



9 January 2020

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE & COMMUNITIES

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME: TALENTED ATHLETES 2019-2020

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the Talented Athletes awards for 2019-20.

Information

2. The Talented Athletes Fund is part of the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) which helps to deliver the Council's strategic priorities. The Fund runs on an annual basis, and the annual budget for 2018-21 is £21,000.
3. Applications were invited from 12th September 2019 to 14th October 2019. The Fund was promoted throughout the County using a wide range of media including local press, social media, Email Me, and websites. Case studies from previous recipients were used to showcase achievements and encourage applications.
4. 90 applications were received, most requesting the maximum award of £400, as a contribution towards costs associated with their sport, such as coaching, competition fees and travel. The total amount requested was £35,300 – £14,300 in excess of available funding.
5. Assessment criteria corresponded to the application form, such as performance improvement and achievements over the past 12 months. Applicants were also required to submit supporting endorsements from their National Governing Body.
6. The full eligibility and assessment criteria are listed in the Appendix to this report. All applications were assessed and moderated by Officers to ensure consistency of approach, and Active Notts were consulted with any queries.
7. 82 (91%) of the applications were eligible and have been recommended for funding, totalling £21,000. The recommended applications cover all Districts, and 29 sport disciplines. The appendix to this report includes:
 - Table 1: Number of applications received and recommended by district; and
 - Table 2: Number of recommendations by sport / discipline.
8. Due to the high volume of applications, applications were grouped by assessment score, and allocations adjusted according to the score. The maximum award of £400 is recommended for the top 6 highest scoring athletes. The number of athletes recommended for each funding level is provided in Table 3 in the appendix.

9. A total of eight applications were not eligible for funding:

- Three athletes do not live in the County; and
- Five did not meet the full eligibility criteria.

10. Recipients of Talented Athletes funding agree to:

- Act as 'Sporting Ambassadors' for Nottinghamshire, which includes providing information about their sporting performance and achievements throughout the year. The Council use this to promote the Talented Athletes Fund, the athlete's achievements, and relevant sporting events / promotional campaigns; and
- Complete an 'End of Year Monitoring Report', which includes information about their sporting performance and achievements.

11. Talented Athletes are also encouraged to post their own success stories on social media and to tag Nottinghamshire County Council with **#NottsLIS** and **#NottsTalentedAthletes**.

12. All applicants will be signposted to other possible sources of funding and support via Active Notts.

Other Options Considered

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

Reasons for Recommendations

14. The applications recommended for funding meet the published criteria and contribute to the Local Improvement Scheme and the wider strategic priorities of the Council. Athletes have demonstrated:

- A high level of sporting achievements locally, nationally, and internationally, and many have overcome significant adversity; and
- Positive contributions to the wider community as sports ambassadors, volunteer coaches for younger, aspiring athletes, and charitable fundraising and support.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. 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.

Data Protection and Information Governance

16. The Talented Athletes Fund had been administered in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme Privacy Notice (as published on the Council's website), explains how the Council uses information about grant applicants and how we protect their privacy. As part of the application form, applicants were asked to confirm that they have read and accept the Local Improvement Scheme Privacy Notice.

Financial Implications

17. These are detailed at paragraphs 1-7 of this report.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

18. The Council has taken steps to advance equality of opportunity, for example by encouraging Countywide participation through a wide-reaching Communications and Marketing campaign. Consequently, the Council received applications from across all districts, from para-athletes and from athletes with disadvantaged backgrounds.

Safeguarding of Children Implications

19. As part of the application process, a parent/legal guardian was required to give their consent for athletes under the age of 16. The Council received applications from 52 athletes under 16 years old (44% of the total applications).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee approve:

- 1) The funding awards as set in the Appendix to the 82 eligible athletes; and
- 2) That the next round of Talented Athletes Funding continues be promoted widely across the County of Nottinghamshire.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Place & Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Cathy Harvey, Team Manager, Communities, Tel: 0115 97 73415

Constitutional Comments [CEH 05/12/2019]

20. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Communities and Place Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments [RWK 04/12/2019]

21. The 2019/20 revenue budget contains an allocation of £21,000 for awards to Talented Athletes. The funding awards proposed in the report can be met from this allocation.

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