

APPENDIX

Applications

The following grant applications have been received for consideration in 2024/25:

		<u>Grant Award 2023/24 £</u>	<u>Grant Request 2024/25 £</u>
New Stapleford Community Association	1	4,000	4,000*
Stapleford Community Group	2	-	10,700*
Broxtowe Women's Project	3	8,000	13,000*
Hope Nottingham	4	12,000	12,000
The Helpful Bureau	5	9,500	17,000
St. Mary's Eastwood Bell Ringers	6	-	2,000
		Total	58,700

*The grant request from New Stapleford Community Association is wholly covered by the above-noted provision for rental costs for Council-owned premises. A further £8,200 requested by Stapleford Community Group, and £3,000 requested by Broxtowe Women's Project, is to cover the rental costs for Council-owned premises and would be 'paid' as an internal transfer through the Council's financial system. The total 'cash' grant request in this report is therefore £43,500.

1. NEW STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The New Stapleford Community Association (NCSA) 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 NCSA 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 370 people use the facilities every week, the majority of whom live in the borough.

Financial Information

For the year ended 31 December 2023, NCSA generated income of £13,013 (2022: £10,336) from hall bookings, dances, and fund raising. Total expenditure amounted to £14,921 (2022: £13,390) which included utilities, fixtures, repairs and maintenance, dance and social activities and other running costs. Total bank balances as at 31 December 2023 were £19,895 (2022: £21,803). NCSA has earmarked part of these reserves towards repairs.

Grant Request

For 2024/25, 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.

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:

2023/24	£4,000
2022/23	£4,000
2021/22	£4,000
2020/21	£4,000

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

- The services provided by New Stapleford Community Association benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of New Stapleford Community Association 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 New Stapleford Community Association are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.

2. STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY GROUP

Stapleford Community Group was established in 2011 and formally constituted with a management committee from June 2013. The aim of the Group is to improve the quality of life for local residents and to act as an advocate and representative for Stapleford residents and businesses.

The primary activities of the Group are the provision of a Community Hub, the Stapleford Food Project, a 'Jobs Fayre', housing support, family support, vocational skills training, providing volunteering opportunities and overall to provide a 'safe and warm space at the heart of the community'.

Financial Information

For the year ended 31 December 2023, income of £8,630 was generated primarily from grants and donations. Annual expenditure of £10,020 related to equipment purchase, charitable donations, transport and other running expenses. The closing cash balance as at 31 December 2023 was £11,600.

Grant Request

Stapleford Community Group is in the process of taking up occupation of Montrose Court, Stapleford, for the purposes of providing a refreshed community centre which will offer housing support, family support, assistance with access to

employment, reducing social and economic isolation and removing barriers to participation in society. This project is being delivered in partnership with several local organisations and services including this Council.

As Montrose Court is a Council-owned facility, Stapleford Community Group is applying for a grant for £8,200 to cover the assessed rental cost for one year. In addition, a further £2,500 has been requested to assist with utilities and other setup costs for the project.

If approved, the rental component of the grant would be 'paid' via an internal transfer within the Council's financial systems. Accordingly, the only 'cash' element of this application is £2,500.

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 Group benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of Stapleford Community Group 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 Group are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.

3. 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 2023/24 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.

As the formal financial statements of BWP are over 12 months old, an update has been provided as to the current position of the organisation. BWP has stated its current level of reserves to be approximately £88,000.

Grant Aid Request

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

2023/24	£8,000
2022/23	£8,000
2021/22	£8,000
2020/21	£6,000

For 2024/25, BWP has requested increased grant aid of £13,000 to help meet both its current rental obligations and core costs and the new costs associated with a new charity shop in Eastwood. As the new charity shop is to be opened within Council-owned premises, £3,000 of this would be 'paid' via an internal transfer within the Council's financial systems. Accordingly, the total cash grant payable would be £10,000.

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.

4. HOPE NOTTINGHAM

Hope Nottingham is project that is operated from Hope House at the Boundary Road Community Centre in Beeston with approximately 1,000 individuals benefitting from the service each year.

The Hope Café was originally established in 2005 as part of Hope NG9, the Christian church working together to bring 'Hope to the NG9 area through social action, backed by prayer and word'. From 2010, local ministers agreed that Hope NG9 should be merged with Hope Nottingham. The charitable objects of Hope Nottingham are the relief of poverty, sickness and distress and to advance the Christian faith.

Hope Nottingham aims to enable local communities to work together to overcome poverty – be it food, financial or social poverty – through a network of 14 volunteer-supported foodbanks across Nottingham in partnership with Trussell Trust. One of the foodbanks is in the Community Hubs in Beeston.

Hope House in Beeston is open 6 days a week, offering a warm space, free drop-in café, friendship group, youth café, toddler group, an allotment that supports a food-club (low priced fresh surplus food) and a monthly 'pay what you can' community meal. In addition, to support local residents with skills development and one to one support, Hope Nottingham offers weekly (term time) ESOL and Literacy groups and runs three job clubs in Broxtowe at Hope House, Beeston Library and Stapleford Library.

Financial Information

Hope Nottingham has provided the latest accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023 for scrutiny. The charity separates its accounts between restricted fund and unrestricted funds.

Total income generated amounted to £875,751 (2022: £532,935) which mostly related to grants and donations. Significant restricted and unrestricted grants (in addition to those from this Council) were received from Nottingham City Council (£183,500), The Trussell Trust (£67,434), Garfield Weston (£30,000) and

Nottinghamshire County Council (£29,684), in addition to private individual donations totalling £144,703.

Total expenditure amounted to £755,643 (2022: £552,981) which included salaries and associated employer costs (£265,649) for an average of 13 employees with no employee receiving more than £60,000 during the period, and miscellaneous premises expenses and other operating costs.

Total funds as at 30 June 2023 were £385,242 (2022: £265,134 including unrestricted funds of £283,601 (2022: £187,756). Total cash at bank and in hand was £372,233 (2022: £256,777).

As the formal financial statements of Hope Nottingham are over 12 months old, an update has been provided as to the current position of the organisation. Hope Nottingham has stated its current level of unrestricted reserves to be approximately £298,500.

Applications for annual funding to other grant-awarding bodies are currently in progress with the Trussell Trust (£80,000), Nottinghamshire County Council (£10,900), Beeston Consolidated (£18,000), Boots (£10,000) and other smaller amounts.

Grant Aid Request

For 2024/25, Hope Nottingham has requested a grant of £12,000 towards the general cost of operating the projects. Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- Hope Nottingham is based within Broxtowe.
- The services provided by Hope Nottingham benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- Hope Nottingham targets the needs of disadvantaged sections of the community.

An award, if approved, would be met from the established Grant Aid budget shown in the table at the head of this report. The Council has regularly supported Hope Nottingham, with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

2023/24	£12,000
2022/23	£12,000
2021/22	£10,000
2020/21	£10,000

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.

5. THE HELPFUL BUREAU

The Helpful Bureau (THB) is a registered charity and not for profit organisation currently 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 approximately 3,600 clients, the majority being residents of Broxtowe.

Financial Information

The Helpful Bureau has submitted its 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.

As the formal financial statements of THB are over 12 months old, an update has been provided as to the current position of the organisation. THB has stated its current level of unrestricted reserves to be £41,695.

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

2023/24	£9,500
2022/23	£9,000
2021/22	£10,000
2020/21	£5,000

Grant Request

For 2024/25, The Helpful Bureau has requested an increased grant of £17,000. Of this, £15,000 is requested as a contribution towards general running costs, with the remaining £2,000 representing 40% of the cost of installing a ground

floor disabled toilet. The reason for the notable increase on previous awards is that THB has been required to relocate to new premises on Derby Road which has led to a significant increase in rent costs. This has also given rise to the need for the disabled toilet as the current facilities at the new premises are not suitable.

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.

6. ST. MARY'S EASTWOOD BELL RINGERS

St. Mary's Eastwood Bell Ringers was formed in 1905 and is a bell ringing group associated with St. Mary's Church in Eastwood. By providing access to this recreational hobby, the group provides social activity and the opportunity to learn an art thereby decreasing loneliness and improving mental and physical fitness.

The group currently has 23 regular members between the ages of 8 and 90 and enjoys regular interest from new members. All but one of the members live in Broxtowe.

The group states that it is inclusive and does not have any barriers on membership, enabling bell ringing to be a hobby that all sections of the community can participate in. A number of elderly members believe that this activity is one of the few, if not the only, that they participate in on a weekly basis and therefore provides key social interaction and keeps their mind sharp.

Financial Information

St. Mary's Eastwood Bell Ringers has provided the annual accounts for the Parish of Eastwood St. Mary's for the year ending 31 December 2023. Total income for the year was £95,210 including £53,545 of donations and £25,674 of trading income. Total expenditure for the year was £99,404 which included the Diocesan parish share contribution of £61,848, church running expenses of £17,785 and £5,240 in repairs and maintenance. Total assets as at 31 December 2023 were £56,236.

Grant Request

For 2024/25, St. Mary's Eastwood Bell Ringers has requested a grant of £2,000 towards the cost of repairing and repainting the bell frame at St. Mary's to protect it for future years of use. The total cost of the repairs is estimated at £7,100, with grant funding already secured from other organisations including Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust (£1,500) and the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (£900).

Members should note that the Council's Grant Aid policy states that "the Council will not fund [...] religious groups or activities promoting religious beliefs." However, "applications from religious/belief based groups may be considered if the organisation can demonstrate that the project is of wider community benefit and does not involve the promotion of religion or belief. An example would be a request towards the cost of repairs to community facilities."

It is noted from the foregoing that the bell-ringing group has no restrictions on its membership and provides health benefits to its members. Further, the group has stated that:

The maintenance work will ensure that historic bells which have been in our tower since 1784 and the current bells since 1905, can continue to ring for many years to come, which bring the community together in times of joy, sorrow and celebration – from ringing each week for services, celebrating weddings and national events such as the coronation, or being a national symbol tolling for remembrance and funerals.

The bells notably rang to mark the Millennium, New Year's Eve, the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the Coronation of King Charles III, as well as numerous royal and personal weddings, funerals, and even just to mark the hour.

Accordingly, it is considered that such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by St. Mary's Eastwood Bell Ringers benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of St. Mary's Eastwood Bell Ringers helps to combat loneliness and social exclusion within the Borough, brings the community together and improves the mental health and well-being of residents.