

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

GRANT AID REQUEST – TRENT VALE COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND BEESTON FOOTBALL CLUB1. 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

On 9 January 2020, this Committee approved a capital grant award of £10,000 to Trent Vale Community Sports Association (TVCSA), in conjunction with Beeston Football Club (BFC) was towards the cost of an ambitious scheme to redevelop sports and community facilities at the sports ground on Trent Vale Road, Beeston Rylands to provide a multi-sport facility with full disabled access and community function room. The total cost of the scheme is £571,686, with the Premier League and Football Facilities Fund having pledged £481,656. TVCSA/BFC had to raise the outstanding funds in order to unlock this grant (with other monies already raised, the amount needed was around £50,000).

A late and urgent request for further financial support has now been received from TVCSA/BFC. This request is for an additional grant award from the Council of £8,800 to complete the fundraising requirements and unlock the external grant funding in order to commence the renovation. Details of this latest request is provided in appendix 1.

For information, the previous grant request narrative is provided in appendix 2.

3. Financial Position

No budgetary provision exists for capital grants to voluntary organisations.

If Members were minded to make an award, this could be funded from the 2020/21 Capital Contingencies of which £23,500 remains available.

Recommendation

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

Background papers –

Nil

APPENDIX 1**URGENT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING****TRENT VALE COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION (TVCSA)**
BEESTON FOOTBALL CLUB (BFC)

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

Members will recall that this Committee, on 9 January 2020, approved a capital grant award of £10,000 to TVCSA/BFC towards the cost of this ambitious scheme. The total cost of the scheme is fixed at £571,686, with the Premier League and Football Facilities Fund having pledged £481,656. TVCSA/BFC had to raise the outstanding funds in order to unlock this grant (with other monies already raised, the amount needed to be raised was around £50,000). Further details relating to this initial application remain valid and are provided in appendix 2.

TVCSA/BFC has now approached the Council with an urgent request for additional capital funding of around £8,800 to complete its fundraising and unlock the external funding for this scheme. An extract of their request is provided below:

Background and Update

“TVCSA is on the cusp of securing total funding of £571,656 to renovate the derelict clubhouse on the old Plessey Sports Ground. However, due to the outbreak of Covid-19, it has been unable to raise the final £8,784.78 to complete the funding package. TVCSA is applying for a grant to cover that outstanding amount, which will guarantee the scheme’s success.

The Council contributed £10,000 to the scheme for which TVCSA/BFC are very grateful. TVCSA/BFC are now returning with a new application due to exceptional circumstances caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The project is a partnership initiative with the Football Foundation, which sets the specification for the scheme and hence the total cost of £571,656 is fixed. The bulk of the funding has been secured. In particular, TVCSA obtained a grant of £481,656 from the Football Foundation, conditional upon TVCSA raising match funding of £90,000 by the end of April 2020.

TVCSA was confident of achieving the target and has raised £562,871. However, the onset of the pandemic meant that a pledged second payment of £5,000 from a local company has not been forthcoming. In addition, all fundraising events in March and April were cancelled and subscription income has fallen with the suspension of football activities. Furthermore, major funders that had been expected to support the scheme, in particular the Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme, have been suspended. Subscription income in the short/medium term is uncertain because most teams are not yet back in training

and even then, full subscriptions will be dependent upon competitive matches being played.

Fundraising is also impacted by Covid-19, since local events are not possible at this time and the financial situation of local businesses is uncertain.

In the circumstances, the Football Foundation has agreed to give allow more time to raise the money and has approved work to start on the site from 6 July 2020, in return for a commitment that TVCSA/BFC will source the funding.

Whilst the groups are grateful for this latitude, given the current situation, and as described above, our fundraising options at this moment are limited.

TVCSA/BFC would therefore be extremely grateful if the Council would consider a further contribution of around £8,800 to cover the shortfall. This would take the Council's overall investment to around 3.3% of the total cost.

Benefits of Project

The benefits of the project are as set out previously. It is important to note that the clubhouse is currently derelict and out of use. While TVCSA/BFC have managed to increase participation in football in the last two years, the facilities do place a limit on growth since there is nowhere for players to go to the toilet or change. This undoubtedly puts some players off, particularly girls. It also means that the clubs cannot host adult (men or women) and inclusive football. In addition, the clubs has no base, which is vital in the creation of a shared identity supporting the development of strong community organisation.

TVCSA/BFC has agreed a five-year growth plan with the Football Foundation as part of this project. In addition, we anticipate an increase in squash club membership because the social club makes this provision more attractive. This growth will increase participation in sport and volunteering from 340 people at present to more than 550 in year five. A key focus of the development is the creation of a new community facility. TVCSA plans to sign up six community groups/sporting clubs during the first five years.

Wider Benefits

This application meets the guiding principles of the Council's grant aid programme. Although TVCSA/BFC are requesting an additional capital grant, these are exceptional circumstances in terms of the impact on funding due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the large investment in the Borough that the Council's contribution will secure.

Furthermore, TVCSA/BFC are open to all and have good representation of different ethnicities and faiths, as well as women and girls. They provide a service that is complementary to those offered by the Council, and also support the delivery of policy objectives around health, wellbeing and community development.

In this regard, TVCSA/BFC supports the achievement of the priorities set out in the Active Notts' 'Getting Active Together 2017-21' strategy: It supports young people

helping them to positively engage in sport; helps people to keep active by supporting the transition from youth to adult sport and in launching inclusive teams it also helps to address inactivity among disabled people. The squash club maintains activity among middle-aged and older people. Within its strategy, Active Notts also recognises the “five outcomes of activity”. This includes improved physical and mental health, but also individual development, social and community development and economic development.

The health benefits of sport are clear, but in terms of individual development it is not only the players who are learning new skills. TVCSA, and in particular BFC, currently has 40 volunteers, many of whom it funds to attend courses in football coaching, first aid and safeguarding. The number of volunteers will increase as the club develops.

The social and community benefits of the club are significant and while less important, there is also a modest, positive economic impact.

Future Development

Trent Vale is a nine-acre site, with football pitches on around six acres, that is occupied by the clubhouse and old tennis, netball courts and cricket nets. There is fantastic potential for further development for the benefit of Beeston Rylands and the wider community.

Once TVCSA/BFC have secured the funding for the clubhouse project, the aim will be to create stronger partnerships with community organisations, sports clubs and schools (particularly the Beeston Rylands School). It would welcome Broxtowe Borough Council participation in this partnership. TVCSA/BFC's initial objective will be to capture ideas for multi-sport/ community use for the site and ultimately create a vision/masterplan to direct future development. The Council's knowledge and perspective would be invaluable in this process.”

APPENDIX 2**BACKGROUND**Finance and Resources Committee – 9 January 2020
Earlier Request from 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.