



**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE PERFORMANCE**

SPORTS GRANT PROGRAMME 2015-16

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 through the Sports Fund for 2015/16.

Background

2. The Sports Fund is an amalgamation of the Rising Stars and Community Sports Fund which had been in operation for a number of years.
3. The Sports Fund is now a 'one-stop' shop for the Nottinghamshire Sporting Community, with strands for Talented Athletes and Club Development (which includes encouraging sports participation, developing the Coaching workforce and developing Volunteers).
4. The Sports Funding 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.
5. Unlike other NCC grant streams, sports grant aid does not represent revenue funding. For instance, grants made under the Sports Fund 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.

Aspirations of the Fund – Talented Athletes

6. The aspiration of the Sports Fund is to assist talented athletes, to overcome some of the financial barriers which can exist when an athlete is competing for his / her Country.

Aspirations of the Fund – Club Development

7. The aspiration of the Sports Fund is to assist local sports clubs by supporting projects that encourage additional people to get involved in sport, or retain those who would otherwise cease to be involved. It aims to strengthen community sports volunteers through helping to fund qualifications, training courses and Volunteer recruitment promotions. The fund also aims

to support Clubs to overcome the barriers their coaches face in their on-going development with the cost of coaching courses and training to continually learn and develop in their chosen sport(s).

Process & Timetable

8. The Sports Fund will have one round which will open for applications for a 14 week window at the beginning of June. Decisions will be made at the October meeting of this committee.
9. The fund welcomes applications that help the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people of any age to enjoy the benefits that representing their country and succeeding in sport can bring.

Eligibility

10. There will be four categories of grant available:-

Fund Theme	Eligibility
Talented Athletes	Athletes who compete in a sport that is recognised by Sport England and governed by a National Governing Body that is also recognised by Sport England. Applicants must have represented the Country of their choice within the last 8 months / and / or be nationally ranked within the top 5 in their age group. If the applicant is applying as an individual from a team sport, they must be a member of a national squad. A maximum award of £400 will be available to individual athletes.
Sports Clubs Participation	Clubs who are looking to run projects that aim to increase participation or diversify its current membership. The club will be required to hold club accreditation or demonstrate it is actively working towards gaining the award. A maximum award of £1,000 will be available.
Sports Clubs Developing Volunteers	Clubs who are looking to train volunteers to become qualified officials can apply for a contribution towards the overall costs. The club will be required to identify the need and receive an endorsement from its Governing Body. A maximum award of £250 will be available for Volunteering Development.
Sports Clubs Coaching	Clubs who are looking to train individuals to become qualified level 1 & 2 coaches will be able to apply for a contribution towards the overall costs. The club will be required to identify need and receive an endorsement from its Governing Body. A maximum award of £400 will be available for Coach Bursaries.

Applications

11. The Sports Fund will be open to applicants through an online application process hosted on NCC's website. Assessments will be made by Officers in the Sports team 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.

Financial Implications

12. The costs associated with the proposal is £36,000, this amount was allocated as part of the annual Grant Aid allocation at the March 2015 Grant Aid Sub-Committee.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. 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)

1. It is recommended that Members note this report and:-
 - i) Approve the Sports Fund process for 2015/16.

Jayne Francis-Ward
CORPORATE DIRECTOR POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LM 27/04/15)

The Grant Aid Sub Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (SES 23/04/15)

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