

Report of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive

CAPITAL GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2018/191. Purpose of report

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

2. Grant aid applications

The Council has received two capital grant applications for 2018/19.

Firstly, a capital grant request has been received from the 2nd Kimberley Scout Group towards the replacement of the boiler at the Council owned Kettlebrook Lodge premises. The cost of the replacement programme is anticipated at £5,000 and the group has asked the Council to provide 100% funding towards this project.

A capital grant request has also been received from Chilwell Memorial Institute Tennis Club. The total cost of projects to renovate the tennis club veranda, create an access point to support wheelchair users and to purchase a 'rebowall' to encourage junior players is anticipated at £6,295. The Club has asked the Council to provide 100% funding towards these projects.

Details of these applications are included in the appendix. Given the nature of the respective schemes, any approved grant would normally be given on the basis of 25% of the actual costs incurred where relating to a non-Council owned asset (50% for a Council owned asset, such as Kettlebrook Lodge) with a maximum figure specified in appropriate circumstances.

3. Financial position

No budgetary provision exists for capital grants to voluntary organisations. If members were minded to approve these requests, an allocation from capital contingencies would be required within which £55,000 remains uncommitted in 2018/19. Alternatively, some limited revenue financing of these schemes could be provided from the Revenue Grants budget, details of which are provided elsewhere on this agenda.

Recommendation

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

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

1. 2ND KIMBERLEY SCOUT GROUP

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 also 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, the local Women's Institute, 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 boiler at Kettlebrook Lodge has been in situ since 1986 and is regularly breaking down. Unfortunately, when the unit is out-of-service the hall cannot be used without hot water and heating. The boiler needs to be replaced at an anticipated cost of £5,000 (although formal quotations have yet to be sought). The group has asked the Council to provide full funding towards this project, although any shortfall will be met by group funds.

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.

This is the first capital grant request that the Council has received from the 2nd Kimberley Scout Group, although the Council does regularly support the group with revenue grants towards its rental obligations.

In 2018/19, the 2nd Kimberley Scout Group has requested a capital grant of £5,000 to cover the anticipated full cost of replacing the boiler at Kettlebrook Lodge. Given the nature of this scheme, any approved grant would normally be given on the basis of 50% of the actual costs incurred (given that it relates to a Council owned asset) with a maximum figure specified in appropriate circumstances.

2. CHILWELL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE TENNIS CLUB

The Chilwell Memorial Institute Tennis Club was formed in 1925 and provides its members with facilities to play grass court tennis, both socially and competitively. The club has 35 full and 10 junior members, with the large majority being Broxtowe residents. Over 60% of the members are retired.

The club welcomes players of all ages and abilities. It currently runs a successful children's programme in conjunction with local schools. Over 300 children have used the facilities to learn tennis in the past year.

The club is hoping to encourage more children to take up tennis; encourage partners to become involved with club; increase family members; and to convert school children to juniors members. In order to achieve these aims the club is proposing two schemes, namely to:

- Renovate the club veranda and create a suitable ramp to enable wheelchair users to access to the hall and toilets.
- Invest in a 'rebowall' to encourage junior players and parents to use the facilities outside of coaching sessions and support the LTA campaign called 'Miss Hits' to introduce girls aged 5-8 to tennis.

The total cost is anticipated at £6,295 (£1,000 for the veranda improvements; £4,000 for the ramp construction and £1,925 for the 'rebowall'). The club has asked the Council to provide full funding towards these projects.

These schemes are part of a larger project to build an all-weather tennis/multi-sport court with flood lights to enable all year round play and coaching. There is also a bid to build a new vehicle access point from Meadow Lane to enable the club to build the all-weather court and resurface the grass courts more cost efficiently. The wider scheme is subject to the outcome of a funding bid to Sport England totalling £46,000 for the artificial multi-sport surface and to Nottinghamshire County Council for improved access.

The latest accounts for the year ended 31 August 2017 showed receipts of £7,356 generated from membership fees, court fees, coaching and other activities. Payments amounted to £6,358, which included membership subscriptions, coaching, grounds maintenance and other expenses. The cash and bank balances as at 31 August 2017 had increased to £4,532.

The Council has previously supported the club with a small revenue grant towards the cost of coaching fees for local school children.

In 2018/19, the Chilwell Memorial Institute Tennis Club has requested a capital grant of £6,295 to cover the full cost of the schemes to renovate the tennis club veranda, create an access point to support wheelchair users and to purchase a 'rebowall' to encourage junior players. Given the nature of these schemes, any approved grant would normally be given on the basis of 25% of the actual costs (given that it would relate to a non-Council owned asset) with a maximum figure specified in appropriate circumstances.