

Report of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive

**GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS,
CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS,
THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2018/19**

1. Purpose of report

To consider requests for grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Grant Aid Policy.

2. Applications and financial position

Details of the grant applications received are included in the appendix for consideration. The amount available for distribution in 2018/19 is as follows:

	£
Revenue Grant Aid Budget	163,950
Less: Estimated requirements for:	
Citizen's Advice Broxtowe	73,750
Outstanding Rent Awards/Others (#)	50,000
Less: Grant Awards to Date	0
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	40,200

(#) – 'Outstanding Rent Awards' includes provision for £4,000 in respect of the attached application from New Stapleford Community Association.

Members are reminded that they will need to suitably constrain grant awards in 2018/19 if the budget is not to be exceeded. The total amounts requested in this report for 2018/19 total £18,500. The additional sums requested in this report, when compared to the previous year, would amount to £13,500 if all applications are fully supported.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to CONSIDER the requests and RESOLVE accordingly.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

Applications

The first application is in lieu of the 2017/18 rent account, where the application was outstanding at the time of the Committee meeting in February 2018. Provision was made in the 2017/18 accounts in anticipation of this grant being approved:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>App'n Ref</u>	<u>Rent Award 2016/17 £</u>	<u>Grant Request 2017/18 £</u>
2 nd Kimberley Scout Group	1	6,500	6,500

The following grant applications have been received for consideration in 2018/19:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>App'n Ref</u>	<u>Grant Award 2017/18 £</u>	<u>Grant Request 2018/19 £</u>
The Helpful Bureau	2	No application	10,000
New Stapleford Community Association	3	4,000	4,000*
Beeston and District Local History Society	4	No application	3,000
Greasley Gathering, The	5	1,000	1,500
		Total	18,500

* The estimated outstanding rent awards include provision of £4,000 in respect of the applications from New Stapleford Community Association.

2017/18 Rent Application**Miscellaneous Category**1. **2ND KIMBERLEY SCOUT GROUP**

Members will note that this application is in lieu of the 2017/18 rent account, with the application outstanding at the time of the Committee meeting in February 2018. A provision was made in the 2017/18 accounts in anticipation of this grant award.

The 2nd Kimberley Scout Group was established in 1955 and is based in Council owned premises at Kettlebrook Lodge on Eastwood Road in Kimberley. The Group has over 200 members (both junior members and voluntary helpers) generated from Kimberley and the surrounding areas.

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 currently utilised by the Scouts and Guides organisation, a pre-school playgroup, as a blood donor centre and for other events and functions. It is estimated that over 4,000 people use the facilities every year.

The latest accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 showed receipts of £23,843 being generated from subscriptions (less capitation), donations, grants, hire of hall, fundraising and other activities. Payments amounted to £25,414, which included premises expenses (rent, heating, lighting, repairs and maintenance), cleaning and caretaking, cost of activities and fundraising events and other expenses. The General Fund is represented by cash and bank balances, which at 31 March 2017 amounted to £10,994.

The tenancy agreement for Kettlebrook Lodge replaced a previous arrangement of charging a peppercorn rent. As part of the Council's aim to secure market rental on its properties, the annual rent has been assessed at £6,500. The 2nd Kimberley Scout Group has suggested that it would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

The Council has previously supported 2nd Kimberley Scout Group with grant aid towards its rental obligations. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2016/17	£6,500
2015/16	£6,500
2014/15	£6,500
2013/14	£6,500

For 2017/18 the 2nd Kimberley Scout Group has requested a grant of £6,500 to cover the market rental of Kettlebrook Lodge from 13 November 2017. 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.

2018/19 Applications

Caring Organisation

2. THE HELPFUL BUREAU

An application for grant aid has been received from The Helpful Bureau, a registered charity and not for profit organisation based on Church Street in Stapleford.

Established in 1977, The Helpful Bureau provides services that support and encourage people to live as independently as possible in their own homes. The charity has 2,475 clients, most being residents of Broxtowe. Over 80% of their clients describe themselves as having a disability or long term limiting illness.

The Helpful Bureau achieves its aims by providing three streams of work, namely practical services; social interaction events; and a volunteer transport scheme. These are considered separately below:

Practical services

These services, including gardening, decorating, home support and a handyman service, help clients to feel less vulnerable in the community. In providing home security and maintaining gardens, the property is less likely to be targeted for crime and clients have more pride in their surroundings and maintain a sense of dignity.

The services provide value for money from a trusted and reliable workforce. The Helpful Bureau has been operating this for over 17 years and is experienced in dealing with the client group. Volunteers use their experience and life skills to help with the provision of practical services, keeping themselves active within the community and helping to provide a value for money service.

The gardening service maintained over 90 clients' gardens (64 on a regular rotation) with 471 jobs completed this year by the gardening team. The handyman service completed 209 jobs. Gardening is charged at £18 per hour, and for all odd jobs and decorating an estimate is given once the job has been assessed. The charity supplies its own vehicle, equipment, cleaning materials and will remove garden waste.

The Helpful Bureau also has four home support workers (three in the south of Broxtowe, one in the north), each having up to 15 regular clients. The charity has seen an increase in demand each year for this service. To keep up with demand a new home support worker has been employed each year since the service started in 2014. Home support is charged at £14.00 per hour.

Social interaction events

The Helpful Bureau provides a variety of social groups on each day that it opens. These events include running a weekly resource centre providing a movement to music class, information and advice, a two-course hot lunch and social activities, social groups such as craft club, senior citizen's group and trivial pursuits group, and monthly day trips.

These activities help to prevent people becoming lonely and isolated and offer advice and information to enable them to make life choices appropriate to their current needs. They also keep older people active by providing physical activities to help prevent falls and loss of mobility, empowering positive health and emotional wellbeing. The charity helps to safeguard older adults by offering support and preventing them from becoming depressed, vulnerable and victims of crime. It regularly promotes the dangers of fraudsters and rogue traders.

During the year The Helpful Bureau prepared and cooked 2,490 hot meals to an average of 54 clients per week. The Lunch Club is charged at £4.50 for a hot two-course lunch per person, which covers the cost of food, refreshments and hall hire. Social groups are charged at £1 per person per session, whilst the movement to music classes cost £3.50 per person per session.

Volunteer transport scheme

The Helpful Bureau provides a volunteer transport scheme and wheelchair accessible vehicle for older and/or disabled people who have travelling difficulties in attending meetings. This scheme enables people to become less isolated and better able to access support groups or activities within the community. Clients receive a flexible and personalised door-to-door transport service, provided at low cost.

Volunteer drivers have the opportunity of using their spare time effectively by helping others in the community and can report any problems or difficulties they observe. This can then be acted upon accordingly to help stop a situation getting worse. The charity can take referrals from Social Services and health professionals to offer a more holistic service.

Almost 6,100 trips were provided for clients during the year, with a total of nearly 29,000 miles completed. The volunteer driver scheme is charged at 50p/mile plus a 50p booking fee per trip, of which 45p/mile is given to the drivers to cover expenses. The wheelchair accessible vehicle is charged at £1/mile plus a 50p booking fee per trip to cover the running costs of the vehicle.

The Helpful Bureau has submitted its Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 for scrutiny. The charity splits its accounts between restricted and unrestricted funds. Total income generated in the year amounted to £118,609, including £71,909 as unrestricted funds, generated from fees and room hire, grants and donations and fundraising. Total expenditure was £137,651, including £84,178 from the unrestricted fund, relating to wages (£84,341 split between restricted and unrestricted funds), rent and services and other running costs. Total bank balances as at 31 March 2017 had fallen to £61,009, with Total Funds declared at £59,547 (all unrestricted). The charity's policy on reserves is to retain three months' worth of operating reserves.

With falling balances available, The Helpful Bureau has requested grant aid of £10,000 to support its operations. The charity has also applied to the Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme with the outcome pending until June 2018. Further applications have been submitted to the following organisations with decisions currently pending - Beeston Consolidated Charity; The Screwfix Foundation; Thompson Family Charitable Trust; The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust; Michael Cornish Charitable Trust; The Allen Lane Foundation; The Inman Charity; The Archer Trust; and the Paul Bush Foundation

This is the first application that the Council has received from The Helpful Bureau (although the Council did previously support Stapleford Volunteer Bureau) and in 2018/19 the charity has requested a grant of £10,000 towards its running costs.

Community Associations

3. NEW STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The New Stapleford Community Association is responsible for the management and operation of the Council owned community centre on Washington Drive in Stapleford that was first opened in 1972.

The aim of the Association is to provide a community meeting place for Stapleford and the surrounding area. A variety of groups utilise the facilities for educational, recreational and sporting activities, including senior citizen's groups, blood donor sessions, dance and fitness classes, community sessions, martial arts clubs and family groups. Around 350 people use the facilities every week, the majority of whom live in the borough.

For the year ended 31 December 2017, New Stapleford Community Association generated income of £21,420 from hall bookings, dances, grant aid, fund raising and membership subscriptions. Total expenditure amounted to £19,183, which included rent, utilities, fixtures, repairs and maintenance and caretaking repairs costs. Total bank balances as at 31 December 2017 had increased to £40,939. The Association has earmarked these reserves towards additional security measures (CCTV), repainting the hall and potentially adding a smaller room in the future (subject to planning).

The current tenancy agreement for the Washington Drive Community Centre replaced the previous arrangement of charging a peppercorn rent. The annual market rent for the premises was assessed at £4,000 as part of the Council's aim to secure economic rents on its properties. The Association has suggested that it would be unable to sustain an ongoing rental charge of this size.

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

2017/18	£4,000
2016/17	£4,000
2015/16	£4,000
2014/15	£4,000

For 2018/19, New Stapleford Community Association has requested a grant of £4,000 to cover the market rent. 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.

Miscellaneous Category4. **BEESTON AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The Beeston and District Local History Society was formed in 1972 and currently has 54 members with the majority of members living in Attenborough, Beeston, Bramcote, Chilwell, Stapleford and Toton.

The main activities of the Society are related to the study and promotion of the history of the local area. The group organises regular meetings for people with an interest in the history of the area and encourages research into the past. These meetings typically include expert speakers on local history subjects. The Society also arranges local exhibitions of memorabilia (Heritage Open Day Displays, carnival displays, local library events etc.) relating to life in the area and occasionally produces a society magazine. The Society collects and preserves records, photographs and artefacts of the area and records changes to the environment, thus providing information for people carrying out local or family research.

The Society previously occupied storage rooms in Cavendish Lodge, which were rented from the Council with grant aid support. These rooms became unsuitable as there was not enough room for the Society to arrange displays or complete any work. In addition, access was difficult particularly when carrying heavy boxes. As a result, the Society moved to more suitable accommodation at Oban House on Chilwell Road in Beeston, which is rented from Voluntary Action Broxtowe. Unfortunately, the annual rental of £3,000 is becoming a heavy burden for the group, especially with dwindling membership and other constraints.

For the year ended 31 August 2017, income amounted to £5,790 which mainly related to grant aid, subscriptions and proceeds from the sale of books and magazines. Annual expenditure totalled £4,719 and was mainly in respect of premises rental, book printing, speakers' expenses and other running costs. The surplus was added to cash and bank balances, which at 31 August 2017 amounted to £1,270. The Society also holds a restricted Museum Account, which had balances of £7,361.

The Council has supported the Beeston and District Local History Society for many years with grant aid towards its premises costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2017/18	No application
2016/17	£1,000
2015/16	£1,000
2014/15	£1,000

For 2018/19, the Beeston and District Local History Society has requested an increased grant of £3,000 for the cost of utilising a storage room at Oban House, which is rented from Voluntary Action Broxtowe.

Members should note that the grant aid budget does not include any specific provision for Beeston and District Local History Society and any grant awarded in respect of this application will have a direct impact on the balances available.

5. GREASLEY GATHERING

A grant application has been received from the organising committee of the Greasley Gathering for assistance towards the costs of a free family fun-day multi-venue event in the parish of Greasley to be held on Bank Holiday Monday, 28 May 2018.

The Greasley Gathering event has been taking place since 2013, having been born out of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Greasley the previous year. The event is popular and it is estimated that around 1,600 people attended last year's event, despite the weather. There were attractions all across the parish including local pubs, Colliers' Wood, Beauvale Priory, Greasley Church and craft fair, with the main hub being based at the Greasley Sports and Community Centre. The group organises transport (London buses) to enable everyone to get around the other venues.

The aim of the event is to strengthen local identity and mirror the wide cultural appeal of a community event, as successfully developed at the Hemlock Happening in Bramcote. The project is community driven giving voluntary organisations the perfect opportunity to showcase their work in the local community and hopefully recruit new members. It is also considered to be a platform for agencies to promote their services and plans for the future. The event has an organising committee, which includes the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. All committee members reside in the Parish of Greasley.

The 2017 the programme offered a variety of activities, including rides around the parish in London buses, circus skills, magicians, dog agility displays, Nottingham Youth Jazz Combo, face painting, the Racing Room, creation stations, Glee Choir, Friends of Collier's Wood, classic cars, the Greasley Gambol (an early morning walk and breakfast), local musical talent, Beauvale Priory (entertainment and beer festival), Scarecrow Trail, Greasley Church and craft fair, barbeque and music at local public houses and charity stalls. There were also inflatables and numerous stalls selling products as well as catering facilities. Warburtons provided teacakes and crumpets, which were prepared and sold by the local Scout group.

The financial statements provided by the Greasley Gathering for scrutiny related to the event held on 29 May 2017. These show generated receipts of £3,671 relating to grants (including this Council and Greasley Parish Council, who provided their facilities for free), donations, stallholders and event day takings. The total spend was £4,409 for entertainment, transport hire, refreshments, printing and advertising and prizes. The deficit was taken from cash and bank balances which had reduced to £2,531.

Planning is well underway for 2018 to ensure another fun-filled event with plenty of new things to do and see, as well as some of the established popular events. The projected cost for 2017 is estimated at around £4,200. Funding is required to make sure the necessary infrastructure is in place to cover the increased cost of stewards and entertainers as well as matters such as publicity. It is hoped that the event will be funded as previously, with support from Greasley Parish Council.

The Greasley Gathering has requested financial backing of £1,500 to help with the running costs of the event. The group does raise money through raffles, refreshments sales and seeking sponsorship from local businesses as well as appealing for donations. However these do not cover the total expense for the day especially when entertainment is bought in to ensure that there is a variety of activities for families, especially children, to enjoy.

The initiative by the Greasley Gathering to organise and provide funding to a local event is commended. The value of these events, which are self-contained and do not require the direct involvement of this Council, is a sustainable way to develop new community initiatives.

This is the fifth application that the Council has received from the Greasley Gathering with grants of £1,000 being awarded on each occasion. For 2018/19 the group has requested an increased grant of £1,500 to contribute towards the cost of organising the 2018 event.