

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations, Charitable Bodies and Individuals Involved in Sports, the Arts and Disability Matters 2026/271. Purpose of Report

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

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1. Consider the requests and RESOLVE accordingly, and**
- 2. RESOLVE that an additional sum of £40,000 be added to the Grant Aid budget for 2026/27, to be funded by General Fund Reserves.**

3. Detail

Details of the grant applications received are included in the **Appendix** for consideration. The amount available for distribution in 2026/27 is as follows:

	<u>£</u>
Revenue Grant Aid Budget	168,800
Less: Provision for Rent and Related Expenses	(45,300)
Less: Grants Awarded	(111,300)
Balance Available for Distribution	<u>12,200</u>

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

Any grant awards will be met from the established grant aid budget shown above. There is only limited budgetary provision remaining in 2026/27. The total 'cash' grants requested in this report are £34,707 with the additional sums requested in this report, when compared to the previous year, amounting to £5,833 if the applications are fully supported.

Accordingly, the total grants requested in this report would over-commit the grant aid budget and potentially restrict the amount available to apply elsewhere. If Members were to approve the requests in full, and taking into account all grants previously awarded during 2026/27, it is recommended that an additional sum of up to £40,000 is added to the Grant Aid budget in 2026/27, to be funded by General Fund Reserves.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council is empowered to make grants to voluntary organisations by virtue of Section 48 Local Government Act 1985 (as well as other legislation). Having an approved process in line the legislation and the Council's Grant Aid Policy will ensure the Council's compliance with its legal duties.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

There are no climate change implications identified in relation to this report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is not a change to policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

13. Background Papers

Nil.

Appendix

Applications

The following grant applications have been received for consideration:

		<u>Previous</u> <u>Grant</u> <u>Award</u> £	<u>Current</u> <u>Grant</u> <u>Request</u> £
Broxtowe Women's Project	1	13,000	13,000*
Eastwood People's Initiative	2	2,500	2,500*
The Helpful Bureau	3	18,124	20,000
Dig-In Community Allotment	4	-	2,957
Individual Disabled Sports person	5	-	1,000
			39,457

Note*: These requests are for primarily for grants to cover the cost of rental for Council owned premises and, as such, are non-cash grants awarded via an internal transfer in the Council's financial systems. Of these, the applications from Broxtowe Women's Project and Eastwood People's Initiative also include requests for a 'cash grant' contribution towards general running costs at £10,000 and £750 respectively.

1. 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
- Post-Separation Abuse – Training
- Post-Traumatic Growth – 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
- Operating a community hub through their charity shop

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 alongside this Council's Community Safety and Housing Teams, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue and Nottinghamshire Police.

Financial Information

BWP has provided its accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025 for scrutiny. Total income for the year was £294,877 (2024: £362,938) comprising primarily of grants and donations and other small sundry amounts including fees and shop trading income. Total expenditure for the year was £309,889 (2024: £355,859) which included wages and salaries, consultancy fees, advertising and other sundry expenses including rent, room hire, training, utility costs and communications. Total unrestricted reserves at 30 June 2025 were £142,441 (2024: £127,330).

At the date of application, BWP has stated that it holds reserves of £133,570.

Grant Aid Request

For 2026/27, BWP has requested grant aid of £13,000 to help meet its core operating costs (£10,000) and its rental obligations in respect of a Council-owned property in Eastwood (£3,000) where BWP operates a charity shop. As the charity shop is 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.

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

2025/26	£13,000
2024/25	£13,000
2023/24	£8,000
2022/23	£8,000

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.

2. EASTWOOD PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE

Eastwood People's Initiative was formed in 1982 to serve Eastwood and the surrounding communities in north Broxtowe. The primary objective of the charity is the relief of poverty.

Eastwood People's Initiative fulfils this objective by providing benefits advice and support; clothing, bedding and food to those in need; job search and CV assistance, short courses, liaison and partnership working with other local initiatives, advice and guidance, drop-in and signposting

In addition, Eastwood People's Initiative provides a 'rapid response' to the needs of local people through such projects as 'Winter Warmers' and 'Grab a Grocery Bag'. The estimated reach is 350 users, with most being residents of Broxtowe.

Financial Information

For the year ended 31 December 2025, Eastwood People's Initiative generated total receipts of £24,933 (2024: £32,317), and incurred expenditure of £27,685 (2024: £21,649) including £16,251 in payroll costs. Current reserves are £15,800, with a further £50,000.00 being held in an investment account.

Grant Request

The Council has regularly supported Eastwood People's Initiative with grants towards its operating costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2025/26	£2,500
2024/25	£2,500
2023/24	£2,500
2022/23	£2,500

For 2026/27, Eastwood People's Initiative has requested a similar grant of £2,500 to cover the market rent (£1,750) and other associated premises costs (£750). Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by Eastwood People's Initiative benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of Eastwood People's Initiative target the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community.
- Caring Organisations such as Eastwood People's Initiative are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for grant aid.

3. THE HELPFUL BUREAU

The Helpful Bureau (THB) is a registered charity and not for profit organisation based on Derby Road in Stapleford. Originally established in 1975, THB formally registered as a charity from 2001.

THB is dedicated to helping the over 55s and disabled stay independent and socially connected across Broxtowe Borough. Many clients are vulnerable, have mental illness, mobility issues and Dementia. THB offers a range of activities and services that work holistically together to support clients in the home and outside, lowering isolation and bringing structure and joy to people's days. THB believe that it improves well-being, quality of life and has created a special community over the years.

THB provides trips and activities, movement classes, home support, community transport scheme, befriending scheme and volunteering opportunities. In so doing, THB encourages people to make the most of their later years and enables them to access the right support when they need it. The focus is on preventative services for conditions that often affect people in later life, including falls prevention and depression by helping them get out and about more.

Financial Information

The Helpful Bureau has submitted its Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 for scrutiny. The charity splits its accounts between restricted and unrestricted funds. Total income generated in the year amounted to £371,670 (2024: £272,847), including £186,903 as unrestricted funds, from fees and services (£121,647), donations, grants and fundraising. Restricted grants totalling £114,767 were received in from TN Reaching Communities (£37,409), Nottinghamshire County Council (£21,664) and other institutional funders. Total expenditure was £316,213 (2024: £272,011), including £70,988 from the unrestricted fund, and related to wages (£205,686, split between restricted and unrestricted funds for an average of 17 employees), rent, legal and professional services, activities, services and other running costs.

Total bank balances at 31 March 2025 were £131,959 (2024: £76,999), with Total Funds declared at £143,614 (2024: £88,157) including £63,309 as unrestricted funds and £70,000 as endowment funds. THB has stated its current level of unrestricted funds to be approximately £61,000.

Grant Request

For 2026/27, The Helpful Bureau has requested a grant of £20,000 towards the operating costs of one of the core strands of the charity, Home Support. This service involves a team of seven Home Support workers who visit clients across the borough, helping them remain independent at home by offering cleaning, shopping, meal preparation and regular company. Between them they deliver approximately 300 hours of Home Support every month. This grant would be primarily to support the salary and expenses of the Home Support Coordinator who is responsible for the recruitment, ongoing training, timetabling and management of this Home Support team.

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.

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

2025/26	£18,124
2024/25	£17,000
2023/24	£9,500
2022/23	£9,000

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.

4. DIG-IN COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

The Dig-In Community Allotment scheme ('Dig-In') was established in 2004 and is based at the Albany Allotments on Pasture Road, Stapleford. Dig-In provides a facility for local groups and residents by running a sustainable community allotment, organising workshops and volunteer gardening sessions, organic food growing and providing environmental and food education, local community outreach and involvement.

The group aims to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the local community through these activities. The group also acts as a community hub for outdoor events and workshops which are intended to bring the local community together with a shared purpose of combating social isolation and developing people's skills, knowledge and self-confidence. Training is offered on an informal and occasional basis and is 'on the job' during normal gardening sessions.

Dig-In is free and open to all (the project asks for donations at its events), with around 45 active volunteers in addition to visiting groups. The group welcomes people of all abilities and has several volunteers who have learning, physical disabilities or mental health issues.

Financial Information

For the year ended 28 February 2025, income totalling £26,803 was derived from grants and donations (of which, £26,509 was restricted grants). Expenditure of £12,241 related to wages (£7,994), materials (£2,518), activities and events and other operating expenses. Cash and bank balances at 28 February 2025 amounted to £30,391. Of this, approximately £20,000 was restricted grant balance for the delivery of a specific 'Dig In through the Seasons' project being delivered over two years 2025-2027.

As the formal financial statements are over 12 months old, an update has been provided as to the current position of the organisation. Dig-In has stated its current level of reserves to be approximately £16,900.

Grant Request

For 2026/27 the Dig-In Community Allotment has requested a grant of £2,957 towards general operating costs. Of this, £2,040 is intended to support an increase the working hours of the group's specialist Sessional Worker over the next 12 months. This is necessary as the additional needs of the group's volunteers are becoming more complex and extra time is now needed each month to plan and organise sessions on and off site.

The Council have supported the Dig-In Community Allotment for several years with grant aid towards its running costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2025/26	No application
2024/25	£913
2023/24	No application
2022/23	£913

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

- The services provided by the Dig-In Community Allotment benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of Dig-In Community Allotment target the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community, in particular helping to combat loneliness and social exclusion within the Borough, as well as providing educational and co-curricular benefits to local schools and children's uniformed groups.
- Conservation and Environmental groups such as the Dig-In Community Allotment are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.

5. INDIVIDUAL DISABLED SPORTSPERSON

An exceptional application from a disabled sportsperson, resident in Eastwood, has been received for £1,000 to cover the full cost of participation at the Boccia UK Championships in Cardiff in November 2026.

The applicant, a former Midlands Regional Champion and England National Squad member, states that they "enjoy the competitive nature of boccia and the camaraderie between players and within squads as you learn and train together, gaining experience and friends."

Grants to individual sportspeople for participation in competitive events are usually limited to smaller amounts (£100 for UK competitions, £200 for international), generally administered through delegated authority and are intended as an encouraging contribution towards costs rather than full 'sponsorship'.

Part of the reason for the increased amount is that the applicant's participation in the Championships is entirely dependent on on-court assistance with their being required to travel and stay with a designated competition assistant and carer, doubling all travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs.

Although exceptional, such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy and Corporate Priorities for the following key reasons:

- Encouraging participation in high-level accessible sports contributes towards diversity and accessibility within the Borough.
- Supporting a disabled sportsperson directly improves the health of a resident of the Borough and may serve as a positive example to others.
- Competing at a high-level within a supportive environment improves the mental health and well-being of all involved.