

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE**

### **GRANT AID SPORTS FUND: TALENTED ATHLETES 2017-18**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Talented Athletes Grant Aid awards for 2017-18.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. Grant Aid Sub-Committee in March 2015 approved, as part of the Council's Corporate Grant Aid Strategy, a 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 was allocated to the Sports Fund. Most of the Sports Fund 2015-18 budget has been allocated; therefore, the budget for the Talented Athletes 2017-18 is £23,905.
3. The Sports Fund helps to deliver against Nottinghamshire County Council's priorities and consists of two parts: Talented Athletes and Club Development. Further information about the Sports Fund categories / themes can be found in **APPENDIX 1** to this report.
4. Traditionally, sports clubs and individual athletes have been awarded grants on an annual basis. In October 2015, Members agreed:
  - To align the Club Development programme with the main 3-year Grant Aid 2015-18 programme (therefore Club Development funding has already been awarded for 2015-16 and for 2016-18);
  - To continue delivering the Talented Athletes scheme on an annual basis (this is due to the unpredictable nature of the athletes; for example, athletes may not be selected for their squad in subsequent years, they may change sport categories, or they may be injured).

#### **Launch and Promotion**

5. Online applications were invited from 12 June 2017 to 17 July 2017. The Community & Voluntary Sector (C&VS) team worked with colleagues in Communications and Marketing to promote the Talented Athletes scheme via the local press, social media and the NCC webpage. The C&VS team and Sport Nottinghamshire also contacted previous applicants to inform them of the new round.

## **Applications Received and Assessment Process**

6. The C&VS team received 72 Talented Athletes applications requesting a total of £29,158 (the maximum award for this category is £400 per athlete). It is noted that the number of Talented Athletes applications received was up by almost 47% compared to the previous year.
7. The applications were assessed by Sport Nottinghamshire colleagues against the published eligibility and assessment criteria. Talented Athletes were required to submit an endorsement letter from their National Governing Body (NGB), in support of their application.
8. Assessors recommended 65 applications for funding, totalling £23,900 for 2017/18. **APPENDIX 1** to this report lists:
  - The number of Talented Athlete applications received and the recommendations by district (Table 2)
  - The number of Talented Athlete recommendations by sport (Table 3)
9. All applications were reviewed by the C&VS team as part of the moderation process. Where necessary, clarification regarding assessment recommendations was sought from the assessors. Members will note that the numbers of applications are not evenly spread across Nottinghamshire. Work will be undertaken to understand the reasons behind this and to encourage applications from areas where there have only been a small number.

## **Monitoring and Support**

10. Recipients of Talented Athletes funding will be asked to complete monitoring information at the end of each funded year.
11. All applications not approved for funding will be provided with the reason(s) for not recommending their applications and will be signposted to other possible sources of information / support as appropriate.

## **Programme Developments**

12. In recent years, a complete review 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, including assessment guidance for assessors
  - A revised agreement in line with corporate requirements
  - 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**

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

## **Financial Implications**

14. These are contained within the report.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

15. The Talented Athletes applications recommended for approval meet the published criteria and help to deliver against NCC's priorities.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) Members are asked to approve spend as outlined in paragraph 8 to this report.
- 2) That a further work be undertaken to improve the number of applications in future years from under-represented areas and that a further report be brought to this Committee.

**Adrian Smith**  
**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE**

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## **Constitutional Comments (SLB 15/08/17)**

17. The Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

## **Financial Comments (SES 15/08/17)**

18. 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.

- None

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

- All