

**10 January 2019****Agenda Item:7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE & COMMUNITIES****LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME: TALENTED ATHLETES 2018-2019****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Talented Athletes awards for 2018-19.

**Information**

2. The Talented Athletes Fund is part of the Local Improvement Scheme which helps to deliver the Nottinghamshire County Council strategic priorities. The Talented Athletes Fund runs on an annual basis (this is due to the unpredictable nature of the athletes; for example, athletes may not be selected for their squad in subsequent years, they may change sport categories, or be unable to compete due to injury). The Talented Athletes budget for 2018-21 is £21,000 per year.
3. Applications were invited from 13 September to 15 October 2018. The Communities team worked closely with colleagues in Communications and Marketing to promote the Talented Athletes Fund throughout the County using a wide range of media including the local press, social media, Email Me, the NCC and Active Notts websites, digital banners / messages in public spaces and on corporate emails. Promotion also included case studies from previous athletes to showcase their achievements and to encourage applications from across all districts.
4. The Communities Team received 123 applications (an increase of approximately 38% compared to the previous year). Each applicant requested 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 £49,200 - more than double the amount of available funding.
5. The Talented Athletes Fund has been extensively promoted on a County-wide basis, and the geographical spread of those applications recommended for funding reflects in part athletes and their families choosing to live close to prime sports and coaching facilities for example The National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont, is the home of the British Canoeing Head Quarters and the Team GB sprint canoeing training facility.
6. Assessment criteria was designed to correspond to the questions in the application form, such as performance improvement and achievements over the past 12 months. Applicants were also required to submit an endorsement letter from their National Governing Body (NGB), in support of their application. The full eligibility and assessment criteria is listed in **Appendix 1** to this report. All applications were assessed by Active Notts and the Council against the assessment criteria to arrive at an assessment score. The assessments were reviewed by the Communities Team as part of the moderation process to ensure

consistency in approach. Where necessary, clarification regarding assessment outcomes was sought from the assessors.

7. Out of the 123 applications received, 118 (96%), were eligible and have been recommended for funding, totalling £21,000 for 2018/19. The recommended applications have representation from all Nottinghamshire districts and cover over 40 sport disciplines. **Appendix 1** to this report includes:

- **Table 1:** The number of Talented Athlete applications received and recommended by district
- **Table 2:** The number of Talented Athlete recommendations by sport / discipline.

8. Due to the high volume of applications and limited budget, applications were grouped by the assessment score and the funding allocations were adjusted according to the assessment score. The maximum grant award of £400 is recommended for the top 5 highest scoring athletes. The number of athletes recommended for each level of funding award is provided in **Appendix 1, Table 3** to this report.
9. Five applications were discounted because the athletes do not live in the County, and therefore, they are not eligible for funding from Nottinghamshire County Council.
10. Recipients of Talented Athletes funding will be asked to complete monitoring information at the end of the funded year.
11. All applicants will be signposted to other possible sources of funding and support via Active Notts.

### **Other Options Considered**

12. All the applications received have undergone the Council's rigorous assessment and moderation process.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

13. The applications recommended for funding meet the published criteria and therefore, the athletes contribute to the Local Improvement Scheme and the wider strategic priorities of the County Council. It is noted that athletes have demonstrated:
  - A high level of sporting achievements locally, nationally, and internationally - and many have overcome significant adversity to succeed;
  - Positive contributions to the wider community as sports ambassadors, volunteer coaches for younger, aspiring athletes and charitable fundraising and support.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

14. 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**

15. 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**

16. These are contained within this report.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty implications**

17. The Council has taken steps to advance equality of opportunity, for example by encouraging Countywide participation through an enhanced Communications Strategy compared to the previous year. Consequently, the Council received an increased number of applications this year and applications were recommended from across all districts, from para-athletes and from athletes with disadvantaged backgrounds.

## **Safeguarding of Children Implications**

18. 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 who are under-16 years old (i.e. 44% of the total number of applications received).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended:

- 1) that Members approve the funding as stated in **Appendix 1** to this report for all 118 eligible athletes due to:
  - Meeting the criteria for the Talented Athletes Fund
  - Demonstrating a high level of sporting achievements locally, nationally, and internationally - and overcoming significant adversity to succeed
  - Making positive contributions to the wider community as sports ambassadors, volunteer coaches for younger, aspiring athletes and for their charitable fundraising and support.
- 2) That the Talented Athletes Fund continues to be promoted widely across all of the County of Nottinghamshire.

**Derek Highton**  
**Service Director, Place & Communities**

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

### **Constitutional Comments [LM 03/12/2018]**

19. The Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

### **Financial Comments [RWK 05/12/2018]**

20. The proposed awards at a total cost of £21,000 can be met from existing budget provision.

### **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