

MEETING: 23/09/2015

Ref: 12785

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive

Brentford FC Community Sports Trust

Amount requested: £96,250

Amount recommended: £96,250

Adv: Tim Wilson

Base: Hounslow

Benefit: Several London Boroughs

The Charity

Established in 1987 as Football in the Community, Brentford FC Community Sports Trust (BFCCST) began its life working to improve the image of football at a time of public concern over hooliganism. In 2006 the charity significantly expanded its professional sports coaching services in local schools and communities. Today BFCCST offers sporting activities for disabled and non-disabled participants, providing a range of activities across West London including some contracted work on behalf of local authorities with young carers and young offenders.

The Application

The charity seeks funding for a programme that will increase deaf people's participation in sport. BFCCST will create a West London Hub for Sports providing information on local deaf-friendly activities and will provide deaf awareness courses to increase the number of coaches with basic British Sign Language. In addition to the work with mainstream sports providers, BFCCST will also run its own activities including programmes for deaf children, extra-curriculum coaching at schools, and the formation of new sports clubs and competitions for deaf people across West London. The work will be led by a profoundly deaf coach who is qualified to coach across a range of sports.

The Recommendation

Your officer's assessment visit included a meeting with the project coach, and his passion for the work was evident. The charity is well-regarded for its community work, and the evidence of need for the initiative has been well-made. This project will increase access for deaf people through a range of new schemes and competitions. The work will also help encourage mainstream sport providers to be more deaf-friendly. Funding is recommended as follows:

£96,250 over three years (£33,500; £32,250; £30,500) for a part-time coach (three days per week) and running costs for Brentford FC Community Sports Trust's deaf project.

Funding History

None.

Background and detail of proposal

BFCCST's began coaching disabled people through its work with special educational needs children in schools. Five years ago the charity recruited a new coach who is himself deaf. This individual started developing activities for deaf children, discovering that participants would travel some considerable distance to take part due to the lack of local provision. At the same time, the coach was funded to research the barriers facing deaf sports participants, with findings highlighting the

issues of poor communications, a lack of deaf-aware and deaf-friendly environments, and very few positive deaf role-models in the sports community.

The charity has had piecemeal funding to cover the costs of sports activities with deaf people, but until now it has not had the resources to build anything to scale. The request to City Bridge Trust will enable BFCCST to gather and disseminate information about the range of deaf-friendly sports services in West London and to build a wider community of deaf sports participants. The work will benefit children, young people and adults, with activities taking place in schools and mainstream clubs. BFCCST intends to use monitoring data throughout the project to refine and improve its work, developing new services in response to demand as a wider network of deaf participants engages with the programme.

Financial Information

Forecast income for the year ending March 2016 is £1,556,626, of which £1,276,894 (82%) had been confirmed by June 2015. Income is expected to grow by 7% and expenditure by 10% compared to 2014-15 due to the start of a number of new projects.

The cost of generating funds was not disclosed in the audited accounts for 2013-14. The charity has provided an estimate for the three years shown in the table below based on an assumption that 10% of relevant staff time is allocated for fundraising activities. The charity has advised it will review the disclosure of this figure in future accounts.

Year end at 31 March	2013 - 14 Audited Accounts	2014 - 15 Draft accounts	2015 - 16 Current Year Budget
Income and Expenditure	£	£	£
Income	1,245,909	1,454,549	1,556,626
Expenditure	1,336,078	1,381,306	1,514,224
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(34,887)	119,245	33,285
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(55,282)	(46,002)	9,117
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(90,169)	73,243	42,402
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(7.2%)	5.0%	2.7%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	33,831 (2.7%)	37,036 (2.5%)	38,321 (2.5%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	190,799	310,044	343,329
How many months' worth of expenditure	1.7	2.7	2.7
Reserves Policy target	334,020	304,984	378,556
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(143,221)	(5,060)	(35,227)