



**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CULTURAL AND ENRICHMENT
SERVICES**

GRANT AID TO NOTTINGHAM RUGBY CLUB 2012/13

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to award £25,000 to Nottingham Rugby Club to fund its community work in the County for the 2012/13 Rugby season and in principle for the following two years, subject to available funds and satisfactory reporting and evaluation.

Information and Advice

Background – Nottingham Rugby Club

2. Nottingham Rugby Club is one of the top 16 clubs in England and plays in the second tier of professional rugby. The club has an outstanding recent playing history with the former team members including internationals Brian Moore, Rob Andrew, Dusty Hare, Gary Rees, Simon Hodgkinson and Chris Gray amongst others. The current squad can boast full internationals in James Arlidge and Filippo Levi. The aspiration to join the top 12 with promotion to the Guinness Premiership is not unrealistic and the profile this would bring to Nottinghamshire, and the economic impact associated with hundreds of away supporters coming to home matches, should not be underestimated.
3. The Club initially approached the County Council for support in 2008 and following detailed discussions it was agreed that a Grant Agreement should be established for a notional three year period, which was subject to annual funding dependent upon performance.
4. The community programme will be managed by Nottingham Rugby's Community Manager and delivered by coaches from the Community team. Nottingham Rugby Club will utilise players and coaching staff to support the programme and raise the profile for Club and Council.
5. A new updated SLA has been prepared and framed to support the Club's ambitions to run a community programme in local schools and clubs and broadly covering the following areas:
 - a) **The Pride of Nottinghamshire** – a pilot project which will run in targeted areas of the County, aiming to use values of rugby to support young people

to develop life skills and achieve a wide variety of team and personal goals. A group of young people aged 13-16 years will be identified and supported through the programme.

- b) **Schools Development** – Nottingham Rugby Club will deliver a variety of programmes throughout Nottinghamshire to support the development of school rugby, their involvement in competitions and improve schools links with local clubs and opportunities for young people to participate in rugby union.
- c) **School – Club Pathway Programme** – four clubs will be identified to receive additional support as part of a rugby roadshow linked to the Primary School delivery, to attract more young people into the club environment.
- d) **Club Development** – a bespoke programme of support to targeted clubs will be developed throughout the season. This will include player appearances, coaching sessions from players and coaching staff, support at club fun days and events.
- e) **Coach Development Nights** – a series of Coach Development nights will be delivered across the County at targeted clubs, in conjunction with the Council and the Rugby Football Union (RFU).
- f) **Nottinghamshire Rugby Leadership Support Days** – in conjunction with the RFU the Club will organise and host two Rugby Leadership days for young people aged 14-25.
- g) **Player/Coaching Team Appearances** – throughout the programme, senior coaches, players and management staff will be utilised to enthuse and engage young people and to raise the profile of the programme.

Other Options Considered

- 6. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

- 7. The grant to the Club would assist in its ambitions for community delivery during the 2012/13 season and subsequent years.
- 8. Nottingham Rugby is very much a part of bringing much needed positive public relations to the County, both regionally and nationally. It plays an important part in the life and profile of 'the sporting county'. Acknowledgement of the support provided by the County Council will be given in a number of ways including the County Council's status as leading 'community partner'.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. 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.

Financial Implications

10. Provision for the grant to Nottingham Rugby Club for 2012/13 will be made from the Cultural Services budget and transferred to the Grant Aid budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That approval is given to award a grant of £25,000 to Nottingham Rugby Club in accordance with a Grant Aid Agreement for 2012/13 and in principle for the following two years.

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Constitutional Comments (NAB 28/06/12)

11. The Grant Aid Sub-Committee has authority to approve the award of the grant.

Financial Comments (NDR 27/06/12)

12. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 10 of the report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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