



**South
Cambridgeshire
District Council**

REPORT TO: Environmental Services Portfolio Holder 25 February 2015
Meeting
LEAD OFFICER: Director, Health and Environmental Services

REVIEW OF ELITE ATHLETE AWARDS SCHEME

Purpose

1. To review the Elite Athlete Awards Scheme prior to the next financial year.
2. This is not a key decision. It is brought before the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder at his request following the recent distribution of Elite Athletes Awards Scheme grants.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder considers the options (paragraphs 15-17) for the Elite Athletes Awards Scheme for 2015/16 and makes a decision regarding:
 - (a) the continuation of the scheme,
 - (b) the budget for the scheme, and
 - (c) use of the current balance.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The Elite Athlete Awards Scheme was set up in 2009 to support athletes in the run up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The scheme has continued as a legacy to the Games, however, the number of applications for funding has reduced in recent years. The current balance for the scheme stands at £13,400 and a further £10,000 is budgeted for 2015/16.

Background

5. South Cambridgeshire District Council was inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to invite all elite athletes to apply for an elite athlete award to support their sporting talent. The Elite Athlete Awards Scheme was launched by Lord Sebastian Coe in July 2009.
6. The scheme is open to both able-bodied and disabled athletes, with priority going to those taking part in Olympic and Paralympic sports.
7. The scheme supports any athlete who lives in South Cambridgeshire. If an applicant studies or trains outside South Cambridgeshire they can still apply, provided their family home is in the district. Applicants who are studying at a College or University within South Cambridgeshire are not eligible unless they also have a family home within the District.

8. All grant recipients are expected to provide a short end of year report including details of their performance and how the grant has been spent in accordance with the information provided in the application.
9. Grants are awarded to athletes competing at all levels from regional level (up to £500), national level (up to £1,000), to world class level (up to £2,000). It is a competitive process and applications are assessed with regard to eligibility, performance and potential.
10. The scheme was originally set up to run from 2009 until 2012, however, has since been extended as a legacy to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Considerations

11. The amount of budget allocated to the scheme has varied since its inception. The table below shows the total budget each year, the amount awarded and the number of applicants:

Year	Budget ¹ (£)	Total Amount Awarded (£)	Number of applicants
2009/10	20,000	14,250	24
2010/11	20,000	14,550	26
2011/12	20,000	12,700	33
2012/13	10,000 ²	10,000	19
2013/14	10,000	5,350	17
2014/15	10,000	3,300	8

12. The current balance for the Elite Athlete Awards Scheme is £13,400, including uncommitted grant funding from previous years as well as from 2014/15.
13. The number of applicants has reduced over the previous few years despite similar levels of publicity. It is possible that an increased amount of applications may be forthcoming in the run up to Rio 2016. Each year the scheme is publicised in the South Cambs Magazine, via a press release, through schools (via the School Sports Partnership) and sports clubs (via Living Sport).
14. The allocated budget for the Elite Athlete Awards Scheme for 2015/16 is £10,000. Therefore, depending on a decision regarding the current balance available for the scheme (see paragraph 12), there could be a total £23,400 available in the next financial year.

Options

15. The Portfolio Holder could
 - (a) continue to allocate the same level of budget to the Elite Athlete Awards Scheme in 2015/16 as per the planned budget,

¹ A small amount of funding has been allocated to publicity each year.

² Uncommitted balances from previous years.

- (b) stop funding the Elite Athlete Awards Scheme and therefore close the scheme at the end of 2014/15,
 - (c) continue to allocate budget to the Elite Athlete Awards Scheme in 2015/16, but reduce the amount of budget available.
16. If the budget is reduced (option (c) in paragraph 15), the Portfolio Holder could
- (a) return the remainder to General Fund reserves,
 - (b) reallocate the funding within the Portfolio e.g. to deliver against the Health and Wellbeing Plan, or
 - (c) reallocate the funding to a different Portfolio, in agreement with that Portfolio Holder.
17. With regard to the current balance for the Elite Athlete Awards Scheme (£13,400), the Portfolio Holder could
- (a) carry forward the total balance into 2015/16,
 - (b) carry forward part of the balance for 2015/16 and return the remainder to General Fund reserves, or
 - (c) return the total balance to the to the General Fund reserves.

Implications

18. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial

19. £10,000 has been allocated towards the scheme for 2015/16. This report includes options that are within the amount budgeted.

Staffing

20. The Elite Athletes Awards Scheme requires a minimal amount of staff time to administer and promote. A budget reduction to the grant scheme would not impact the amount of staff time required to administer or promote the scheme.

Risk Management

21. The Elite Athletes Awards Scheme follows the terms of reference that were agreed in May 2010, which outline how decisions are made, grant limits, the panel structure, accountability and financial arrangements. The Council's financial regulations are adhered to and it makes all payments.

Equality and Diversity

22. The scheme is open to both able-bodied and disabled athletes.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

23. Living Sport, Cambridgeshire County Council and the School Sports Partnership were consulted regarding the continuation of the Elite Athletes Awards Scheme at the latest panel meeting on 21 January 2015. All consulted acknowledged that the number of requests for funding had reduced despite similar communication channels being used to promote the scheme, but felt that the awards are very important to the individuals that do apply and would like to see the scheme continue.

Effect on Strategic Aims

Aim 1 - Wellbeing

24. The Elite Athlete Awards Scheme supports the Council's aim of ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for residents. The scheme encourages individuals to pursue their sporting ambitions and promotes healthy lifestyles.

Background Papers

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

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