

## Appendix

Applications

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

|  |   | <u>Grant<br/>Award<br/>2023/24<br/>£</u> | <u>Grant<br/>Request<br/>2024/25<br/>£</u> |
|--|---|--|--|
| Beeston Rylands Community Association      | 1 | -  | 12,000                                     |
| Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service | 2 | -  | 7,000                                      |
| Jo Cox Foundation                          | 3 | -  | 500  |
| Eastwood and District Darts and Dominoes   | 4 | -  | 500  |
|  |   | <b>Total</b>                             | <b><u>20,000</u></b>                       |

1. BEESTON RYLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Beeston Rylands Community Association ('BRCA') runs two successful community hubs in the Beeston Rylands area at Leyton Crescent and the Plessey Centre. BRCA runs groups and activities aimed at supporting the members of the community and provides experience and training for volunteers alongside events to support community cohesion. BRCA also works with local agencies (such as the Social Prescribing Team) to meet the needs and improve the wellbeing of residents.

BRCA estimates that, across its two centres, it works with approximately 1,000 people per quarter. This includes a number of Hong Kong British National Overseas ('HKBNO') residents for whom the Plessey Centre has become a hub.

Financial Information

The draft accounts submitted by BRCA state that for the year ended 31 March 2024, BRCA generated income of £83,905 (2023: £44,663) primarily from grants and donations, hall bookings and sales. Total expenditure amounted to £97,281 (2023: £41,122) which included wages (£34,806), utilities (£10,196), and equipment, repairs and renewals (£42,537). Total bank balances as at 31 March 2024 were £8,890 (2023: £23,076).

Grant Request

For 2024/25, Beeston Rylands Community Association has requested a grant of £12,000 to cover their utilities cost for the remainder of the financial year. In time, BRCA intends to install solar panels which will make the group carbon neutral and significantly reduce utilities costs.

BRCA states that:

*“Previously we had Government funding to employ a part time HKBNO link worker. We feel this role is essential to the continued development of the offer for HKBNO residents and promotion of community cohesion. We are running many essential groups at the centres, but we have capacity to run more. Staff are currently at their capacity. If we were able to have support with our utilities this would release funds to increase staff and volunteers, enabling the centres to be open more, bringing in more revenue and meeting the needs of more residents.”*

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

- The services provided by Beeston Rylands Community Association benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of Beeston Rylands 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 Beeston Rylands Community Association 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.

## 2. RUSHCLIFFE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service (‘RCVS’) was established in 1984 and is based at The Cotgrave Hub in Cotgrave. Though based in Rushcliffe, RCVS also works across South Nottinghamshire and provides the following services in Broxtowe:

- Volunteer Brokerage at volunteer centres
- Infrastructure support to the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Community Development Health and Wellbeing Engagement

There are currently approximately 450 users of RCVS direct services, with approximately 200 volunteers supporting its services in the last year. In Broxtowe, 96 residents were supported in accessing volunteering opportunities, whilst 31 VCS groups and 29 warm spaces were supported with advice.

Other recent services/projects delivered in Broxtowe include:

- Support of two job fairs in partnership with Beeston Job Centre;
- Assisting two Broxtowe businesses to utilise their company ‘volunteering days’;
- Provision of a monthly volunteer centre drop in at the Job Centre
- Launch of a new volunteer CRM system in April 2024

- Facilitated Broxtowe Community Development Forum (29 members)
- Support of three Community Engagement Groups in Broxtowe including the Stapleford Memory Café and Games Group at The Haven.
- Helped to expand the services offered by Warm Spaces in Broxtowe.
- Served to increase awareness of the potential for community participation in such projects as the Bennerley Viaduct refresh.
- Work towards establishing a small grants scheme for new / grassroots volunteer groups.
- An Integrated Neighbourhood Working programme including engagement with fifty residents in Eastwood to obtain feedback on issues facing the community along with presentations to a total of approximately 200 school children across years 7 to 12.

RCVS draws particular attention to their work with Warm Spaces in Broxtowe, stating the following:

*The aim of the project was to develop a collaborative partnership of Warm Welcomes to address the cost-of-living crisis and to share expertise and experience between the spaces.*

*51 Warm Welcomes were identified across the district, all were contacted and invited to meetings within localities to explore the initiative.*

*In Broxtowe, Rushcliffe CVS, with Broxtowe Borough Council, [took] a co-ordinated approach to draw together a partnership of Warm Welcomes across the borough for the first time, with the aim to build connections between Warm Welcomes, sharing good practice, innovative ideas, volunteers, referrals and they are beginning to consider joint funding bids, and ensure they really are creating a space that feels welcoming to all, and is connected into the community.*

*The focus of Warm Welcomes in Broxtowe is to reduce social isolation and improve mental health, with a secondary focus on supporting people navigating the cost-of-living crisis. The Warm Welcomes are spaces and places created to bring people together locally. They require volunteers, a venue, and an ethos around being open and welcoming to anyone stepping through the door.*

### Financial Information

RCVS has provided its annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 for scrutiny. The charity separates its accounts between restricted and unrestricted funds. Total income generated in the year amounted to £372,701 (2022: £272,116). This included £202,291 of unrestricted core funding primarily from grants, donations and sales income, including unrestricted funding from the Prison Advice and Care Trust (£36,514), Nottingham CVS (£23,000), Ashfield Voluntary Action (£25,800) and Rushcliffe Borough Council (£15,000). Sizeable restricted funding was received from the NHS Charities (£74,113), Nottinghamshire County Council (£24,405) and Mansfield CVS (£23,570). Total expenditure amounted to £276,708 (2022:

£218,343). This mainly related to staff costs (£228,815 for an average 24 employees), rent, utilities and shopping expenses. Total cash and bank balances at 31 March 2023 were £381,672 (2022: £334,109) including £328,779 (2022: £268,453) held as unrestricted funds.

As the latest set of accounts is over 12 months old, an update on the current level of reserves has been requested from RCVS, which has stated this to be approximately £410,000 as at the 31 March 2024.

### Grant Aid Request

For 2024/25, RCVS has requested grant aid of £7,000 towards their general running costs.

The Council has supported RCVS in previous financial years, as follows:

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| 2022/23 | £7,000 |
| 2021/22 | £7,000 |
| 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 RCVS benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- RCVS targets the needs of disadvantaged sections of the community.
- Volunteer Bureaux 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.

### 3. JO COX FOUNDATION

The Jo Cox Foundation is a national organisation which aims to bring about meaningful change on issues that the late Jo Cox MP was passionate about.

The Foundation works in three areas:

- To nurture stronger communities;
- To champion respect in politics;
- To advocate for a fairer world.

This application is focused on the Foundation's respectful politics work, which aims to reduce abuse and intimidation of elected politicians. Earlier in the year the Foundation published a call to action from their Jo Cox Civility Commission listing 28 recommendations that, if implemented, will improve democratic life in the UK by reducing the abuse that impacts locally and nationally on elected politicians. The Foundation is currently campaigning for these recommendations to be adopted.

The Foundation states that:

*“Our work to reduce abuse and intimidation of elected politicians can improve democratic participation for the residents of Broxtowe. It will improve the safety of elected representatives, their families and their staff, and it will remove barriers to participation for those who may be too concerned about abuse to put themselves forward for elected office.*

*Abuse and intimidation of elected politicians particularly impacts women, disabled people and those from a minority ethnic background. Our work is aimed at reducing this abuse, ensuring that all people, but especially those from minoritised groups, can fully participate in democratic life.”*

#### Financial Information

For the year ended 31 December 2023, The Jo Cox Foundation generated income of £684,727 (2022: £629,515), primarily through donations and legacies (£201,972) and income relating to its ‘More in Common’ programme (£154,533). Total expenditure amounted to £648,914 (2022: £591,489) which primarily related to the ‘More in Common’ programme (£100,072), the ‘Great Get Together’ (£112,057) and other core charitable activities (£129,436).

Total unrestricted reserves as at 31 December 2023 were £174,105 (2022: £121,848). As at the date of this application, reserves were stated as £170,284.

#### Grant Request

For 2024/25, the Jo Cox Foundation has requested a grant of £500 as a contribution towards their running costs for their work to reduce abuse in politics. This includes staff time needed to raise awareness of the issue in the media and to campaign for the implementation of our recommendations. The Foundation has approached every local authority in England, Wales and Scotland to see whether they would be able to make a similar contribution towards the cost of this work.

The Jo Cox Foundation is a national organisation which works and campaigns on matters which have a national impact, not specific to Broxtowe, and is therefore outside of the strict scope of this Council’s Grant Aid policy.

Cabinet may wish, however, to take into account that such issues do have a direct impact on locally elected Members of this Council and that such an award would be in the spirit of the recent Full Council decision (10 July 2024) to support the Local Government Association’s ‘Debate Not Hate’ Campaign.

#### 4. EASTWOOD AND DISTRICT DARTS AND DOMINOES LEAGUE

Eastwood and District Darts and Dominoes League (‘EDDDL’) was established in the 1950s and holds darts and dominoes competitions at the ‘Foresters

Arms' public house in Newthorpe. Teams from within the Borough and surrounding areas meet to compete throughout the year. EDDDL feels that such activity helps to bring the community together, both old and young, and assists with the sustainability of local trade.

There are currently 12 teams within the League, each consisting of approximately 15 players. In addition, spectators are welcome at meetings of the League, with EDDDL estimating the total number of Broxtowe residents involved to be 80% of the total attendance.

#### Financial Information

As a small informal group, EDDDL does not produce annual financial statements. However, EDDDL has provided a bank statement which confirms the current balance on its two accounts (one for each of the summer and winter league) as £851 and £1,620 – total £2,471. A regular pattern of monthly cash deposits of the fees collected from EDDDL members (approximately £150-£200 per month) has also been observed.

Members should also note that although the bank account referred to above is operated solely for the benefit of EDDDL, it is held by an individual as the group was, due to being an unincorporated group, unable to open an account in its own name. This has been confirmed separately with both the Chairman and Treasurer of EDDDL.

#### Grant Aid Request

EDDDL has requested grant aid of £500 as a contribution towards the total costs of running the leagues, which it estimates to be approximately £3,800 per annum. This Council has previously supported EDDDL with a grant for £500 in the financial year 2022/23.

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

- The events held by EDDDL benefit Broxtowe residents and are not in conflict with services provided by the Council.
- The encouragement of social activity by EDDDL targets the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community, helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness.