



REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE

SPORTS FUND GRANT AID 2015/16

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - Provide members with an update on the Sports Fund 2015/16
 - Approve the funding recommendations for 2015/16; and to:
 - Seek Members approval to new arrangements for the allocation and approval of the Sports Fund 2016-18.

Information and Advice

2. At the meeting in March 2015 the Grant Aid Committee agreed a grant aid fund totalling £1.75million per year from 2015-18 to support projects in the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS). Within this budget, £36,000 per year is allocated to the Sports Fund.
3. The Sports Fund is now a 'one-stop' shop for the Nottinghamshire Sporting Community, with categories for Talented Athletes and Club Development. Within the Club Development category, there are 3 themes that focus on sports participation, developing the coaching workforce and developing Volunteers. Further information about the Sports Fund categories/themes can be found in Appendix 1.
4. The Sports Funding was approved as it is recognised that funding to sports groups and individual sports people helps to deliver against NCC's current Redefining Your Council Core Functions, in particular, the Children's and Culture functions.
5. Traditionally, the Sports Fund operates annually – consequently, sport clubs and individual athletes are awarded grants for one-year only.
6. During 2015 the Community & Voluntary Sector (C&VS) team worked with colleagues in Communications and Marketing to promote the Sports Fund via the local press, social media and the NCC webpage. The C&VS team and Sports Nottinghamshire also contacted previous applicants and other relevant groups to inform them about this year's fund.

Application and Assessment Process

7. Online applications were invited between 1st June – 7th September 2015 and applications were assessed by Sports Nottinghamshire colleagues against the published eligibility and assessment criteria.

8. Thirty nine Club Development applications were received and assessed. In total, the applications requested over £87,500 of Grant Aid funding Twenty-three sports clubs were recommended for Club Development funding to deliver a total of 37 sports participation, coaching and volunteering projects. The total amount recommended under the Club Development category is £11,300. Appendix 2, Table 1 contains data about the number of Club Development applications by district and the number recommended.
9. Appendix 2, Table 2 contains data about the number of Club Development applications by theme, total recommended amount and an overall summary of what the funding will contribute to (the intended outcomes). In summary, the Club Development funding will help sports clubs to:
 - Attract over 500 new participants to sport
 - Keep 600 people involved in sport that would otherwise cease to participate
 - Support over 60 new coaches to achieve a National Governing Body or UKCC level 1 and/or 2 coaching qualifications
 - Recruit and train 100 new sports volunteers.
10. Seventy-one Talented Athletes applications were received and assessed. In total, the applications requested £28,400 of Grant Aid funding (the maximum award for this category is £400). Some information provided by applicants is awaiting verification by external bodies, if this is verified
 - 58 applications are recommended – totalling £23,200
 - Thirteen applications are not recommended.
11. The combined value of Club Development and Talented Athletes applications is £116,300, which totals over three times the available funding. The combined value of recommendations for both categories is £34,500. Appendix 2, Table 3 lists the recommended Club Development applications and provides a brief summary of how each club will use the funding to achieve the intended outcomes. Appendix 2, Table 4 lists the Club Development applications that are not recommended and provides a brief summary of the reason(s) why each application is not recommended. Appendix 3 lists the Talented Athletes applicant names (by district), their sport/discipline.

Monitoring and Support

12. Colleagues from Sports Nottinghamshire – and approved partners, will carry out and record monitoring visits, as and when practicable for sports clubs, during the funded period. Recipients of Talented Athletes and Club Development funding will be required to complete a monitoring and evaluation form at the end of the funded year.
13. The individuals and groups not recommended for funding will be provided with the reason(s) for not supporting their applications and will be offered support from both the C&VS team and Sports Nottinghamshire. Positive relationships have been developed between Sports Nottinghamshire and sports clubs and appropriate support continues to be offered to them. This, for example, includes a general health check and help with exploring ways to reduce costs and generate income.

Programme Developments

14. Over the last 2 years, a complete review and revamp of the Sports Fund 'end-to-end' process and forms has taken place in line with the Corporate Grant Aid strategy – and in response to budget challenges to make the process more efficient, effective and purposeful. Developments include:
 - a. Use of technology e.g. an enhanced online application form and introduction of online reporting/evaluation.
 - b. A revised assessment tool and process to make it more robust and fairer and a documented assessment process and guidance for assessors.
 - c. A revised agreement in line with Corporate requirements (agreed with the Nottinghamshire County Council Legal team).
 - d. Use of the new Corporate database (One Space), to assist with managing and sharing information – as well as financial recording and reporting.
15. Looking forward to the 2016 Sports Fund application round, it is recommended that the Club Development category opens in February 2016. This will enable the committee to approve officer recommendations at the May 2016 Grant Aid Sub-Committee. It is recommended that Club Development applications are invited to cover 01 July 2016 to 30 June 2018, which will bring the fund in line with the overall 3-year grant aid programme.
16. It is recommended that a small discretionary fund be made available from the overall Sports Fund budget to support sports clubs to achieve specific outcomes during 2017-18.
17. It is recommended that the Talented Athletes fund continues to operate annually.

Other Options Considered

18. All the applications received have undergone rigorous assessment and moderation by officers.

Financial Implications

19. These are contained within the report.

Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)

20. The recommendations would bring a number of benefits which include improved confidence and planning for sports clubs who will be better able to build on developments, alongside the Club Development rounds being consistent with the 3-year Grant Aid Programme.
21. Awarding 2-year Club Development agreements will also have the added benefit of giving the C&VS team and Sports Nottinghamshire time to work more effectively and directly with sports clubs to support them to become more sustainable.
22. Due to the unpredictable nature of the athletics (e.g. athletes may not be selected for their squad in year two, they may change sport categories, they may be injured), it is recommended that the Talented Athletes fund continues on an annual basis.

Statutory and Policy Implications

23. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, 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.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

24. Members are asked to approve:

- 1) The recommendations for the Club Development applications as outlined in Appendix 2, Table 3 of this report.
- 2) The recommendations for the Talented Athletes applications. subject to verification from the external body as outlined in Appendix 3, Table 2 of this report.
- 3) The arrangements for the Sports Fund from 2016 to 2018 and to approve that the funding allocation be brought into line with the current 3-year Grant Aid programme as outlined in paragraphs 15-17 of this report.

Tim Gregory
CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Cathy Harvey
Team Manager, Community and Voluntary Sector Team
0115 97 73415

Constitutional Comments (SMG 02/10/2015)

The proposals in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 17/09/15)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

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

