

**REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR POLICY PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GRANT AID PROGRAMME
2015 -2018****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the award of grant aid to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations in accordance with the main priorities of the Nottinghamshire County Council Corporate Grant Aid Programme and to agree allocation of funds to other priority areas described in the report.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council has a long history of working with and supporting the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The Council recognises that the VCS:
 - Harnesses the time, talents and ambitions of local residents who wish to volunteer
 - Reaches excluded or isolated people and communities that the statutory sector sometimes cannot
 - Attracts additional resources to Nottinghamshire through grant funding
 - Is a significant employer of people and as such is an important part of the mixed economy
 - Assists the Council to improve the quality and accessibility of services
 - Provides a local Community Voice – advocates for vulnerable people and provides valuable feedback on community consultation
3. At the Grant Aid Sub-Committee meeting on the 20 May 2014, Members agreed a timetable leading to the award of Grants from 1 July 2015. They also recommended that where possible grant aid agreements should be for a period of three years, subject to an annual review in line with the County Council annual budget setting process.

4. In October 2014 officers from the Community and Voluntary sector team held roadshows in Mansfield, Newark, Rushcliffe and Worksop for community and voluntary sector organisations to explain the grant aid application process, approximately 300 people attended the events, from across the county.
5. An important part of the process was to ensure the financial contributions offered through grants were aligned with County Council priorities. Also taken into account were the thinking and priorities described in Re-defining Your Council. Applicants were asked to align their proposals with the Core Functions of the Council and themes that supported the Councils priorities as follows:

Table 1 – Three year Grant Priority Themes

Core Functions & Grant Priority Themes		
Children & Culture	Adult & Public Protection	Place
Children & Families	Connected Communities	Community Transport
Play Forum Support	Information, Advice & Support Services	Infrastructure Support
Youth Projects, Clubs & Youth Infrastructure Groups	Promoting Independence	

6. The on line application process was 'live' between the 13th October and the 1st December. Applications were received from 179 organisations, 75 of those were from groups not currently in receipt of grant aid.
7. The applications received sought funding to value of £4,333,079. All applications have been assessed including key areas agreed with members of the Grant Aid Sub-Committee, examples include:
 - Provision of volunteering opportunities
 - Seeking to address inequality in areas of deprivation
 - Generation of income to support the project and be less reliant on Grant Aid.
8. In addition to the key areas above the application form had a total of 17 questions which formed part of the assessment, examples of areas assessed included:
 - How the project contributes to the grant priority theme
 - Project outcomes each year
 - What is the evidence of need for the project/research undertaken
 - The priority groups that the project will help
 - Engagement of service users in design and delivery of the project

- Engagement and involvement of the wider community
- How the project helps people to help themselves – Independence
- The number of volunteers
- Training and support for volunteers
- Securing funding from other sources, including fundraising and other grant programmes.

9. Members are asked to consider the recommendations listed in Appendix 1 of this report. A total of 114 applications are proposed for approval with a combined value of £1,570,500. **(Recommendation 1)**

Table 2 – Summary of Three Year Awards

Grant Aid Theme	Number of Applications	Total Requested	Number of Applications Recommended	Total Recommended
Children & Families	31	£ 860,545	11	£ 191,700
Play Forum Support	7	£ 131,441	7	£ 63,000
Youth Projects & Youth Infrastructure Groups	22	£ 335,797	14	£ 75,800
Connected Communities	40	£ 717,007	30	£ 270,600
Promoting Independence	30	£ 556,185	16	£ 169,100
Information, Advice and Support Services	26	£ 1,132,879	20	£ 459,900
Community Transport	15	£ 277,418	15	£ 196,400
Infrastructure Support	8	£ 321,807	1	£ 144,000
Total	179	£ 4,333,079	114	£ 1,570,500

10. It should be noted that the awards recommended are made as a contribution towards the costs of the project, this will mean in many cases the amount recommended is less than organisations sought.
11. Of the 179 applications a total of 65 have not been recommended for support. It is proposed that the Community & Voluntary Sector Team contact these organisations to provide detailed feedback and offer support where required. Members will be provided with an update on this work at a future meeting. **(Recommendation 2)**

Annual Awards

12. Funding for sports, arts and play-schemes are awarded annually and do not form part of the 3 year funding arrangement. In addition the County Council has committed £10,000 per year 2014-18 to fund activities which commemorate the Great War. Separate arrangements are in place to promote these programmes. It is proposed that the following is allocated to these funds. **(Recommendation 3)**

Arts	£38,000
Great War Commemoration	£10,000
Sports – Rising Stars	£21,000
Sports – Community Sports Fund	£15,000
Summer Play-Schemes	£16,000
Total	£100,000

13. Members have previously expressed a preference to “ring-fence” a proportion of the funding available to be used for any innovative projects which may come forward during the grant aid period. The proposal is that £75,000 of the available budget. The Grant Aid Sub Committee will consider the process for managing this fund at the May 2015 meeting. **(Recommendation 4)**

14. It is also proposed that £500 each year is allocated to the nominated Charity of the Chairman of the County Council. **(Recommendation 5)**

15. In conclusion the grant aid totals per annum for the years 2015-18 are set out below

Table 3 – Summary of Total Awards

Three Year Grant Agreements	Amount £
Children & Families	191,700
Play Forum Support	63,000
Youth Projects & Youth Infrastructure Groups	75,800
Connected Communities	270,600
Promoting Independence	169,100
Information, Advice and Support Services	459,900
Community Transport	196,400
Infrastructure Support	144,000
Annual Awards	
Arts	38,000
Great War Commemoration	10,000
Sports – Rising Stars	21,000
Sports – Community Sports Fund	15,000
Summer Play-Schemes	16,000
Chairman’s Nominated Charity	500
Annual Innovation Fund	
Annual amount agreed for Innovative Projects	75,000
Total	£1,746,000

Other Options Considered

16. All the applications received have undergone rigorous assessment and moderation by officers and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Grant Aid Committee.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. The role of the Voluntary & Community Sector of Nottinghamshire play a vital role in the well-being of County residents and the grants awarded will support the priorities of the County Council.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

19. The County Council have made provision within the 2015-16 budget for Grants to the Community & Voluntary Sector.

RECOMMENDATION/S

20. Members are asked to:

- 1) approve £ 1,570,500 grant aid to 114 organisations listed in appendix 1 of this report.
- 2) agree that practical support through the Community & Voluntary Sector Team is offered to the organisations not recommended for Grant Aid.
- 3) allocate a total of £100,000 for annual grants in the categories described in paragraph 12.
- 4) allocate £75,000 of the total budget each year for an innovation fund
- 5) allocate £500 each year to the chosen charity of the Chairman of the County Council.

Jayne Francis-Ward

Corporate Director Policy Planning and Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments (LM 02/03/15)

The Grant Aid Sub Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (SES 05/03/15)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All