

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: New Communities Portfolio Holder 7 July 2009
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director / Corporate Manager, New Communities /
Sports Development Officer

ELITE ATHLETE AWARD SCHEME

Purpose

1. To consider the grant eligibility, application process, level of grant award, and grant conditions for the Elite Athlete Award Scheme.

Background

2. In 2008 a three-year funding allocation of £20,000 each year was approved by Cabinet as one of the Council's 33 aims to support aspiring Athletes throughout the district.
3. Research on other grant schemes was carried out over a 6-month period, working with organisations such as Living Sport, Sports Aid, Sport England and other County funding streams.
4. A partnership has been developed with Core Cambridge (a centre of excellence for injury rehabilitation and the development of athletic performance) to enable athletes to receive additional free support on top of a grant award.
5. As well as the additional support from Core Cambridge, the 9 dual-use sports facilities within the district will also be able to support athletes by providing free access to training facilities (where the sports centre programme allows). This could therefore provide each athlete with opportunities to train in the swimming pool, on floodlit training pitches/tennis courts or carryout their strength and conditioning work using the sports centre's fitness suite.
6. To launch the grant scheme, the Council has been invited to Comberton Village College on 21st July as part of a Regional visit by Lord Coe.

Proposal

7. ***Grant Eligibility: before completing an application form all athletes must fulfil the following criteria:***
 - All applicants must live with the district (or have a family home within the district should they be away studying or training)
 - Applicants can be able bodied athletes or disabled athletes
 - All applicants should be aged 12 or over
 - All applicants should be training and competing at either a Regional, National or World Class level

8. ***Application Process: on completing an application form, the following details should be provided:***

- Contact details (plus parents details if an athlete is under the age of 18)
- Education or employment details
- History of sporting achievement
- Training and club details
- National Governing Body affiliation details
- Evidence of meeting performance eligibility
- Performance results from previous year
- Long term performance goals
- Aims for the coming season
- Declaration of other grant aid already received
- An outline of how grant aid money would be spent and how this would make a difference
- A signed declaration that agrees to the conditions of the grant
- A signed declaration from the National Governing Body
- A signed photographic permission form

9. ***Levels of grant award:***

- A grant up to £2,000 to be awarded to any athlete at world Class level
- A grant up to £1,000 to be awarded to any athlete at a National level
- A grant up to £500 to be awarded to any athlete competing at a Regional level

9.1 Grant applications can be received throughout the year but should be assessed by a panel on a minimum of 2 occasions per year. Representation on the panel should include:

- The Council's Member Champion for 2012
- The Portfolio Holder for New Communities
- The Council's Sports Development Officer
- The County Council's Sports Development Manager
- A member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Gold group (Group of Olympic Legacy Development)
- The Partnership Development Manager from the South Cambs Schools Sports Partnership

9.2 The panel will develop award criteria to guide their decision-making process based on information contained on the application.

10. ***Grant conditions***

10.1 To ensure that the Council secures maximum publicity through awarding grants to Elite Athletes, all recipients should be expected to attend an annual celebration event. In relation to the level of grant awards (see point 9.) all athletes at National and World class level should be available to take part in the Council's '2012 Inspiration project' which will capture each athlete on film for future work around influencing and inspiring others). These athletes should also be expected to give at least 1 day of their time (within a 12 month period following receipt of the grant) to support a community event on behalf of the Council.

- 10.2 All grant recipients should provide a short end of year report including details of their performance and how the grant has been spent in accordance to the information provided in their application.

Implications

11	Financial	£60,000 over 3 years
	Legal	N/a
	Staffing	Member and Officer time required
	Risk Management	V low risk
	Equal Opportunities	All activities and events linked to any Olympic or Paralympic Games events provided by or hosted in partnership with SCDC will be fully inclusive.

Effect on Strategic Aims

12	Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.
	All elite athletes that meet the grant eligibility can make an application for funding
	Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.
	Elite athletes that really excel in their sport can provide inspiration and motivation to young people of all ages to get in to sport and achieve their best.
	Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.
	An elite athlete that achieves at a high level will bring exposure to South Cambs and will bring local support and celebrations that the whole community can be part of.
	Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.
	N/a
	Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.
	Supporting Elite athletes provides evidence of the accessibility to sport at grass-routes and the opportunities within a rural area to take part, develop and excel.

Recommendations

13. To approve the grant eligibility, application process, award levels and grant conditions in relation to launching the Elite Athlete Award scheme on 21st July 2009.

Background Papers: None

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