

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CULTURAL AND ENRICHMENT SERVICES

SPORTS GRANT AID 2014-15

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise members of the background and process for the allocation of grant aid to sports and recommended awards for 2014/15.

Background

2. The Corporate Grant Aid Strategy 2011- 2015 agreed the continuation of the two strands of grants to sports. These are:

Community Sports Fund (CSF) - Sports groups
Rising Stars - Individuals

3. Grant aid was approved as it is recognised that funding to sports groups and individual sportspeople helps to deliver against NCC's current Redefining Your Council Core Functions, in particular Children's and Culture functions.
4. Unlike other NCC grant streams, sports grant aid does not represent revenue funding. For instance, grants made under the CSF are for time limited projects with specific outcomes, such as engaging more people in sport, with defined beginning and end dates. In this way, NCC grant-in-aid invests in groups to act as a catalyst for new and appealing activities, but it does not make groups reliant on this funding. The result is a sustainable sports sector more able to adapt and respond to opportunities.
5. As grants awarded are for specific projects with beginning and end dates, as in the case of CSF, these grants do not follow 3 year agreements and run to a different funding timetable to other corporate grant aid streams.

Current Processes

Community Sports Fund (CSF)

6. The CSF is a grant aid scheme aimed at helping local sports clubs and organisations, by supporting new projects that encourage additional people to get involved in sport, or retain those who would otherwise cease to be involved. The maximum award is £1,500.
7. The total funding available in this category for 2014/15 is £16,000. **Appendix 1** is a list of all the projects and the outcome of the assessment.
8. CSF has one round which opened for applications for a 7 week window at the beginning of June.
9. CSF is open to applicants through an online application process hosted on NCC's website. Assessments are made by a panel of officers using a scored decision matrix. The current system has worked well in providing assessing officers with the right information on which to base funding recommendations.
10. The scheme received 31 applications. Of the 31 applications 24 are new applicants to the CSF fund (i.e. they did not apply to fund a project in 2013/14). 29 of the applications did not receive funding in 2013/14.
11. The 31 applications cover a spread of 14 different sports.
12. Applications were received from all 7 Nottinghamshire areas. (Applications from the Bassetlaw area represented 23% of all applications received compared to 8% in 2013/14).
13. Evaluation and monitoring is undertaken of each successful project. Information gathered from 13 projects which concluded in January 2013 has evidenced that sports participation levels and volunteering had increased.

Rising Stars

14. The aim of 'Rising Stars' is to support talented young athletes (19 & under) who are resident in Nottinghamshire. The individual must be competing at a minimum of a regional level. The grant is to help with costs such as travel, training and accommodation. There is a maximum award of £400 per individual.
15. The total funding available in this category is £23,000. **Appendix 2** contains a list of proposed eligible athletes who are recommended to receive funding.
16. Rising Stars is open to applicants through an online application process hosted on NCC's website. Assessments are made by a panel of officers using a scored decision matrix. The current system has worked well in providing assessing officers with the right information on which to base funding recommendations.
17. The appropriate National Governing Body is also consulted and asked to provide information on each applicant which is put into the scoring matrix.
18. Rising Stars has one round which opened for applications for a 7 week window at the beginning of June.

19. The scheme received 93 applications. Of the 93 applications 53% are new applicants to the Rising Stars fund (i.e. they did not apply in 2013/14).
20. The 93 applications cover a total spread of 30 different sports.
21. Applications were received from all 7 Nottinghamshire areas. (Applications from the Ashfield area represented 23% of all applications received).

Options Considered

22. To cease the Rising Stars and CSF grant aid programmes, however this would have a significant impact on the sector and those who benefit from the programmes.

Financial Implications

23. The allocation for Sports forms part of the overall budget for Grant Aid for 2014/15 and sufficient funds are available.

Reasons for recommendations

24. Community Sports Fund recommendations are based on the outcome of an assessment process that allocates scores against criteria. The assessment process draws on the expert knowledge and experience of NCC Sports Officers and information taken from local Sports Development Officers.
25. Clubs or Organisations achieving a high assessment score have projects which demonstrated a significant level reflecting the criteria and the capability to meet the outcomes stated.
26. The 15 projects recommended for funding are those projects which scored the highest on the assessment process.
27. With all available funds being allocated projects ranked below the top 15 are not being recommended.
28. Rising Stars recommendations are based on the outcome of an assessment process that allocates scores against criteria. The assessment process draws on the expert knowledge and experience of NCC Sports Officers and information taken from National Governing Bodies.
29. Individuals with scores exceeding a threshold are recommended for funding. Those scoring beneath this threshold are not recommended.

Recommendation/s

30. It is recommended that Members note this report and:-

- i) Approve the list of CSF projects highlighted for funding in **Appendix 1**.
- ii) Approve the list of Rising Stars applicants highlighted for funding in **Appendix 2**.

Statutory and Policy Implications

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.

Sue Cullen
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Constitutional Comments (LM 18/08/2014)

The grant Aid Sub-Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendation in the report'

Financial Comments (SEM 27.8.14)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents
None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected All