

**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CULTURAL AND ENRICHMENT
SERVICES****GRANT AID TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOLS COUNCIL FOR SPORT
2012/13****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to award £39,100 to the Nottinghamshire Schools Council for Sport for the year 2012/13.

Information and Advice**Background - Nottinghamshire Schools Council for Sport**

2. Nottinghamshire County Council has previously grant aided the Nottinghamshire Schools Council for Sport (NSCS) from the Children, Families and Cultural Services Non-School Activities/School Sport budget. This grant enables the organisation to work with sports associations to engage children at school in competitive sport.
3. NSCS utilises a network of volunteers to provide competitive opportunities for young people in Athletics, Badminton, Cricket, Football, Table Tennis, Hockey, Netball, Swimming and Tennis. The volunteers, many of whom are teacher and ex-teachers, are employed on an expenses only basis. Working with the County Associations of the National Governing Bodies, an estimated 1,300 volunteers give their time to work with NSCS to support school and County teams. The work of NSCS provides a platform for aspiring young sports girls and boys to compete and represent their school and County.
4. The NSCS operates on a County wide basis incorporating the City. The City Council also supports the organisation through grant aid. Based on a historic pupil per capita calculation, the ratio of funding is City Council 28% (£15,000 for 2012/13), County Council 72%, equating to a recommended award for 2012/13 of £39,100 by the County Council. The grant from the City Council has been confirmed for 2012/13.
5. Nottinghamshire has a national reputation for its school sports organisation and achievements. School sport in Nottinghamshire has prospered despite a national decline in participation in competitive sport. An estimated 24,000 pupils participate in sport under the auspices of the NSCS.

6. The NSCS distributes funds to the County Associations for each sport to cover volunteer expenses and travel costs for the County Teams to compete in National Competitions. It cannot confirm support for the fixture timetable until the County Council confirms its grant for 2012/13.

Other Options Considered

7. There is currently no other mechanism available to support the volunteer network. However, during 2012 it is planned to work with The County Sports Partnership, Sport Nottinghamshire and the City Council to undertake a review of school sport competition to clarify the relationship between the NSCS and the new School Games initiative. The review will look at value for money, impact and engagement across the County in competitive school sport. It will also look at the future development of the School Games initiative, post the Olympics, and the impact on school sport.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. The grant allows the good work of NSCS to continue during 2012. Without the support of the County Council it would not be possible to continue with the timetable of competitions.

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.

Implications for Service Users

10. The award of grant would support over 25,000 pupils who participate in competitive sport under the auspices of the NSCS. The award would also support the work of 1,300 volunteer teachers who organise these activities.

Financial Implications

11. Provision for the grant to the NSCS for 2012/13 has been made in the Non-School Activities/School Sport budget within Culture and Enrichment Services and will not impact on other spending plans.

Human Resources Implications

12. The grant supports the work of volunteers. It is believed that loss of grant would result in a significant loss in voluntary effort.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That approval is given to award £39,100 to the Nottinghamshire Schools Council for Sport for the year 2012/13 from the Children Families and Cultural Services Non-School Activities/School Sport budget.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 28/06/12)

13. The Grant Aid Sub Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution for grant aid to the voluntary sector and may approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (NDR 27/06/12)

14. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 11 of the report.

Background Papers

Survey of Nottinghamshire School Sport Associations 2012.

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.

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