

## **NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME SPORTS COUNCIL – GRANT AID 2013/14**

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

**Portfolio:** Finance and Budget Management/Culture and Leisure

**Wards Affected:** All

### **Purpose of the Report**

To approve 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 2012/13.

### **Recommendations**

- (1) That the Cabinet award a grant of £22,550 to the Newcastle-under-Lyme Sports Council to support the contribution it makes to sport in the borough; and
- (2) That a review of the governance arrangements for the Sports Council be undertaken to ensure that these are aligned with the Council's other grant allocation processes and best practice.

### **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 four borough councillors and one county councillor. The rest of the committee is made up of the representatives of sports clubs, parish councils 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. In 2012/13 the Sports Council awarded grants to 46 individuals and 8 clubs/organisations.
  - 1.3 This report provides an overview of how the Sports Council has used the grant it received from the Borough Council to encourage participation and performance in sport by both individuals and clubs. A total of £22,280 was given to support twenty different sporting activities.
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- 1.4 The following table illustrates the number of awards made by sport and the amount that was awarded to each sport:

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Number of Awards</b>	<b>Amount (£.p)</b>
Archery	1	300.00
Athletics	3	1,500.00
Badminton	2	800.00
Biathlon	2	800.00
Boxing	1	900.00
Cricket	12	5,450.00
Cycling	1	500.00
Football	2	1,100.00
General	2	1,000.00
Golf	2	700.00
Gymnastics	2	1,000.00
Kickboxing	10	2,000.00
Netball	2	1,000.00
Petanque	1	230.00
Rowing	3	1,550.00
Skiing	1	500.00
Swimming	2	1,050.00
Table Tennis	2	600.00
Tennis	1	300.00
Volleyball	2	1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>22,280.00</b>

## 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 The grants awarded ranged from £200 to £900. 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 £22,550 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 priorities in the Council Plan:

- 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.
- Becoming a co-operative council which delivers 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 2012/13. There is sufficient provision to award a similar grant to the Sports Council in 2013/14 if this is desired.

9. **Major Risks**

There are no major risks associated with this funding.

10. **Background Papers**

None

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