

**WOKING BLACKHAWKS BASKETBALL CLUB – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Executive Summary**

The Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club was formed in 1982 and is comprised of three sections: Seniors, Youths and Wheelchair Basketball. The Wheelchair Basketball section is entirely self-funded with the costs of training, playing league games and payment of match officials being met by those participating. Many of the players have disabilities, as is the nature of wheelchair basketball, and many are not in employment and with low incomes. The Club prides itself in seeing young people develop into valuable members of the society and providing them with happy memories and lifelong skills.

The impacts of Covid-19 have increased expenditure for the Club and placed even more demand on the volunteer's time, to ensure that all guidelines are adhered to and that the correct equipment is in place etc.

The Club has submitted an application to the Council's Small Grants Scheme (sports) for £500 towards PPE for the Covid-19 period, which is likely to be approved following provision of further detail requested by the Sports and Development Officer. It is not proposed that any further funding be awarded towards the request for thermometers, anti-bacterial gel and wipes.

In addition, the Council will seek to assist the Club with the hire costs for the Youth Wednesday sessions by investigating whether the Council's community hours would be eligible for use in the new Leisure Centre in Sheerwater.

It is proposed that the Community Grants Scheme contribute to the cost of additional balls (£630 per set) and the livestream camera (£399) to assist with coaching required as a result of Covid-19. Additionally it is noted that the requested shooting machine would assist the Club with improving its standing and that the Council could provide match funding for the machine.

Accordingly, it is proposed the Club be awarded a capital grant of up to £4,500 representing 50% of the cost of each of additional balls (up to £300), a livestream camera (up to £200), and a shooting machine (up to £4,000). The funding would be subject to the presentation of invoices and paid from the Community Fund.

**Recommendations**

<p>The Executive is requested to:</p>	<p><b>RESOLVE That</b>, subject to the outcome of the Council's budgetary process, a grant of up to £4,500 be awarded from the Community Fund, representing 50% of the cost of each of additional balls (up to £300), a livestream camera (up to £200), and a shooting machine (up to £4,000), subject to the presentation of invoices.</p>
<p>Reason for Decision</p>	<p>The proposed funding would assist the Club purchase new equipment to improve its standing and enable young people in the Borough to reach their full potential.</p>
<p>Legal Authority</p>	<p>S19 (Misc. Provisions) Local Government Act 1976</p>
<p>Confirmation of funding</p>	<p>This award is provisionally made on the expectation that the Council's budgets for revenue and capital projects remain at the same level</p>

## Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club – Application For Financial Assistance

	<p>allocated for the current financial year. The Council's overall budget, including the sums allocated for community grants, will be determined by Council at its meeting on 11 February 2021. In the event the grant budgets are set at the anticipated levels, confirmation of the Council's support will be sent to successful applicants. Groups should not plan for the 2021/22 funding until this confirmation has been received.</p> <p>Should the budgets be reduced as part of the Council's efforts to achieve savings to offset the impact of Covid on the Council's financial position, a special meeting of the Executive will be held to review the provisional awards and allocate the funds available on a priority basis.</p>
Conditions	<p><b>Accounts.</b> The Organisation must submit accounts for the year in which the grant is awarded, including an income and expenditure account and balance sheet. Please note that accounts for other years may also be required.</p> <p><b>Monitoring Information.</b> The Organisation must submit quarterly monitoring information as a measure of its achievements. Failure to provide details will jeopardise the award. E-mail requests will be sent to the applicant on a quarterly basis.</p> <p><b>Publicity.</b> Where possible, the Organisation is required to publicise the support received from Woking Borough Council, including on websites and literature / leaflets produced.</p> <p><b>Payments.</b> Unless exceptional circumstances exist all invoices must be received quarterly with monitoring information for the previous quarter.</p> <p><b>Payment Period.</b> Final quarter claims must be made by the second week in April. Unclaimed awards will not be available at a later date unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated to the Council before the end of the award year.</p> <p><b>Joint Working.</b> WBC expects the Organisation to engage positively on health and wellbeing multi-agency joint work affecting Woking. Groups which refuse may place their Council support at risk, e.g. grant, concessionary rent and other assistance.</p> <p><b>Invoices / Receipts.</b> In order to claim an element of the funding, the Organisation must submit paid invoices or receipts relating to equipment purchased or services provided.</p>
Performance Indicators	<p><b>Publicity.</b> The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised.</p> <p><b>Statement of Use.</b> The Organisation to provide a statement stating the use to which the grant money has been put.</p>
Future Support	<p>The funding represents capital support for the 2021/22 financial year only.</p>

**The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.**

### Background Papers:

2021/22 Application Form.

## Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club – Application For Financial Assistance

### **Reporting Person:**

Ray Morgan, Chief Executive  
Extn: 3333, Email: ray.morgan@woking.gov.uk

### **Contact Person:**

Frank Jeffrey, Democratic Services Manager  
Extn: 3012, Email: frank.jeffrey@woking.gov.uk  
Doug Davern, Democratic Services Officer  
Extn: 3018, Email: doug.davern@woking.gov.uk

### **Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr Simon Ashall  
Email: cllrsimon.ashall@woking.gov.uk

### **Shadow Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr Will Forster  
Email: cllrwill.forster@woking.gov.uk

### **Date Published:**

2 December 2020

# **Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club – Application For Financial Assistance**

## Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club – Application For Financial Assistance

<b>1.0 Summary of Application</b>	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>The Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club was formed in 1982. The Youth section was formed in 1999 and there are pathways into senior teams, regional, national and academies for progression into professional basketball.</p> <p>Affiliated to British Wheelchair Basketball, the wheelchair basketball section of the Woking Blackhawks was established in 2013. Opportunities are provided for people with and without disabilities to play wheelchair basketball recreationally and competitively with two teams in the British Wheelchair Basketball National League, and a team in the separate Women's league. Taking players from the age of 12, weekly training sessions are provided for players at Woking College.</p>
1.2 Employees	None.
1.3 Volunteers	<p>30, whose roles are: Rotating Chairman, Secretary, Head of Youth, Head of Senior Men, Head of Senior Ladies, Head of Wheelchair, Head of Girls, Coaches, Team Managers, Table Officials, Referees and Statisticians, Safeguarding Officer, Club Registrar and Web Administrator.</p> <p>Four volunteers are involved in the running of the wheelchair basketball, carrying out roles such as providing administration, arranging training sessions, coaching, officiating and playing.</p> <p>All Teams Managers and Coaches are subject to enhanced DBS checks and undertake safeguarding training.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	None.
1.5 Members	<p>200, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>160 male</li> <li>40 female</li> <li>20 disabled</li> <li>30 ethnic minority</li> <li>170 resident in Woking</li> <li>15 aged 6-10</li> <li>90 aged 11-18</li> <li>95 aged 19-65</li> </ul> <p>Subscriptions have increased in some age groups and were now charged over a 10 month period as opposed to 8 months and range between £32 to £55 per month, wheelchair players are charged £35 per month. Due to the limited availability of wheelchair basketball clubs, players can travel considerable distances to take part.</p>
1.6 Sum Requested	£9,029 (Revenue) and £4,147 (Capital)
1.7 Project	Due to Covid-19, the organisation is finding it difficult to cover the additional costs to be Covid compliant without increasing fees therefore the funding, if successful would be used to purchase

## Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club – Application For Financial Assistance

	<p>thermometers, antibacterial gel and wipes.</p> <p>The Group aim to continue the Youth Wednesday sessions, however with increased Covid-19 costs and limitations to courts to play on, funding would need to be sought to carry on the activity. It would be held at Woking Sports Box for an average of 39 weeks a year for 1 hour every Wednesday, and allow the community to participate in games and encourage younger children to play. Players had previously been charged £3 to attend and the costs for two coaches would be met up the Basketball Club (£1,170).</p> <p>Capital funding was required for additional balls to ensure there were sufficient amounts of kit for players to avoid cross-contamination, a livestream camera to allow the community to view the cameras as spectators were not allowed, and a shooting machine to help train players to a high standard and level.</p>										
<p>1.8 Cost breakdown:</p>	<p><b>Revenue: (£4,146)</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Covid-19 Compliant Materials</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,367</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sports Box Court Hire (1.5 hr session at £60 for 39 weeks)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,340</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Capital: (£9,029)</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Balls (per set of 12 balls)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£630</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Livestream Camera</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£399</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shooting Machine</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£8,000</td> </tr> </table>	Covid-19 Compliant Materials	£1,367	Sports Box Court Hire (1.5 hr session at £60 for 39 weeks)	£2,340	Balls (per set of 12 balls)	£630	Livestream Camera	£399	Shooting Machine	£8,000
Covid-19 Compliant Materials	£1,367										
Sports Box Court Hire (1.5 hr session at £60 for 39 weeks)	£2,340										
Balls (per set of 12 balls)	£630										
Livestream Camera	£399										
Shooting Machine	£8,000										
<p>1.9 Community Benefit</p>	<p>The Blackhawks Basketball Club aims to continue to develop young players and those who have a passion for the sport. The Club works with players of all ages and have a Youth teams (under 10s to under 18s), four senior teams and two wheelchair teams. The Group are currently focusing on raising basketball's profile amongst young females and the wheelchair users and to provide them with the opportunity to progress in a safe, supportive and competitive environment.</p> <p>The Club provides local people with the opportunity to play wheelchair basketball, be it competitively or recreationally. Around 18 people participate regularly in the team. Due to the limited availability of wheelchair basketball teams in the South of England in comparison with other sports, players can often travel considerable distances to take part. The vast majority of the players have a disability, although at the time of application just one players was stated to reside in Woking.</p> <p>In the future the Club is working towards owning its own venue with courts to avoid relying on Leisure Centres and Schools, which can be difficult during exam time. By having its own venue the Club believes it will have the ability to reach more of the wider community and increase its membership numbers.</p>										
<p>1.10 Covid-19 Impact</p>	<p>The impacts of Covid-19 have increased expenditure for the Club and placed even more demand on the volunteer's time, to ensure that all guidelines are adhered to and that the correct equipment is in place etc.</p> <p>Players have not been able to practise or train together during lockdown and effecting their ability and team moral.</p>										

## Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club – Application For Financial Assistance

<b>2.0 Financial Background</b>	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £27,000 in the bank. The sum of £10,000 is reserved for professional coaching fees and £200 for membership fees to various leagues.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2021/22 which shows an anticipated income of £73,050 against an anticipated expenditure of £67,590, resulting in an anticipated surplus of £5,460.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes subscriptions (£67,500), registration fees (£2,500), Youth Wednesday (£1,050) and Junior Camps (2,000). Items of expenditure include court hire (£44,779), coaches (£12,280), tournaments (£8,000), Covid-19 equipment (£2,023), bookkeeper (£3,000), wheelchair storage (£1,708), kit and equipment (£2,000) administration/Go Cardless (1,000) and registration fees (£4,000).</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2019/20 which show an income of £77,586 (£73,207 in 2018/19) against expenditure of £75,136 (£75,546 in 2018/19), resulting in a surplus of £2,450 (a deficit of £2,339 in 2018/19). The sum of £29,548 was carried forward at the end of the 2019/20 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2020/21 – no grant awarded. 2019/20 – £7,500 towards new website</p>

<b>3.0 Assessment of Application</b>		
3.1 Key Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Constitution</li> <li>○ Registered Charity</li> <li>○ VAT Registered</li> <li>○ Equal Opportunities Policy</li> <li>○ Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>○ Reserves Policy</li> <li>○ Quality Mark</li> <li>○ Other funding sources pursued</li> <li>○ Other support by the Council</li> <li>○ Fundraising</li> <li>○ Two quotes</li> <li>○ Regular monitoring provided previously</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>
3.2 Consultee Comments	<p><u>Jack Gallop, Sports Development Officer</u></p> <p>In addition to the application to the Community Grants Scheme, Woking Blackhawks has also submitted an application for £500 to the Small Grants Scheme (Sport). They cited this was to cover Covid PPE costs incurred to the club and employing extra coaches due to the group sizes needing to be reduced. It also mentioned delivering extra-curricular activities at St. Johns Baptist School, as well as running new</p>	

## Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club – Application For Financial Assistance

	<p>sessions aimed at the general public rather than regular basketball players. Once further information has been provided by the Club such as a breakdown of costs, they will likely be awarded the £500 due to the nature of the project.</p> <p>The PPE costs incurred seem reasonable and I would want to check whether they have managed to successfully apply for any Sport England grants that have been made available to assist with costs such as these.</p> <p>The shooting machine for £8,000 is very much a luxury item and in my opinion whilst it would be a good long term investment, either funding the machine themselves or through match funding with the Council. The additional balls and livestream camera are reasonable requests for adapting to the pandemic.</p> <p>Regarding the Youth Wednesday sessions element of the application, I'm hopeful that the new Leisure Centre can help with the facility hire for youth sessions on Wednesdays and am happy to engage with the club and see how we can help, possibly seeing about using WBC's community hours to subsidise the sessions if it meets the criteria.</p> <p>The Club has stated that in the future it aspires to having its own venue. However the costs of this, and the issue that the Club's teams play at similar times and would therefore need similar venues, means that this is unlikely in the near future. However, the new Leisure Centre in Sheerwater is expected to be available in late 2021 and it is hoped that the Club could be a main user of the sports hall.</p>
3.3 Assessment	<p>The Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club was formed in 1982. The Wheelchair Basketball section is entirely self-funded with costs of training, playing league games and payment of match officials being met by those participating. Many of the players have disabilities, as is the nature of wheelchair basketball, and many are not in employment and with low incomes.</p> <p>Occasional opportunities to secure funding through sponsorship, combined with some years where player numbers supported profit, has provided some capacity to cover recent years where expenditure has exceeded income. However, this capacity is stated to have been exhausted and the costs of running the Club are now met by the people participating in the sport.</p> <p>In 2018/19, the Club was awarded capital support of £7,500 towards the redevelopment of its website, which was approved on a 100% basis as opposed to the Council's usual policy of awarding 50% of the total costs, due to the strong benefits of the Club on the local community.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Community Grants Scheme contribute to the cost of additional ball (£630 per set) and the livestream camera (£399) to assist with coaching required as a result of Covid-19. Additionally it is noted that the requested shooting machine would assist the Club with improving its standing and that the Council could provide match funding for the machine.</p> <p>The Club prides itself in seeing young people develop into valuable members of the society and providing them with happy memories and lifelong skills. It is noted that the Club provides a service which is very valued to its users, and that the Wheelchair Basketball team attracts</p>



## Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club – Application For Financial Assistance

players from the entire County and beyond.

Accordingly, it is proposed the Club be awarded a capital grant of up to £4,500 representing 50% of the cost of each of additional balls (up to £300), a livestream camera (up to £200), and a shooting machine (up to £4,000). The funding would be subject to the presentation of invoices and paid from the Community Fund.

REPORT ENDS