

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE**SPORTS FUND GRANT AID: CLUB DEVELOPMENT 2016-2018
AND TALENTED ATHLETES 2016-2017****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - Provide an update on the Sports Fund 2016-18
 - Seek approval for the funding recommendations for 2016-18

Information and Advice

2. At the meeting in March 2015 the Grant Aid Committee agreed a grant aid fund totalling £1.7m 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 consists of two parts: Talented Athletes and Club Development. Within the Club Development programme, 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 to this report.
4. Funding to sports clubs and individuals helps to deliver against Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC's) current Redefining Your Council Core Functions, in particular, the Children's and Culture function. Traditionally, sports clubs and individual athletes have been awarded grants on an annual basis. At the October 2015 Grant Aid Sub-Committee, it was agreed:
 - To align the Sports Fund Club Development Grant Aid with the main 3-year Grant Aid 2015-18 programme. Grant Aid funding has already been awarded for 2015-16, therefore, Club Development applications were invited to deliver 2-year projects (2016-18).
 - To continue delivering the Sports Fund Talented Athletes programme on an annual basis (this is due to the unpredictable nature of the athletes, e.g. athletes may not be selected for their squad in subsequent years, they may change sport categories, or they may be injured).

Promotion

5. Online applications were invited from 13 June 2016 to 01 August 2016. 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 Sport Nottinghamshire also contacted previous applicants and other relevant groups to inform them about the Sports Fund.

Applications Received and Assessment Process

6. The C&VS team received 23 **Club Development** applications which were assessed by Sport Nottinghamshire colleagues against the published eligibility and assessment criteria. Applications for Club Development funding were required to include a project action plan and confirm support from their local sports development officer. In total, the Club Development applications requested almost £40,000 of Grant Aid funding.
7. Assessors have recommended approval of 15 Club Development applications to deliver a total of 28 sports participation, coaching and volunteering projects (some clubs applied to deliver more than one project). The total amount recommended under the Club Development category is £22,790 per year (2016-18). Appendix 2, Table 1 to this report contains data about:
 - The number of Club Development applications and recommendations by district and by Club Development theme
 - The amount applied for – and the recommended grant award by district
 - A summary of what the funding will contribute to (i.e. the anticipated project outcomes).
8. In summary, the recommended Club Development funding will help sports clubs to:
 - Attract over 870 new participants to sport
 - Keep over 400 people involved in sport who would otherwise cease to participate
 - Support 50 new coaches to achieve a National Governing Body or UKCC level 1 &/or 2 coaching qualifications
 - Recruit and train over 80 new sports volunteers.
9. Appendix 2 to this report lists:
 - The recommended Club Development applications, a summary of the proposed activity, the amount requested and the amount recommended for each sports club (Table 2)
 - The Club Development applications that are not recommended and a summary of the reason(s) why each application is not recommended (Table 3)

10. The C&VS team received 49 **Talented Athletes** applications requesting a total of £19,600 (the maximum award for this category is £400 per athlete). The applications were assessed by Sport Nottinghamshire colleagues against the published eligibility and assessment criteria. Talented Athletes were required to submit a letter of endorsement from their National Governing Body (NGB), in support of their application. Assessors recommended that 44 applications receive a grant of £300 each, totalling £13,200 for 2016/17. Appendix 3 to this report lists:
- The number of Talented Athlete applications received and the recommendations by district (Table 1)
 - All Talented Athlete applicants by their name, district, sport/discipline and the assessment outcome (Table 2).
11. Five Talented Athlete applications are not recommended, as shown in Appendix 3 (Table 2).

Monitoring and Support

12. Recipients of Club Development and Talented Athletes funding will be asked to complete monitoring information at the end each funded year. With regards to sports clubs, colleagues from Sport Nottinghamshire (and in some cases, approved partners), will aim to carry out monitoring visits as and when practicable during the funded period.
13. All Sports Fund applicants not approved for funding will be provided with the reason(s) for not recommending their applications and will be offered support from both the C&VS team and Sport Nottinghamshire. Positive relationships have been developed between Sport Nottinghamshire and sports clubs and appropriate support continues to be offered to them. For example, this includes a general health check and help with exploring ways to reduce costs and generate income for sports clubs. Applicants to the Talented Athletes Fund will be signposted to other possible sources of information/support as appropriate.

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:
- Use of technology e.g. an enhanced online application form and introduction of online monitoring reports.
 - A revised assessment tool and process to make it more robust - and assessment guidance for assessors.
 - A revised agreement in line with corporate requirements (agreed with Nottinghamshire County Council Legal Services).
 - Use of the new corporate database (One Space), to assist with managing and sharing information – as well as financial recording and reporting.
 - Revised monitoring arrangements.

Other Options Considered

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

Financial Implications

16. These are contained within the report.

Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)

17. The Sports Fund applications recommended for approval meet the published criteria and help to deliver against NCC's current Redefining Your Council Core Functions, in particular, the Children's and Culture functions.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. 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)

19. Members are asked to approve:

- The recommendations for the Club Development applications 2016-18.
- The recommendations for the Talented Athletes applications 2016-17.

Tim Gregory
CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 07/10/16)

Grant Aid Sub Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 07/10/16)

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