

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME SPORTS COUNCIL – GRANT AID 2014/15

Submitted by: Executive Director - Resources & Support Services and
Executive Director - Operational Services

Portfolio: Finance and Resources/Leisure, Culture and Localism

Wards Affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To consider awarding a grant to the Newcastle-under-Lyme Sports Council and to inform members of the grants awarded by the Sports Council to individuals and sports clubs in the borough in 2013.

Recommendation

That the Cabinet award a grant of £19,000 to the Newcastle-under-Lyme Sports Council to support the contribution it makes to sport in the borough.

Reasons

The Council recognises the importance of sport, not only as an activity in its own right but also for its benefits in relation to health and positive activities.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Newcastle-under-Lyme Sports Council is a body that is concerned with the promotion of sport in the borough. Affiliation to the Sports Council is open to any club in the borough. The activities of the Sports Council are directed by an Executive Committee which includes five borough councillors and one county councillor. The rest of the committee is made up of the representatives of sports clubs, parish councils, the Staffordshire Playing Fields Association and the Partnership Director of Sports Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
- 1.2 The Sports Council's main activity is to award grants to promising sportsmen and sportswomen to help them meet the costs of their chosen activities. Individuals who receive funding must live in the borough. The Sports Council also supports clubs and organisations located in the borough. Grants are given to clubs and organisations to help them improve their equipment and facilities. As at the end of the financial year 2013/14, the Sports Council has awarded grants to 56 individuals and 10 clubs/organisations.
- 1.3 This report provides an overview of how the Sports Council has used the grant it received from the Borough Council in 2013/14 (£22,550), and the Sports Councils accumulated funds brought forward (£11,326 as at 1st April 2013) to encourage participation and performance in sport by both individuals and clubs. A total of £30,572 has been given to support 22 different sporting activities, leaving a balance of £3,665.79 as at 31st March 2014.

- 1.4 The following table illustrates the number of awards made by sport and the amount that was awarded to each sport:

Sport	Number of Awards	Amount (£)
Angling	1	700
Archery	1	300
Athletics	9	4,500
Badminton	3	1,500
Biathlon	1	200
Canoeing	1	700
Cricket	16	7,333
Cycling	2	1,200
Dancing	1	1,000
Football	6	3,750
Youth Drop In	1	400
Golf	1	400
Gymnastics	2	1,000
Karting	1	400
Netball	2	680
Rowing	3	1,350
Skiing	1	500
Swimming	1	750
Table Tennis	2	300
Tennis	1	300
Triathlon	1	500
Volleyball	9	2,809
Total	66	30,572

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Every application for grant aid was considered by the Sports Council on its merit and was supported by references from a coach/club official and evidence of expenditure.
- 2.2 Individual grants ranged from £100 to £1,000. While relatively small in value, they have been a great encouragement to all successful applicants, contributing to improved standards of sport in the borough.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Borough Council consider awarding a grant of £19,000 to the Newcastle-under-Lyme Sports Council to support the contribution it makes to sport in the borough.

4. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 4.1 The work of the Sports Council supports the sports voluntary sector in the borough and promotes the value of sport, recognising the need to support individuals in their personal quest for achievement and the wider community benefits this brings.

5. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

5.1 Sport has a positive effect on all four of the Council's corporate priorities:

- A Clean, Safe and Sustainable Borough – sport deters anti social behaviour by providing positive activities.
- A Borough of Opportunity – the grant awards offer encouragement and opportunities for individuals and teams to overcome some of the financial barriers to participation.
- A Healthy and Active Community – sport contributes to a healthy lifestyle.
- A Co-operative council delivering high quality, community-driven services - by working in partnership with the Sports Council, we target our investment to maximise impact on community outcomes.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 There are no legal or statutory implications. The Council has the power to make the grant under its general duties.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 The grants are allocated with full regard to equal opportunities as illustrated by the broad range of activity covered.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 A grant of £22,550 was awarded to the Sports Council in 2013/14. There is sufficient provision to award a grant of £19,000 to the Sports Council in 2014/15 if this is desired.

8.2 The amount available for 2014/15 has reduced following a funding review and assessment of the levels of Council grants and contributions available. The review was undertaken in consultation with relevant stakeholders with regard to the levels of funding available to the Council.

8.3 In addition to the grant, the Borough Council also provides administration for meetings of the Sports Council together with free room hire. This is estimated to be approximately £2,500 of "in-kind" contribution.

9. **Major Risks**

There are no major risks associated with this funding.

10. **Background Papers**

None