

9 March 2022**Agenda Item: 11**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES

LOCAL COMMUNITIES FUND (LCF) - RECOMMENDATIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members' 'approval in principle' to the award of funding that supports the delivery the Council Plan through meeting the Local Communities Fund (LCF) 2022 – 26 criteria.
These are for:
 - Revenue funding – Large Grants over £5,000
 - Revenue funding – Small Grants under £5,000
 - Capital funding
 - Talented Athlete funding

Information

2. On 10 June 2021 the Communities Committee adopted the Compact between public sector bodies and the voluntary and community sector in Nottinghamshire. The Compact is an agreement which commits signatories to a set of shared values and principles supporting partnership working underpinned by trust, respect and Collaboration.
3. On 15 September 2021 the Communities Committee approved the development and launch of a discretionary funding programme which will contribute to the work and ambitions of the Authority to cover the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2026. The funding programme is designed to support the voluntary and community sector to help the Council to deliver on its commitments in our 10 year plan.
4. The LCF is a discretionary financial contribution awarded by Nottinghamshire County Council to contribute to and support the delivery of non-statutory activities and that help to achieve the Council's commitments as set out in the Council Plan 2021-2031.
5. Applications for LCF awards should demonstrate how they contribute to achieving the Council's ambitions for helping our people to live healthier and more independent lives; supporting communities and families; keeping children, vulnerable adults and communities safe; protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint which creates empowered and self-sufficient local communities and in turn supports the voluntary and community sector to grow and thrive.

6. The key funding principles of LCF, agreed by this Committee are:

- Member led – Members take the lead for decision making on design of the scheme, and approval of awards.
- Takes a corporate and coordinated approach – decisions are aligned to the Council's ambitions, priorities and outcomes sought.
- Recognises the role of the sector – values the enormous contribution made.
- Takes account of any Compact's in place that set out the nature of our relationship with VCS.
- Is proportionate at all stages – including a simple application process, simplified monitoring etc.
- Makes the best use of digital technologies.

7. 3 component programmes for the scheme were approved with the following key features:

Revenue	Capital	Talented Athletes
<p>Part one a Large Grants element used to contribute to projects and activities from organisations who have a good track record of delivery and award funding for a 4-year period.</p> <p>Part two a Small Grants element featuring a rolling annual programme of grants (maximum £5k), to support innovative grass roots activity.</p>	<p>A new model featuring a two-stage process starting with an expression of interest submitted via the relevant County Councillor for endorsement.</p> <p>This is a rolling annual programme of applications, with a match funding requirement, and a maximum £20k award.</p>	<p>An expanded programme to include up and coming athletes.</p>

Implementation and Communication

8. The new LCF revenue and capital programmes were opened for applications in October 2021, followed in November 2021 by the opening of the talented athlete's programme.
9. The closing date for large revenue grants and talented athletes and the first closing date for the initial batch of rolling capital and small revenue award applications was 31st December 2021.
10. During January and February applications for awards for all programmes have been assessed and monitored by officers.

The Criteria

11. **Revenue** - to be eligible for LCF support, assessment has taken into account the following for each component:

- The VCS is supported to grow, enabling residents to contribute to social and cultural opportunities.
- Assessments of local need and gap analyses are undertaken to identify and develop effective activities.
- Pathways to volunteering are increased to increase opportunities for individuals to contribute to their community, whilst enhancing the sector's reach.
- There are increased opportunities available for advice and signposting for the most vulnerable residents and communities.
- Activities are developed that help to address climate and environmental change.
- Activities are developed that offer early help and prevention to those who most need it.
- More support is provided to communities of interest, including rural communities, and helping those who face challenges.

12. **For Large Grants over £5,000** - applications were invited from county-based organisations that demonstrate a good track record of delivery and supporting local communities, whether by geography and/or by interest. In addition, applicants needed to show professional standards and good governance.

13. **For Small Grants under £5,000** - applicants were invited from organisations to help fund activities that address identified needs, encourages innovation to strengthen communities and support vulnerable residents, the programme aims to encourage local networks where people help themselves and each other to be resilient, neighbourly, healthier, and safe.

14. **Capital** - to be eligible to apply for LCF capital support, assessment has considered that the programme is aimed at creating opportunities that support local communities and residents to be healthier, greener, and prosperous. Applications were invited which demonstrated that the investment would contribute to:

- Helping to address local priorities e.g., improving access to new or existing services, such as sports and leisure, protecting the environment, reducing loneliness, improving physical and mental health.
- Improving local places and spaces that are important to communities.
- Bringing people together and involve them in the design and implementation.
- Encouraging the development of assets and projects that help to address climate and environmental change, or at least, to minimise any potential negative impact on the environment.

15. This component of the fund has a significant number of applications still under consideration which will be presented to a future Committee.

16. **Talented Athletes** - this programme has been well received over many years by supporting young athletes to succeed in their sport. As agreed by Committee, active promotion to specialist sports organisations has encouraged greater inclusion. Applications were invited to help:

- Support Nottinghamshire athletes aspiring to compete or already competing at the highest level in their sporting category.
- Encourage up and coming athletes.

- Provide more support to athletes who face the greatest challenges and that the funding would most benefit.

Applications to be Considered

17. There has been an excellent response from the Community to the opening of the programmes. 95 applications have been received for revenue funding, 12 for capital funding and 77 for talented athletes funding. The value of the ask is £2.8m.
18. **Appendix 1** provides a summary of the following categories of applications received and ready for consideration and approval by the Committee. All of these applicants have demonstrated how they contribute to one or more of the Council Plan commitments.
- 58 Large Revenue applications to the value of £1,048,933
 - 12 Small Revenue applications to the value of £48,582
 - 12 Capital applications to the value of £133,048
 - 75 Talented Athlete applications to the value of £50,000

Other Options Considered

19. None

Reasons for Recommendation

20. The applications recommended for funding as listed in Appendix 1 to this report meet the published criteria and priorities for the LCF 2022-26 and therefore these projects contribute to the wider strategic priorities of the County Council. The recommended applications cover all Nottinghamshire districts and have the support of a Nottinghamshire County Councillor.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. 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.

Financial Implications

22. 95 applications have been received for revenue funding, 11 for capital funding and 77 for talented athletes funding. The value of the funding requested is £2.8m.
23. It is recommended that the following is awarded as set out in **Appendix 1** to this report
- 58 Large Revenue applications to the value of £1,048,933
 - 13 Small Revenue applications to the value of £48,582
 - 12 Capital applications to the value of £133,048
 - 75 Talented Athlete applications to the value of £50,000

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee

- 1) Approves £1,280,563 of applications for funding as recommended in **Appendix 1** to this report.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Mark Walker, Group Manager, Trading Standards and Communities, Tel: (0115) 977 2173

Constitutional Comments (EP 15/02/2022)

24. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Communities Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments [RWK 17/02/2022]

25. The report proposes the award of grants totalling £1,280,563. These grants will be funded from an existing revenue budget allocation of £1.69 million and a capital programme allocation of £500,000.

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 .