

BEESTON MUSLIM CENTRE

Beeston Muslim Centre was established in June 2000 and states as its objectives and aims “to promote the advancement of religion as practised by Sunni Muslims of the Hanfi Brailvi school of thought, provide educational support to children, help alleviate poverty, distress and sickness within all sectors of the community and develop inter-faith relationships through dialogue with local community representatives.”

As part of the work towards these objectives, Beeston Muslim Centre runs a community centre adjacent to the Mosque (Beeston Unity Centre) which has as its mission “to create a safe and inclusive space for children to participate in sports activities.” Health and fitness, well-being, education and careers guidance is offered in this space, with activities also targeted at those from disadvantaged / low rate of participation / under represented areas of the community. Women-only fitness classes are also offered.

Beeston Muslim Centre currently has approximately 230 members, of which 110 are below 18 years of age and 25 are over 60. Within this, approximately 160 people make use of the Unity Centre facility each week, of which around 20% are considered to be from disadvantaged backgrounds. A small fee (average £2.50) is charged per session, though this is waived for those from socially deprived backgrounds, emerging communities and for parents.

Financial Information

Beeston Muslim Centre has provided its most recent formal financial statements (31 December 2023) for scrutiny. Total income for the year ended 31 December 2023 was £95,000 (2022: £65,280) consisting primarily of donations (£87,730). Total expenditure was £90,700 (2022: £61,650) and comprised primarily of wages (£54,730), utilities (£8,350) and loan interest (£2,540). Depreciation on freehold property of £7,500 was also charged in the year.

Total funds as at 31 December 2023 were £308,830 (2022: £304,510). This includes the book value of freehold property, fixtures and fittings (£329,260) and is net of loans totalling £23,290. Cash balances as at 31 December 2023 were £2,999 (2022: £30,156).

At the date of the grant application (January 2025), cash balances were stated at £2,500.

Grant Request

Beeston Muslim Centre has requested a grant of £6,500 to pay for the removal of asbestos discovered in the roof during the course of wider renovation work. This renovation work has been part-funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with the £40,000 awarded being ‘matched’ with £20,000 of donations from the community. As the asbestos was only discovered after commencement of the work, no financial

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provision was made and the group states that it has no funds available to cover the cost of removal.

Such a grant award would be in line with the Grant Aid Policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by Beeston Muslim Centre benefit the people of Broxtowe and are complementary to those services provided by the Council.
- The activities of Beeston Muslim Centre target the needs of vulnerable sections of the community, helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Members are also reminded that the Grant Aid Policy provides that:

The Council will not fund political groups or projects that promote political beliefs, religious groups or activities promoting religious beliefs or animal welfare charities.

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.

In addition, due to the nature of this scheme, any approved grant would normally be made on the basis of 25% of the actual costs incurred, given that it relates to a non-Council owned asset, with a maximum figure specified in appropriate circumstances.