

## Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**GRANT AID REQUEST – TRENT VALE COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND BEESTON FOOTBALL CLUB**1. Purpose of report

To consider a request for capital grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's grant aid policy.

2. Grant aid application

An application for capital funding has been received from the Trent Vale Community Sports Association (TVCSA), in conjunction with Beeston Football Club (BFC). TVCSA is planning to undertake an ambitious project to renovate its site at the old Plessey Sports Ground on Trent Vale Road in Beeston Rylands. This redevelopment scheme will provide a multi-sport facility with full disabled access and community function room. Support and financial assistance has been provided by Sport England and the Football Foundation. The total cost is £571,686 and the Premier League and Football Facilities Fund have pledged £481,656 towards the scheme. TVCSA now has to raise the outstanding funds by 28 April 2020 in order to unlock this grant. With other monies already raised by TVCSA and BFC, the current total needed is just under £50,000.

The Council has previously supported TVCSA with grant aid of £2,500, awarded by this Committee on 13 December 2018, towards the cost of new perimeter fencing and secure access doors for the storage facility as part of this wider redevelopment scheme.

TVCSA has now requested grant aid from the Council of £10,000 towards the renovation. Details of the application are included in the appendix.

3. Financial position

No budgetary provision exists for capital grants to voluntary organisations. Furthermore, no funds are available from the Council's 2019/20 capital contingencies which have been fully committed.

Members would need to make an addition to the 2019/20 capital programme to meet the cost of any capital grant award to the TVCSA. This could be funded from General Fund capital receipts (an update on which is provided in another report on this agenda) or from General Fund reserves.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to consider the request and RESOLVE accordingly.**

Background papers

Nil

## APPENDIX

TRENT VALE COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION

An application for grant aid has been received from Trent Vale Community Sports Association (TVCSA), in conjunction with Beeston Football Club (BFC), for funding towards a scheme to redevelop sports and community facilities at the old Plessey Sports Ground in Beeston Rylands.

TVCSA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) first registered with the Charity Commission on 19 August 2014. BFC and Trent Vale Squash Club each contributed £4,000 to meet the initial set-up costs including the forming of the CIO. The charity is managed by five Trustees from both founding clubs. TVCSA was established for the provision of community participation in healthy recreation, in particular facilities for the playing of ball and racquet sports. Current sporting activities include children's football (provided through BFC) and squash (via the squash club). BFC is a volunteer run club with around 220 children playing football every week. BFC was the runner-up in the Football Association community awards for its 16-week 'Wildcats' girls football course. The success of this course led to four girls' teams being established to play alongside the boys' teams and weekly soccer school for younger children. The BFC five-year plan includes substantial growth with more girls and boys teams, a ladies team, two disability teams and a second mens team. BFC also work with the Princes Trust and the local job centre to recruit young people as volunteer coaches, providing support and funding to obtain a coaching qualification and provide invaluable work experience, skills and confidence.

TVSCA holds a 99-year lease on the nine-acre sports site in Beeston Rylands. The site was formally a sports and social club for a large company and has been the home of BFC for many years. The site has overgrown tennis and netball courts and a dilapidated clubhouse with no electricity or hot water. TVSCA believe that there is a need for better community and sports facilities in the area. Improved facilities would enable BFC to greatly increase the number of children involved (improving their physical and mental health through regular exercise and being part of club), with an emphasis on girls football and increasing participation of disabled players. Residents would also benefit from using community facilities for toddler groups, exercise classes, senior citizens group etc. The local athletics and cycling clubs have expressed an interest in using the site as their base and have an outline plan to build a running track around the outside of the football pitches and to install indoor spinning bikes.

The ambitious scheme involves the renovation of the existing clubhouse to provide fully accessible changing rooms, toilets and showers and a community function room (capacity 200). The scheme also provides for pitch improvements including removal of the cricket square. The community room and pitches will be available for hire by other sports, social and community groups. As a registered charity, TVCSA is obliged to hire out facilities at not for profit rates making the space a real community asset and accessible to all. The scheme will help to achieve three of the four objectives defined by Active Notts. It also recognises that BFC were the highest priority in the Broxtowe Local Football Plan published in May 2019 for improved and increased facilities and pitches.

The tendered cost of the scheme is £571,656, including legal and professional fees and a contingency budget. Grant funding of £481,656 has been awarded by the Premier League and Football Facilities Fund. TVCSA has to raise the remaining funds by 28 April 2020 in order to unlock that grant. With the other monies already raised by TVCSA and BFC, the current total needed is less than £50,000. TVCSA has a fundraising plan and is applying for several other grants, including smaller grants which can be used towards furniture, fencing and equipment.

TVCSA has requested a capital grant of £10,000 from the Council towards this scheme. TVCSA state that this large scale, long-term project will be of direct benefit to the people of Broxtowe, provide a much needed facility and be a lasting legacy for generations to come.

A five-year income and expenditure plan (developed with the Football Foundation) demonstrates the commitment to hiring the facilities to other groups. This will significantly increase the number of people who will benefit from the site. TVCSA will advertise the space for a variety of groups. There is already interest in using the community facilities from Beeston Rylands Community Centre, Beeston and Chilwell Girl Guiding Division, Beeston Athletics Club and Beeston Cycling Club.

TVCSA is committed to keeping running costs low and is in the process of finalising a long-term agreement with the Community Payback Team to help with the initial site clear up and ongoing maintenance. It also provides skilled work experience for the unemployed. In the medium-term, TVCSA will need to recruit employees from the local area to act as caretaker, maintenance, event co-ordinator. A site development plan has been produced and a management committee established as part of its application to the Football Foundation.

TVCSA has provided its Charity Commission Annual Return for scrutiny. The financial statements as at 31 December 2017 show limited expenditure of £2,179 mainly relating to legal fees and insurance and no recognised income (the respective sports club's undertake ground maintenance, pay their own fees and collect income from their respective membership). As at 31 December 2017, TVCSA had £1,161 available in its bank account. TVCSA state that its 2018 accounts are still being finalised and will be forwarded as possible.

This is the second application that the Council has received from TVCSA. In 2018/19, a grant of £2,500 was awarded towards the cost of new perimeter fencing and a secure access door for a storage facility. For 2019/20, TVCSA has requested a capital grant of £10,000 towards the cost of the scheme to redevelop sports and community facilities in Beeston Rylands.