

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS,
CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS,
THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2020/21**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 is included in the appendix for consideration. The amount available for distribution in 2020/21 is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| | £ |
| Revenue Grant Aid Budget | 168,800 |
| Less: Estimated requirements for: | |
| Citizen's Advice Broxtowe | 73,750 |
| Rent Awards and Other Commitments (#) | 53,900 |
| Less: Grant Awards to Date | 8,000 |
| BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION | <u>33,150</u> |

(#) This includes provisions in respect of the application from New Stapleford Community Association.

Members are reminded that they will need to suitably constrain grant awards in 2020/21 if the budget is not to be exceeded. The total 'cash' grants requested in this report are £22,000. The additional sums requested in this report, when compared to the previous year, would amount to £7,000 if all applications are fully supported.

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 2020/21:

| <u>Applicant</u> | | <u>Grant Award 2019/20</u> £ | <u>Grant Request 2020/21</u> £ |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Hope Nottingham | 1 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| The Helpful Bureau | 2 | 5,000 | 10,000 |
| New Stapleford Community Association | 3 | 4,000 | 4,000* |
| Eastwood Amateur Boxing Club | 4 | Nil | 1,000 |
| Brinsley Animal Rescue | 5 | Nil | 1,000 |
| | | Total | 26,000 |

The total request is made up of £22,000 in 'cash' from the balance available, with £4,000 being covered by a provision for rents and other commitments.

Caring Organisations1. HOPE NOTTINGHAM

Hope Nottingham is project that operates from Hope House, Boundary Road Community Centre in Beeston. The project has around 200 visitors each week, with 1,200 individuals benefitting from the service each year. Hope House has developed into a holistic community hub providing wide ranging support to help people out of crisis and empower them to contribute positively to their community.

The Hope Café was originally established in 2005 as part of Hope NG9, the Christian church working together to bring 'Hope to the NG9 area through social action, backed by prayer and word'. From 2010, local ministers agreed that Hope NG9 should be merged with Hope Nottingham. The charitable objects of Hope Nottingham are to advance the Christian faith and the relief of poverty, sickness and distress amongst the people of Nottingham and surrounding areas

Hope Nottingham provides a free, one-stop community support café, providing holistic support for homeless and vulnerably housed adults to overcome poverty crisis and entrenched deprivation. The project aims to meet basic needs of food, clothing and furniture, provide a listening ear and offer individual mentoring and support with a view to having a positive transformation on the lives of those in need and to enable the positive social re-integration of socially excluded people. In addition to providing food and friendship, the project aims to mentor individual service users by providing life skills training and creative activities. The project also acts as a hub to which its users can directly access support from specialists on issues such as housing, debt, benefits, substance and alcohol abuse and health.

Hope Nottingham works with the Council, Police, Citizens Advice and other support agencies in order to meet the needs of its users and the local community. The various services are integrated together to enable those with complex needs to address several issues simultaneously, as the most effective way to make progress and to avoid them falling through gaps in service provision.

The facilities at Hope House extend to providing a Job Club to help the long-term unemployed back into work and a Youth Group that provides positive diversionary activities for young people.

The key headlines received from Hope Nottingham in 2019/20 included:

- Providing over 5,000 food parcels to approximately 1,500 households in Broxtowe. During the current coronavirus crisis, Hope Nottingham has primarily been delivering food parcels to hundreds of households across the Borough.
- Supplying over £10,000 worth of financial assistance to buy specific items such as cookers and washing machines to 100 households
- Providing more accessible independent information, advice and support for the most vulnerable Broxtowe residents
- Providing community based volunteer opportunities for local residents
- Providing employment support and training to enable service users to make progress in helping themselves out of poverty relating to welfare, low income, debt, unemployment, dysfunctional lifestyles, mental illness and domestic violence
- Directly supporting people in overcoming or avoiding homelessness, whilst others are indirectly supported by referral to mainstream services and partners
- Assisting local people in Broxtowe with getting housed
- Establishing two small in-house social enterprises teaching people practical skills and enabling them to begin earning an income
- Supporting long-term unemployed local residents through its Employment Pathway scheme. Users are referred to the Hope Job Club by the job centre and receive mentoring, work experience, skills training and job application support in creating positive CV's. This work has assisted 25 long-term unemployed residents into work. Hope Nottingham has provided detailed output statistics for the Employment Pathways scheme relating to its service users, the types of barriers needed to be overcome and outcomes.

Hope Nottingham has provided the latest accounts for the year ended 30 June 2019 for scrutiny. The charity separates its accounts between restricted fund and unrestricted funds.

Total income generated amounted to £237,746 which mostly related to grants, donations and rental income from use of the church and centre. Significant restricted and unrestricted grants were received from Church and Community Giving (£38,543), Garfield Weston Foundation (£25,000), Nottinghamshire County Council (£20,825), Nottingham and Derby Methodist District Fund (£13,200) and the RRAF (£10,000).

Total expenditure amounted to £225,798 which included salaries and associated employer costs (£170,642 for an average of eight employees with no employee receiving more than £60,000 during the period), premises expenses and other operating costs. Total funds as at 30 June 2019 were £43,289 including unrestricted funds of £9,552. Total cash at bank and in hand was £45,139.

In 2019/20, grants have been offered and/or received from Nottinghamshire County Council (£11,900), Nottingham and Derby Methodist District Fund (£13,200), Beeston Consolidated Charity (£18,000) and smaller grants from other Trusts. The charity continues to acknowledge the regular financial and volunteer support it receives from individuals, church and community, local businesses, local authorities and grant making organisations, without which it could not continue to operate.

The Council has regularly supported Hope Nottingham, with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 2019/20 | £10,000 |
| 2018/19 | £4,000 |
| 2017/18 | £4,000 |
| 2016/17 | £4,000 |

In March 2020, the Council made an award of £10,000 from the Community Support Grants scheme to Hope Nottingham for Covid-19 related work.

For 2020/21, Hope Nottingham has requested a similar grant of £10,000 towards the general cost of operating the project (£4,000) and for the specific cost of running its Employment Pathway programme (£6,000).

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.

2. THE HELPFUL BUREAU

An application for grant aid has been received from The Helpful Bureau (THB), a registered charity and not for profit organisation based at the Carnegie Civic and Community Centre on Warren Avenue in Stapleford. Originally established in 1978, THB formally registered as a charity from 2001. The charity provides services which support and encourage older and/or disabled residents to live safely and independently in their own homes. The charity has over 2,400 clients, the majority being residents of Broxtowe.

THB achieves its aims by providing three streams of work, namely practical services; social interaction events; and a volunteer transport scheme. These are considered separately below:

Practical services

These services, including gardening, decorating, home support and a handyman service, help clients to feel less vulnerable. In providing home security and maintaining gardens, the property is less likely to be targeted for crime and clients have more pride in their surroundings and maintain a sense of dignity. 207 different service users accessed these services between October 2019 and March 2020.

The services provide value for money from a trusted and reliable workforce. THB has been operating this for many years and is experienced in dealing with the client group. The charity is registered with Nottinghamshire County Council and 'Checkatrade'. All employees are DBS checked. Volunteers use their experience and life skills to help with the provision of practical services, keeping themselves active within the community and helping to provide a value for money service.

The gardening service maintained around 90 client's gardens (the majority on regular rotation) with 261 jobs completed this year by the gardening team. Unfortunately, the Handyman position was lost due to funding cuts, but the service is still provided when the weather is unfit for gardening or where there is a client need to complete a job immediately. Gardening is chargeable and for all odd jobs and decorating an estimate is provided following assessment. The charity supplies its own vehicle, equipment, cleaning materials and will remove garden waste.

THB has four Home Support Workers (three in the south of Broxtowe, one in the north), each having up to 15 regular clients. The charity has seen an increase in demand for this service and has employed additional workers to help meet demand. Home Support is chargeable.

TBP has started a Befriending Service with the help of funding from the Boots Charitable Trust. The service is much needed with a waiting list of clients ready to be matched.

Social Interaction

THB provides a variety of social groups on each day that it opens. These events include running a weekly resource centre providing a movement to music class, information and advice, a two-course hot lunch and social activities. Social groups such as a craft club, older persons' group and trivial pursuits group, plus monthly day trips. A 'movement to music' class is run at Awsworth, whilst 'foot care' sessions are offered every fortnight in Stapleford. These activities help to prevent people becoming lonely and isolated and offer advice and information to enable them to make life choices appropriate to their current needs. They also keep older people active by providing physical

activities to help prevent falls and loss of mobility, empowering positive health and emotional wellbeing. In recent years, there has been an increase in people with dementia, stroke survivors and people with more complicated health issues.

The charity helps to safeguard older adults by offering support and preventing them from becoming depressed, vulnerable and victims of crime. It regularly promotes the dangers of fraudsters and rogue traders. Other service providers are invited to come along and share information to help keep clients informed on issues relevant to them.

During the year, THB prepared and cooked 2,135 hot meals to an average of 42 clients per week. A charge is made for the lunch club for a hot two-course lunch, which covers the cost of food, refreshments and hall hire. A nominal charge is made for social groups per person per session, whilst the movement to music classes are charged to cover the cost of hall hire and instructor. There have been 48 sessions of movement to music provided in the past year, with an average attendance of 19 per session.

Volunteer Transport

THB provides a volunteer transport scheme and wheelchair accessible vehicle for older and/or disabled people who have travelling difficulties in attending support groups and medical appointments. This scheme enables people to become less isolated and better able to access support groups or activities within the community. Clients receive a flexible and personalised door-to-door transport service, provided at low cost. This service is run with the help of 15 volunteer drivers, some using their own cars and some driving the wheelchair vehicle. All drivers are DBS checked and have appropriate training.

Volunteer drivers have the opportunity of using their spare time effectively by helping others in the community and can report any problems or difficulties they observe. This can then be acted upon accordingly to help stop a situation getting worse. The charity can take referrals from social services and health professionals to offer a more holistic service.

5,091 trips were provided for clients during the year, 4,443 using volunteer's cars and 648 trips in the wheelchair vehicle, with a total of 22,189 journey miles completed. The volunteer driver scheme is chargeable per mile at 50p/mile plus a 50p booking fee per trip, of which 45p/mile is given to the driver to cover expenses. The Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle is charged at £1/mile plus a 50p booking fee per trip to cover the running costs of the vehicle.

THB has provided case studies for all three streams of work as part of its grant aid application.

During the year, THB was able to purchase its own wheelchair accessible vehicle in October 2019 with support from several funders. In doing so, THB has managed to keep the costs down on monthly trips and has started a new shopping service. Nottinghamshire County Council has also provided

additional funding to buy a software package to enable THB to run a more effective and efficient transport scheme.

THB currently has 2,616 registered clients, (1,827 women and 789 men) with 80% having a disability or long term illness. They range in age from under 55 to over 100 years old. Referrals come from health professionals, Independent Living, Social Services, faith groups, other support groups, families and self referrals.

THB has submitted its Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 for scrutiny. The charity splits its accounts between restricted and unrestricted funds. Total income generated in the year amounted to £152,325 (including £72,567 as unrestricted funds) from fees and room hire, grants and donations and fundraising. Restricted grants totalling £79,758 were received in 2018/19 from Nottinghamshire County Council (£42,258) and other funders. Total expenditure was £131,256 (including £51,498 from the unrestricted fund) and related to wages (£88,160 split between restricted and unrestricted funds), rent and services and other running costs. Total bank balances as at 31 March 2019 had risen to £53,548, with Total Funds declared at £52,821 (all unrestricted). The charity's policy on reserves is to retain three months' worth of operating reserves.

This is the third application received from THB (although the Council previously supported Stapleford Volunteer Bureau), with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| 2019/20 | £5,000 |
| 2018/19 | £2,000 |
| 2017/18 | No application |
| 2016/17 | No application |

In March 2020, the Council made an award of £2,000 from the Community Support Grants scheme to THB for Covid-19 related work.

For 2020/21, The Helpful Bureau has requested an increased grant of £10,000 to support its ongoing operations, including the continued running of Autumn Years Activity group and the Befriending Service.

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.

Community Associations

3. NEW STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The New Stapleford Community Association (NCSA) is responsible for the management and operation of the Council owned Community Centre on Washington Drive in Stapleford that was first opened in 1972.

The aim of NCSA is to provide a community meeting place for Stapleford and the surrounding area. A variety of groups utilise the facilities for educational, recreational and sporting activities, including senior citizen's groups, blood donor sessions, dance and fitness classes, community sessions, martial arts clubs and family groups. Around 500 people use the facilities every week, the majority of whom live in the borough.

For the year ended 31 December 2019, NCSA generated income of £19,492 from hall bookings, dances, grant aid, fund raising and membership subscriptions. Total expenditure amounted to £20,147, which included rent, utilities, fixtures, repairs and maintenance, dance and social activities and other running costs. Total bank balances as at 31 December 2018 was £38,513. NCSA has earmarked part of these reserves towards internal decorating and the purchase of new tables.

The current tenancy agreement for the Washington Drive Community Centre replaced the previous arrangement of charging a peppercorn rent. The annual market rent for the premises was assessed at £4,000 as part of the Council's aim to secure economic rents on its properties. NCSA suggests that it would be unable to sustain an ongoing rental charge of this size.

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

| | |
|---------|--------|
| 2019/20 | £4,000 |
| 2018/19 | £4,000 |
| 2017/18 | £4,000 |
| 2016/17 | £4,000 |

For 2020/21, New Stapleford Community Association has requested a grant of £4,000 to cover the market rent. 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.

Sports Clubs

4. EASTWOOD AMATEUR BOXING CLUB

The Council has received a grant aid application from Eastwood Amateur Boxing Club. Formed in 1979, the Eastwood ABC is based at the Old Pottery Building on Church Street in Eastwood. The club has around 40 members, both children and adults, with the majority being from the Eastwood, Kimberley and the surrounding areas, including Hucknall and Langley Mill.

The club aims to provides much more than just developing fitness and boxing skills. It also includes social interaction and fun, personal development and achievement, motivation and positive attitude. The club has a number of youths with autism, learning disabilities and other conditions that are encouraged and supported in developing their skills and gaining self-

confidence. Other boys may have been in trouble in their private lives and they are always guided to make positive decisions.

Eastwood ABC is run by volunteers with a love for the sport and the benefits it can bring to individuals and the wider community. These volunteers include three registered coaches who undertake regular training. The club travels as a team to other parts of the country to box.

A summary financial account was provided by the club which showed bank account balances of £2,135 as at 1 April 2020. The club is funded by subscriptions and donations. The cost of operating, including equipment, can be challenging to meet with England Boxing requirements. Premises rental is around £400 per month, although this has been reduced by 50% during the current pandemic lockdown.

This is the second application that the Council has received from Eastwood Amateur Boxing Club, the last being in 2016/17 when a grant of £1,500 was awarded towards the cost of the club establishing itself in premises at the Old Pottery Building. For 2020/21 the club has requested a grant of up to £1,000 towards its rental obligations during the current pandemic lockdown.

Miscellaneous Category

5. BRINSLEY ANIMAL RESCUE

| |
|--|
| Although animal welfare is listed as a specific exclusion in the grant aid policy, Members are asked to consider this request given the exceptional circumstances linked to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. |
|--|

Brinsley Animal Rescue was formed in 2008 and became a registered charity in 2010. The Charity is run primarily by volunteers, with two part-time, self-employed contractors. It operates from property and freehold land of Brinsley Hill. The 22-acre site comprises of a number of fields and enclosures, stables, stable yard, manage, wildlife hospital and volunteers room and are provided to the Charity free of charge.

The charitable objectives of Brinsley Animal Rescue are for the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering and distress of animals in need of care and attention by reason of sickness, neglect or mistreatment and in particular to provide and maintain rescue homes or other facilities for the treatment of such animals, to educate the public on matters concerning animal welfare.

The charity rescues wild animals, pets and farm animals. In addition to offering advice, the charity will take in unwanted pets, neuter and vaccinate and then rehome to suitable homes. Wild animals are rehabilitated and released, whilst pets and farm animals are found lifelong homes. The majority of animals come from and are re-homed within Nottinghamshire and surrounding areas. Some animals come from much further afield and the charity will always consider suitable homes anywhere in the country.

The charity is supported by the hard work and dedication of 40 regular volunteers, 12 of whom are Borough residents.

In 2018, the year was considered a success in terms of the number of animals rescued, treated, released or re-homed the charity dealt with 726 wild, pet and farm animals. Of these, 425 animals were released back into the wild or in the case of pets and farm animals re-homed; 42 were euthanized in accordance with its non-euthanasia policy; 90 died and 169 remained at the sanctuary. Unfortunately, there were many pets that the charity could not rescue, due to financial, time or accommodation constraints.

Brinsley Animal Rescue has requested grant aid of £1,000. The Covid-19 pandemic lockdown has meant that the charity has had to cancel its open days and all fundraising activities. This has resulted in a loss of income of around £14,000. The request will be specifically used to pay for veterinary bills and repairs following an unfortunate instance of trespass onto its land by individuals who terrorised ponies causing them to panic and impale into a fence.

The charity provided its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018 for scrutiny. Annual receipts of £59,407 were generated from donations and sponsorship, sales and fund raising activities. A fund raising open day is held two or three-times per year (the sanctuary is normally not open to the public). The charity also attending events with stalls providing information and selling merchandise and receives some regular monthly donations. Other donations are received from the public when bringing an animal into its care and a minimum guidance adoption fee when animals are adopted. Annual payments of £69,979 included sub-contractors (£12,023), veterinary fees, maintenance, feed and other costs associated with animal welfare. The overall cash and bank balances as at 31 December 2018 amounted to £28,341.

Since the last accounts, in 2019, the charity received a large one-off donation of £110,000 from another charity which has dissolved. These funds are rapidly dwindling down to around £70,000. This includes £20,000 reserved for animal caging. The charity aims for its balances to not fall below £10,000 at which point it would cease taking in new animals.

This is the first application that the Council has received from Brinsley Animal Rescue and for 2020/21 the charity has requested a grant of £1,000 towards veterinary bills and fencing repairs following an instance of trespass.

APPENDIX 2

DELEGATED AWARDS

A summary of the grants awarded under delegated authority since April 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 Members | Total Broxtowe Residents | Grant Award in 2019/20 | Grant Award in 2020/21 | Purpose of Grant Award |
|---|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Kimberley Bowls Club | 48 | 46 | None | £200 | Purchase of a defibrillator to locate in the club house. Award from the Broxtowe Lotto Community Fund |
| 1 st Chilwell and Attenborough Scout Group | 107 | 107 | £234 | £234 | Planning costs associated with a scheme to create a loft room for increased community usage. Award from the Broxtowe Lotto Community Fund |