

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS,
CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS,
THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2019/20**1. Purpose of report

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

2. Applications and financial position

Details of the grant application received are included in appendix 1 for consideration. The amount available for distribution in 2019/20 is as follows:

Revenue Grant Aid Budget	£ 172,800
Less: Estimated requirements for Rent Awards and Other Commitments (#)	20,350
Less: Grant Awards to Date	136,020
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	<u>16,430</u>

(#) This includes provisions in respect of the applications from Age Concern Eastwood, Beeston Shopmobility, Bramcote Cricket Club, Broxtowe Play Forum and Stapleford Community Association.

A separate grant aid report in respect of the Canalside Heritage Centre is considered elsewhere on this agenda.

A summary of the grants awarded under delegated authority since January 2020 is included for information at appendix 2.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- 1. CONSIDER the request in appendix 1 and RESOLVE accordingly; and**
- 2. NOTE the grants awarded under delegated authority in appendix 2.**

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

APPLICATIONS

The following grant applications have been received for consideration in 2019/20:

<u>Applicant</u>		<u>Grant Award 2018/19</u>	<u>Grant Request 2019/20</u>
		£	£
Age Concern Eastwood	1	9,000	9,000 #
Stapleford Community Association	2	3,000	3,000 #
Broxtowe Women's Project	3	6,000	6,000
Beeston Shopmobility	4	8,500	8,500 #
Bramcote Cricket Club	5	865	1,000 #
Broxtowe Play Forum	6	5,500	5,500 #
		Total	33,000

The total request is made up of £12,650 in 'cash' from the balance available with £20,350 being for rents and other commitments as covered by the provisions below. In addition, a separate grant aid report in respect of the Canalside Heritage Centre is considered elsewhere on this agenda.

(#) Estimated outstanding rent awards and other commitments includes provision for the requests from Age Concern Eastwood (£3,850), Beeston Shopmobility (£7,000), Bramcote Cricket Club (£1,000), Broxtowe Play Forum (£5,500) and Stapleford Community Association (£3,000).

Age Concern Organisations1. **AGE CONCERN EASTWOOD**

Age Concern Eastwood was established in 1954 and is based at The Colin Dyson Centre on Edward Road in Eastwood (Council owned premises). The group generates its 68 strong membership from Eastwood and the surrounding area, with the majority being Broxtowe residents aged 60 years or over.

Age Concern Eastwood provides welfare facilities to local elderly residents. Its clientele includes disabled users, others who are suffering with dementia and Alzheimer's and those who may be isolated. The group aims to provide a quality meeting place, companionship, socialising, entertainment and advice for its users by offering a wide variety of activities such as a luncheon club (serving over 100 meals per week, Monday to Thursday), social events and activities, arts and crafts and festive parties. A trustee also provides a Sunday lunch for up to 18 members on a regular basis and occasionally hosts a 'Friday pie day' to serve meals to those in need. A Christmas party was held again to provide a festive meal for those isolated and living alone. This included a turkey roast dinner, wrapped gifts, games and a party atmosphere, which was well received.

The group provides its own volunteer driving scheme that provides transport for its more isolated members. It works in partnership with Broxtowe Mental Health and Nottinghamshire County Social Services who recommend their service to potential new members.

Age Concern Eastwood has spent over £40,000 in recent years on improving the building interior and facilities for its clients to enjoy. The main hall has been redecorated by professional decorators. Also, to help save on heating costs and improve sound, the group has installed a suspended ceiling.

For the year ended 31 March 2019, income totalling £64,555 was generated from grants and donations (including £14,000 from the Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme), meals and drinks receipts, transport receipts, fundraising and other activities. Annual expenditure of £55,668 mainly related to employee costs (£18,758), volunteer expenses (mileage), equipment, repairs and renewals, meals and catering, rent, utilities, insurances and other general running costs. Cash at bank and in hand as at 31 March 2019 was £57,251. This figure also includes the residual balance of a significant legacy of received in 2009/10 that is continuing to be used towards projects that may sustain and improve future income streams, such as building and facility improvements. Over £25,000 of this legacy has already been spent, including upgrading of the toilet facilities.

The Council has supported Age Concern Eastwood for many years with grants towards its premises (including rental) and transport costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2018/19	£9,000
2017/18	£9,000
2016/17	£9,000
2015/16	£9,000

For 2019/20, Age Concern Eastwood has requested a grant of £9,000 towards its running costs, including the rental of the Edward Road premises. Any grant award in respect of the premises rental (£3,850) would be matched by allowances within the premises income budget and therefore leave the Council's overall budget unchanged. Any additional award for other running costs however will have to be funded from the grant aid budget.

Members should note that the grant aid policy would normally require that all 'cash' grant awards of £5,000 or above to be subject to a Service Level Agreement. However, monitoring arrangements that 'measure and celebrate success' should also be tailored specifically to the organisation and can include written reports, feedback from service users and monitoring visits to the funded organisation.

Community Associations Category

2. STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Stapleford Community Association was formed in 1954 and is responsible for the management and operation of the Council owned Community Centre on Cliffe Hill Avenue in Stapleford.

The aim of the Association is to provide a high quality, low cost centre for a variety of leisure, educational and community activities in Stapleford. A number of groups utilise the facilities for these purposes including playgroups, keep fit clubs, uniform groups, senior citizen's groups, dance classes and family groups. Around 200 people of all ages use the facilities on a weekly basis, with an estimated 80% being residents of the Borough.

For the year ended 31 December 2019, income of £9,323 was generated from hall lettings and grant aid. Annual expenditure amounted to £12,183 and included rent, repairs and renewals, cleaning and sundry expenses, insurances, heating and lighting, water charges and depreciation. Cash and bank balances at 31 December 2019 were £22,274. Stapleford Community Association has indicated that these funds are earmarked towards ongoing maintenance projects and for unexpected emergencies.

The tenancy agreement for the Community Centre replaced the previous arrangement of charging a peppercorn rent. As part of the Council's aim to secure economic rents on its properties, the rent was assessed at £3,000 per annum. The Stapleford Community Association has suggested that it has only limited financial resources and would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

The Council has previously supported Stapleford Community Association with grants towards its premises rental. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2018/19	£3,000
2017/18	£3,000
2016/17	£3,000
2015/16	£3,000

For 2019/20, Stapleford Community Association has requested a similar grant of £3,000 to cover the rental of the Community Centre on Cliffe Hill Avenue in Stapleford. This grant award would be for a period of one year and would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the award being matched in the Council's premises income budget.

Caring Organisations Category

3. BROXTOWE WOMEN'S PROJECT

Established in 2001, Broxtowe Women's Project Limited (BWP) is a voluntary organisation that provides a unique, community-led service offering a range of high-quality domestic abuse outreach and awareness services in response to local needs. The BWP vision is that women and their families who are affected by domestic abuse in Broxtowe are empowered to feel safe, to take control of their lives and to lead safer lives. BWP wants everyone in Broxtowe to have more awareness of all types of domestic abuse.

The main aims of BWP is to provide outreach support to women and children who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence and to provide advice, information, training, publicity and raising awareness for local agencies, individuals and community groups.

BWP provides a critical direct service to women survivors of domestic violence, including a telephone support line, outreach services for women and children, short-term survivor support groups, awareness sessions, training and as a facilitator of partnership working across the area.

BWP currently provides an outreach service in Eastwood, Kimberley and the surrounding rural areas, as well as Stapleford in the south. The project recognises that domestic violence is often an unreported crime and they work hard to raise awareness in the community to ensure it becomes a public matter and that responses are appropriate to anyone seeking support. Some women who have experienced domestic violence may find themselves living in the most deprived areas as a result of leaving the perpetrator.

In 2019 BWP received 183 referrals made through various channels, including self-referral, friends and family, CAB, Women's Aid, children and young people, health, adult social care and others (these referrals do not include the numbers of women supported by the legal surgery or who contacted the support line). Of these cases, 130 required ongoing support through outreach support, group support or via regular phone support. Providing support for these women has also helped their dependent children.

BWP aims to provide a quality service to women and to provide support as quickly as possible for them. The majority of referrals were received support on the day of referral (78%), with the remainder largely being supported by the next day. All referrals were supported within two weeks of the referral.

Since September 2016 BWP have been providing outreach services to women throughout Broxtowe. In 2019, the highest percentages are from Stapleford (24%), Beeston (19%), Eastwood (15%), Chilwell (10%) and Newthorpe (8%) with the remainder from other areas in the Borough.

The outcomes for each person after accessing BWP services are monitored. The percentage of women that reported an increase in positive outcomes as a direct result of working with BWP during this period included client empowerment (95%), minimised risk of harm (84%), feeling safer (76%), increased self-esteem (74%), improved mental health (73%) and reduced isolation (44%). These outcomes provide a strong indication of the impact the BWP has had upon the lives of survivors with whom it works. It also indicates the importance of continually developing services such as the counselling to increase the positive outcomes for women.

BWP works in partnership with other service providers to help women with personal development and in changing their lives. BWP works with the Council and jointly alongside Midland's Women's Aid and Women's Aid Integrated Services to ensure complementary and non-duplication of services for women in the borough. BWP is regularly involved with the South Nottinghamshire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, Broxtowe Health Partnership and South Notts Domestic Abuse Strategic Group. BWP also actively contributes to the local Sure Start Children's Centres delivery plans through input and attendance at their Local Advisory Groups.

BWP supports the Stapleford Focus Group and Eastwood South Focus Group action plan aligning with the priorities set and supported by the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership. Its active involvement in these groups highlights a commitment to working in partnership and dedication to improving the lives of survivors of domestic abuse.

BWP offers a free monthly legal surgery to women living in Broxtowe, providing legal advice on a wide range of civil matters such as child contact. Without this legal surgery, women would need to go into Nottingham to access these services and for many women who are being closely monitored by their perpetrator this is not feasible. The legal advice is offered by a domestic abuse specialist solicitor that understands the complexities involved.

BWP has successfully delivered 'Freedom Programmes' in Eastwood and Stapleford examining the roles, attitudes, beliefs and actions of abusive men in addition to the responses of victims and survivors. The aim is to help them to make sense of and understand what has happened to them. The Freedom Programme also describes in detail how children are affected by being exposed to this kind of abuse and very importantly how their lives are improved when the abuse is removed.

BWP has developed a volunteer programme to extend its support to more women by offering services such as befriending once specialist support has ended. This is an opportunity for women to access excellent volunteer work experience and relevant training that will enable them to gain valuable work experience in the field. BWP has recruited volunteers to a variety of roles including trustee positions, awareness raising, fundraising, helpline and ambassador roles.

BWP is currently developing a training programme that will offer in-house training to its volunteers (as well as meeting training needs for partner organisations) on domestic abuse awareness and safeguarding. The training packages available will include accredited training.

BWP is developing its service for children affected by domestic abuse. This service offers outreach to children and young people including a therapeutic strand offering specialist counselling to those most at need. In 2019 there were 91 children's outreach appointments and around 60 hours of children's therapy has been delivered.

BWP has a support line for women to call to get advice and support from a specialised worker. During 2019 BWP received a total of 521 calls to the helpline and 2,273 texts.

As well as direct support, BWP consistently highlights issues of domestic abuse and is committed to improving knowledge and services for women and children to seek help and support. BWP have successfully delivered a number of campaigns throughout the year raising awareness around mental health, domestic abuse and the benefits of volunteering. In November 2019 BWP worked in partnership with the Council on the White Ribbon Campaign. It also supported the Council with the 'Taking a Stand' accreditation and co-facilitated the 'Say No to Domestic Abuse Conference'. BWP also provides domestic abuse awareness training and supported the Council with its online training programme development.

BWP has released 23 blogs on its website, issued three newsletters and made around 400 Facebook posts (increasing its followers by 60%) to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse.

BWP submitted its latest financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2019 for scrutiny. Financial activity is split between restricted and unrestricted funds. In the year, BWP generated total income of £192,714 mainly from grants and donations. The charity considers the majority of this funding to be restricted and significant grants were received from the Big Lottery Fund (£81,598), Lloyds Bank Foundation (£25,000), Children in Need (£22,714), The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (£10,000), Nottingham Soroptimist Trust (£5,000), Comic Relief (£4,314) and JN Derbyshire Trust (£4,000) and this Council. Expenditure for the year amounted to £178,638 and mainly related to employee costs (reduced to £117,804 with £87,524 from restricted funds), activities and premises rental and room hire costs. The average number of employees during the year was six. BWP had overall cash and bank balances of £66,181 as at 31 March 2019, with unrestricted funds amounting to £18,212.

The project continues to apply to a range of funders for all aspects of its services and costs. Most funding is restricted to specific project costs. BWP received a five-year funding grant from the Big Lottery Fund for ongoing outreach services, but this ends in March 2020.

BWP receives funding from Lloyds Bank Foundation to part-fund an outreach worker and from Children in Need for a children's worker. It is increasing difficult to finding funding for core costs (rent, utilities etc.) so without the Council's support it is increasingly difficult to develop the service further and meet the needs of the service user.

The Council has supported BWP for many years with funding towards core costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were:

2018/19	£6,000
2017/18	£6,000
2016/17	£6,000
2015/16	£6,000

For 2019/20, BWP has requested a similar grant of £6,000 to meet its rental obligations and to contribute towards other core costs. 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.

Disability Group Category

4. BEESTON SHOPMOBILITY

Beeston Shopmobility has been operating since June 2001. It is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee that is independent of the Council.

The aim of Beeston Shopmobility is to enable people with temporary or permanent mobility difficulties, the freedom of movement around Beeston town centre through the loan of disability aids, manual and powered wheel chairs and scooters. The scheme helps people with disabilities to lead more independent lives and often provides a welcome respite for carers. Mobility equipment can be used to access shops and services and enables users to socialise more frequently with friends in and around Beeston.

Beeston Shopmobility is run by a team of unpaid volunteers (11), some of whom are disabled, providing a combined 405 hours of voluntary service. The scheme is open daily from Monday to Saturday each week throughout the year. The scheme currently has 89 registered users and provides benefit to 65 Broxtowe residents. The charity has 15 scooters and wheelchairs which can be hired for a charge of £1 per two hour hiring or £30 for a full week. There was around 500 hirings in the past year.

For the year ended 30 September 2019, Beeston Shopmobility generated income of £10,970 from grant aid and donations (for using the service). Expenditure of £10,270 mainly related to premises costs, insurances and equipment repairs. Cash at bank and in hand at 30 September 2019 was £10,061. Beeston Shopmobility indicated that funds are earmarked towards a scooter replacement programme (around £1,500 each).

This Committee previously noted a report on Beeston Shopmobility on 12 October 2017. This related to the potential ongoing revenue implications of using previously approved capital funding to relocate Beeston Shopmobility from the Council owned Cavendish Lodge into Oban House on Chilwell Road in Beeston. Oban House is privately owned and is leased in its entirety to Voluntary Action Broxtowe (VAB). VAB partly supports its annual running and rental costs by sub-leasing parts of the building to sub-tenants. Beeston Shopmobility is a sub-tenant at Oban House, paying an all-in rental of around £7,000 per annum. Beeston Shopmobility completed the move to Oban House in January 2018. Whilst these premises provide a more suitable location for its operations, Beeston Shopmobility states that it only has limited financial resources and is unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

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

2018/19	£8,500
2017/18	£14,500 (including £6,000 internal rent)
2016/17	£9,650 (including £8,150 internal rent)
2015/16	£9,650 (including £8,150 internal rent)

For 2019/20, Beeston Shopmobility has requested a grant of £8,500 for the cost of annual rental of premises at Oban House (£7,000) and insurance cover and scooter servicing costs (£1,500). Any award for these costs will have to be funded from the existing grant aid budget. 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.

Sports Club Category

5. BRAMCOTE CRICKET CLUB

Bramcote Cricket Club was founded in 1858 and is based at Bramcote Hills Park on Ilkeston Road in Bramcote. The club currently runs a number of league cricket teams and has occasionally coached midweek junior teams.

The Club is open to anyone interested in playing or coaching cricket and currently has around 50 adult and 10 junior members, the majority of whom live in Bramcote, Beeston, Chilwell and the surrounding areas. In addition, a further 70 juniors regularly attend the club to play 'kwik-cricket', also supported by parent volunteers, and visiting clubs from Chilwell, Attenborough and Beeston also enjoy use of the Club's facilities.

Unlike some clubs in the region, Bramcote Cricket Club has experienced an increase in participants including juniors who attend for coaching sessions. Some of these juniors have joined from larger clubs where, due to the numbers involved, they have been unable to receive one-to-one coaching. The club hopes to continue to provide this opportunity for juniors to participate in cricket.

For the year ended 31 December 2019, income totalled £9,840 and was mainly generated from subscriptions, match fees, bar sales, grants and sponsorship and other fundraising activities. Annual expenditure of £10,008 included bar expenses, ground equipment maintenance, playing equipment, pitch hire, rent, insurances and other running costs. Total cash and bank balances as at 31 December 2019 amounted to £10,623.

The Council owns the clubhouse used by the Club on Bramcote Hills Park and as part of the Council's aim to secure economic rents on its properties the rent has been assessed at £865 per annum. This is anticipated to increase to £1,000 following a rent review.

The Council has supported Bramcote Cricket Club for many years with grants towards its premises costs (including rental) and the occasional capital grant towards facilities and equipment. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2018/19	£865
2017/18	£865
2016/17	£865 (plus £2,500 capital grant)
2015/16	£865

For 2019/20, Bramcote Cricket Club has requested a revenue grant of £1,000 towards the total cost of its annual rent obligations. This award would be for a period of one year and would be matched by allowances within the premises income budget, leaving the Council's overall budget unchanged.

Miscellaneous Category

6. BROXTOWE PLAY FORUM

Broxtowe Play Forum was established in 1983 and is based in Council owned premises at Montrose Court in Stapleford. Broxtowe Play Forum generates its membership from across the Borough with 130 local member groups using the facilities provided, supporting over 3,000 children and young people.

The primary aim of Broxtowe Play Forum is to support and encourage play in the borough and the group achieves this by providing play resources for children's groups. Broxtowe Play Forum also organises meetings at its premises, provides office services and craft workshop facilities and offers reasonably priced art and craft materials for sale in its play resource centre.

It is open to the general public on a Wednesday, holding a card making club for adults. Broxtowe Play Forum has also attended local play days and play events in partnership with the Arts and Events team.

For the financial year ended 31 March 2019 income totalling £11,132 was generated from grants, membership fees, equipment hire and resource sales. The grants received were from Nottinghamshire County Council (£3,000) and this Council. Total expenditure amounted to £12,604 and included rent and utilities, the purchase of resources and equipment and general running costs. There were no employee costs in the year, with the former full time resource worker having been made redundant. Total cash funds as at 31 March 2019 amounted to £20,289.

Broxtowe Play Forum has occupied units at Montrose Court in Stapleford since 2014. As part of the Council's aim to secure market rental on its properties, the annual rent for the premises was assessed at £5,500. The group has limited financial resources and would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

The Council has supported Broxtowe Play Forum for many years with grants towards the cost of its rent obligations. The sums awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2018/19	£5,500
2017/18	£5,500
2016/17	£5,500
2015/16	£5,500

For 2019/20, Broxtowe Play Forum has requested a similar grant of £5,500 towards the cost of its rent obligations. 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.

APPENDIX 2

DELEGATED AWARDS

A summary of the grants awarded under delegated authority since January 2020 is included below. The Council's policy in respect of grant aid to voluntary organisations is to award the amount requested by the organisation or the maximum specified whichever is the lower. Additional consideration is given to groups who can demonstrate that they are meeting the particular needs of disadvantaged sections of the community.

All requests under £250 are considered under delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair of this Committee. This includes applications from individuals involved with sport and the arts.

This Committee determines all requests for grants in excess of the £250 maximum.

Groups

Group	Total No. of Members	No. of Broxtowe Residents	Grant Award in 2018/19	Grant Award in 2019/20	Purpose of Grant Award
Attenborough Friendship Group	30	30	£100	£100	General running costs
Kimberley WEA (Workers Education Association)	14	14	None	£225	Provide local courses through the WEA programme

Individuals

Name	Grant Award in 2019/20	Purpose of Grant Award
Harry Whyley	£100	Athletics (High Jump) – Contribution towards training, travel, national competitions and equipment costs