the 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts is to provide scouting activities, under the policy and rules of the Scout Association, with the speciality of water based activities such as canoeing, kayaking, rowing and sailing. The main activities of the group attempt to develop young people in life skills, training young people to be good citizens.

Financial Information

For the year ended 31 December 2022, 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts generated receipts of £94,861 (2021: £240,050) from subscriptions, grants, donations and fundraising activities. Total payments amounted to £79,764 (2021: £138,824) and included premises expenses, such as heating and lighting and repairs and renewals, boat maintenance, youth programme activities (i.e. camps), purchase of equipment and capitation. The cash and bank balances at 31 December 2022 increased to £168,569 (2021: £153,473).

Funds raised for the construction of a new headquarters are ring-fenced and not available for general use. Cash available for general purposes as at 31 December 2022 was £12,404, with the balance being held in the ring-fenced reserve for the new headquarters.

Grant Request

The Council has regularly supported the 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts with grant aid towards its rental obligations. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2022/23	£2,150
2021/22	£2,150
2020/21	£2,150
2019/20	£1,750

For 2023/24 the 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts has requested a grant of £2,150 to cover the market rental of the Lilac Grove premises. This grant award would be for a period of one year and would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, 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 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts provide educational and co-curricular benefits to local children and young people.
- Uniformed Groups such as 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for grant aid.

4. AGE CONCERN EASTWOOD

Age Concern Eastwood is a registered charity, established in 1970, that is based at The Colin Dyson Centre on Edward Road in Eastwood (premises owned by the Council). The group generates its membership from Eastwood and the surrounding area. Around 70 clients use its services with the great majority being Broxtowe residents aged 60 years or over.

Age Concern Eastwood provides welfare facilities to local elderly residents. Its clientele includes some disabled users, others who are suffering with dementia and those who may be isolated. The group aims to provide a quality meeting place, companionship, socialising, entertainment and advice for its elderly users by offering a wide variety of activities such as a luncheon club, social events and activities.

Financial Information

For the year ended 31 March 2023, income totalling £53,749 (2022: £76,026) was generated from meals and drinks receipts (£27,232), grants and donations (£11,361), transport receipts (£7,731), fundraising and other activities. Annual expenditure of £70,409 (2022: £61,739) mainly related to wages (£25,624), transport (£15,045), equipment, repairs and renewals, meals and catering, rent, utilities, insurance and other general running costs. Cash at bank and in hand as at 31 March 2023 decreased to £82,370 (2022: £99,030).

Grant Request

The Council has supported Age Concern Eastwood for many years with grants towards its premises (including rental) and transport costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

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

For 2023/24, Age Concern Eastwood has requested a grant of £9,000 towards its running costs, including the rental of the Edward Road premises of £3,850. This grant award would be for a period of one year and the rental element of

£3,850 would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the potential award being matched by allowances already made within the grant aid budget.

Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by Age Concern Eastwood benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of Age Concern Eastwood target the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community, in particular helping to combat loneliness and social exclusion within the Borough.
- Caring Organisations such as Age Concern Eastwood are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for grant aid.

Members should note that the grant aid policy would normally require that all 'cash' grant awards of £5,000 or above to be subject to a Service Level Agreement.

5. 2ND KIMBERLEY SCOUT GROUP

The 2nd Kimberley Scout Group was established over 50 years ago and is based in Council owned premises at Kettlebrook Lodge on Eastwood Road in Kimberley. The Group continues to thrive and has over 200 members (both junior members and voluntary helpers) from within Broxtowe.

The aim of the Group is to provide activities within the Scout Association organisation. The Group is responsible for the maintenance and up-keep of Kettlebrook Lodge as a community venue. The facilities are utilised by the Scouts and Guides organisation, a playgroup and for other events and functions.

Financial Information

The latest accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 showed receipts of £41,744 (2022: £28,888) being generated from grants, donations, subscriptions, fundraising and other activities. Payments amounted to £47,297 (2022: £27,354) which included premises expenses (rent, heating, lighting, repairs and maintenance), cleaning and caretaking, cost of activities and other expenses. The General Fund is represented by cash and bank balances, which at 31 March 2023 amounted to £16,433 (2022: £21,986).

Grant Request

The Council has regularly supported 2nd Kimberley Scout Group with grant aid towards its rental obligations 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

For 2023/24 the 2nd Kimberley Scout Group has requested a grant of £7,000 to cover the market rental of Kettlebrook Lodge. This grant would be for a period of one year and would be matched by allowances within the premises income budget and therefore leave the Council's overall budget unchanged.

Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by 2nd Kimberley Scout Group benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of 2nd Kimberley Scout Group provide educational and co-curricular benefits to local children and young people.
- Uniformed Groups such as 2nd Kimberley Scout Group are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for grant aid.

6. STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Stapleford Community Association was formed in 1954 and is responsible for the management and operation of the Council owned Community Centre on Cliffe Hill Avenue in Stapleford.

The aim of the Association is to provide a high quality, low cost centre for a variety of leisure, educational and community activities in Stapleford. Around 200 people of all ages use the facilities on a weekly basis with an estimated 80% being residents of the Borough.

Financial Information

For the year ended 31 December 2022, income of £10,674 (2021: £28,274) was generated from hall lettings and grants (2021 having included Covid-19 related business grants). Annual expenditure amounted to £19,064 (2021: £10,276) and included rent, repairs and renewals, cleaning and sundry expenses, insurance, heating and lighting, water charges and depreciation. Cash and bank balances at 31 December 2022 totalled £38,812 (2021: £46,437).

Grant Request

The Council has previously supported Stapleford Community Association with grants towards its premises rental. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2022/23	£3,000
2021/22	£3,000
2020/21	£3,000
2019/20	£3,000

For 2023/24, Stapleford Community Association has requested a similar grant of £3,000 to cover the rental of the Community Centre on Cliffe Hill Avenue in Stapleford. This grant award would be for a period of one year and would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the award being matched in the Council's 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 Stapleford Community Association benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- Stapleford Community Association and the groups which operate from the Cliffe Hall Community Centre 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 Stapleford Community Association are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for grant aid.

7. BROXTOWE WOMEN'S PROJECT

Broxtowe Women's Project (BWP) is a support, advice and advocacy charity for women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse, predominantly covering Broxtowe. BWP aims to empower women to regain domestic control and lead independent, fulfilling, safe and positive lives. BWP nurtures children and young people affected by domestic abuse to build resilience and understand healthy relationships and emotions. In addition, BWP challenges the stigma associated with domestic abuse, advocates for women and their families, raises awareness and campaigns for an end to domestic abuse.

Over time, BWP has grown and developed a range of services. These include:

- Women's Outreach
- Drop-in Support Services
- Helpline
- Wellbeing Programmes
- Developing Employability Skills and Support
- Children's and Young People's Service
- Family Wellbeing
- Person Centred Counselling
- The Survivor Programme - Training
- Legal and Court support
- Volunteering
- Food/poverty/crisis parcels and support

- Awareness Raising and Campaigning
- Signposting to a range of other support services
- Partnership working
- Business training and support packages
- Lead campaigns that help to reduce and end domestic abuse

BWP also aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse with partner organisations and businesses to increase their understanding and so they can better support their staff and customers.

BWP are part of the Broxtowe Crime Reduction Plan, taking a leading role with regard to domestic abuse. BWP are a member of the Consent Coalition for Nottinghamshire. BWP are the only domestic abuse charity in the UK to achieve the White Ribbon Accreditation and are currently leading the Broxtowe White Ribbon campaign for 2023/4 alongside this Council's Community Safety and Housing Teams.

Financial Information

BWP has provided its accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 for scrutiny. Total income for the year was £243,328 (2022: £325,303) which included grants and donations of £213,216 (2022: £316,812) and other small sundry amounts including fees. Total expenditure for the year was £242,772 (2022: £243,308) which included wages and salaries of £164,218, professional fees of £25,145 and other expenses including rent, room hire, training, utility costs and communications. Total reserves as at 31 March 2023 were £165,792 (2022: £165,236), of which £24,272 is restricted. These reserves include £167,704 in cash at bank and in hand.

Grant Aid Request

The Council has supported BWP for many years, with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

2022/23	£8,000
2021/22	£8,000
2020/21	£6,000
2019/20	£6,000

For 2023/24, BWP has requested grant aid of £8,000 to meet its current rental obligations and to contribute towards other core costs. Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by BWP benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- BWP targets the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community.

- Caring Organisations such as BWP 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.

8. PHOENIX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Phoenix Community Foundation is a community group which has developed out of Phoenix Inham Football Club, a football team formed in 2015, and was formally constituted in May 2021. Both the Foundation and Football Club are based at the Council's recreation ground at Inham Nook, Chilwell.

Since then, the Foundation has helped deliver a number of community-based initiatives, including:

- Emergency food (foodbank and parcels)
- Educational classes
- Intergenerational events to boost community cohesion
- Parent and baby groups
- Exercise classes and sports events
- Mental Health sessions
- Refugee support
- Community Café

There are currently approximately 300 regular users across the above activities, the majority of whom are resident in Broxtowe.

Financial Information

The Foundation has provided accounts which cover the period from formal constitution in May 2021 to January 2024. Over this period, the Foundation has generated total income of £39,494, comprising almost entirely of grants from this Council (£14,930), the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (£14,180) and the National Lottery 'Awards for All' scheme (£9,990). As almost all of this income was ring-fenced for specific purposes, total expenditure of £39,035 closely matches income leaving the Foundation with a current balance of £459.

In addition to this, in 2022/23 this Council awarded the Foundation a rent award of £750 (to cover nine months of the rent cost for the Council-owned pavilion at Inham Nook recreation ground) and a contribution of £3,150 towards the utilities cost for the same facility. Both these awards were made as an internal transfer in the Council's financial system and did not constitute 'cash' grants.

Grant Aid Request

For 2023/24, the Phoenix Community Foundation has requested a grant of up to £7,500 to cover the market rent of £1,000 plus utilities costs for the Inham Nook pavilion. This grant would be for a period of one year. Whilst the rental element may be matched by allowances within the premises income budget, the cost of utilities (up to £6,500) will directly impact upon the grant aid budget.

Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by Phoenix Community Foundation benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- Phoenix Community Foundation targets 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 Phoenix Community Foundation are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for grant aid.

9. D H LAWRENCE MUSIC FESTIVAL

The D H Lawrence Music Festival is a music festival that promotes local songwriters and performers, brings the community together and music fans from outside of Broxtowe into Eastwood. This helps local businesses, including the venues and food establishments people visit throughout the day. The festival also promotes one of Eastwood's most important figures, D H Lawrence.

The festival runs over the course of one day, bringing around 150 individual artists into the area, performing their original music. Twelve stages at venues across Eastwood are planned for the festival this year which takes place on 7 September 2024 (to coincide with the birth date of D H Lawrence on the 11 September).

Financial Information

As an annual festival run by independent musicians, there is no formally constituted 'group' as such which prepares financial statements for scrutiny, nor does the festival hold a separate bank account.

The applicant has provided a budget for the festival which estimates the cost of the festival at approximately £2,500. This consists primarily of promotional material, decoration throughout venues (banners and other advertising), programmes, expenses payments to artists (£1,100) and organisers' time (£450) with regards to administration and on-the-day running of the event.

Officers are sufficiently assured that the 'not-for-profit' aims of the festival and the promotional nature of this local event, with its links to music and the arts, is sufficient for the request to be considered for an award under the policy.

Grant Request

For the 2024 event, a grant of £2,500 has been requested by the D H Lawrence Music Festival towards / to cover the costs of promoting and organising the festival as detailed above.

The Council has previously supported the D H Lawrence Music Festival, with a grant of £2,500 having been awarded in both 2021/22 and 2022/23. In addition to the local economic and cultural benefits, an award for the 2024 festival would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The D H Lawrence Music Festival benefits Broxtowe residents, enhancing their quality of life, and is complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The D H Lawrence Music Festival helps to combat loneliness and social exclusion within the Borough.

10. INDIVIDUAL – BOXING COMPETITOR

An application for financial support has been received from a young competitive boxer who is resident in Eastwood.

The applicant is part of a squad of 24 young boxers based at 'Revolution Gym' in Sutton-in-Ashfield which will be representing England in the Boxing Open World Championship to be held in Baja, Hungary, in May 2024. Although the gym is looking to cover the costs of the entrance fee, licence, insurance, coaches and kit, each competitor is liable for seeking their own sponsorship for attendance costs (travel, accommodation, transfers and similar).

The young competitor has experienced success locally in seven fights in the past six months, currently holding the title of Prize Fighter Champion in their lightweight category. The applicant has stated that, through competing in the World Championships, they wish to "bring some joy and achievement back to England, Nottinghamshire and Eastwood" and "to make young people in Eastwood aware that anything is possible."

The applicant has estimated the total cost for their attendance at the World Championships to be £1,000, for which full support has been requested. Although this is a greater amount than is typically awarded to individuals (usually up to £200), Cabinet has the discretion under the Grant Aid Policy to award further sums where an individual requires the grant to contribute towards the cost of participating in a recognised international competition held outside of the United Kingdom.

Such an award would be in line with the Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The policy specifically provides for support to talented individuals involved in sports or the arts who are amateurs and whose excellence is of national or international significance.
- The stated aim of the policy is to allow individuals to participate in a national or international event, or to achieve that status, to encourage and support Borough residents in competing at the highest level.