

**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CULTURAL AND ENRICHMENT
SERVICES****GRANT TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOLS COUNCIL FOR SPORT 2014/15****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to award £29,325 to the Nottinghamshire Schools Council for Sport for the year 2014/15.

Information and Advice**Background - Nottinghamshire Schools Council for Sport**

2. Nottinghamshire County Council has previously grant aided the Nottinghamshire Schools Council for Sport (NSCS) from the Children, Families and Cultural Services Non-School Activities/School Sport budget. This grant enables the organisation to work with 10 County Schools Associations to engage children at school in competitive sport.
3. The NSCS distributes funds to the County Schools Associations for each sport via 3 grant streams; Maintenance grant*, pitches and premises hire, and travel grant (which helps to cover costs for County Teams to compete in National Competitions).

*Maintenance requests can consist of costs associated with: Postage, Telephone, Stationery, Printing, Laundry, Referees Expenses, Loss of Affiliation Fees, Playing Equipment and First Aid equipment.

4. NSCS utilises a network of volunteers to provide competitive opportunities for young people in Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Chess, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Orienteering, Netball and Table Tennis. The volunteers, many of whom are teachers and ex-teachers, are employed on an expenses only basis. Working with the County Associations an estimated 150-200 volunteers give their time to work with NSCS to support school and County teams. The work of NSCS provides a platform for aspiring young sports people to compete and represent their school and County.
5. The NSCS operates on a County wide basis incorporating Nottingham City. The City Council also supports the organisation through grant aid. NSCS are expecting to receive a 2014/15 grant from the City Council for £15,150.
6. Nottinghamshire has a national reputation for its school sports organisation and achievements. School sport in Nottinghamshire has continued to prosper.

Over 800 County School teams are affiliated to Associations which organise competition and representative squads.

7. Across the City and County over 1,400 young people compete at National Level competitions within the 10 sports. Annually over 400 Coaching sessions are provided across the 10 Associations.
8. The total amount allocated from both City & County contributions in 2013/14 was:

Association	Total £
Athletics	1,914
Badminton	8,381
Basketball	776
Chess	3,199
Cricket	1,026
Football	21,003
Hockey	6,457
Netball	1,649
Orienteering	487
Table Tennis	143
	45,035

Other Options Considered

9. Work will continue with the NSCS to explore different models on how the organisation can continue its work without the heavy reliance upon an annual grant from the County Council.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The grant will allow the good work of NSCS to continue during 2014/15 whilst exploring other sources of income for future years.
Withdrawing 100% County Council support would seriously threaten the existence of NSCS.

Statutory and Policy Implications

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

Implications for Service Users

12. The award of grant would support over 20,000 pupils who participate in competitive sport under the auspices of the NSCS. The award would also support the work of 130-180 volunteer teachers who organise these activities.

Financial Implications

13. There are funds available within the 2014/15 Grant Aid Budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- a) Approval is given to award £29,325 to the Nottinghamshire Schools Council for Sport for the year 2014/15 from the Grant Aid Budget.
- b) A Service Level Agreement with the NSCS will be produced which will outline the conditions of the award. The SLA will also include conditions around recording participation information.

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Constitutional Comments (SG 2/7/2014)

The Grant Aid Sub-Committee has responsibility for grant aid as set out in the Council's Grant Aid Strategy. The proposals in this report fall within the remit of this Sub-Committee.

Financial Comments (SEM 26/06/14)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Case Studies

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

Appendix 1: Case Studies from 2012/13 *(please note no case studies are currently available for the school year 2013/14).*

- 12 Hockey players represented England in the European Tournaments over Easter.
- Nottinghamshire Under 9's and Under 11's Chess Teams both qualified for the National age group Finals.
- The Notts Under 16's Schools' squad reached the quarter-finals of the English Schools' Football Association Girls' Championships. The squad reached the finals by winning the East Midlands group. This is the 12th occasion in the past 15 years that the team has reached the national stage.
- Nottinghamshire Badminton Key Stage 4 teams both qualified for the National finals winning the East Midlands round.
- The number of Primary Schools affiliating to the Schools Cricket Association has risen.
- 30 young people from Nottinghamshire took part in the British Schools Orienteering championships in Cheshire.