

**SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CLUBSPORT GROUPS**

Report by Chief Officer, Education and Children's Services

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to seek approval for continued financial support for the two local ClubSport Groups.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Local ClubSport Groups are continuing to operate grant aid programmes that provide valuable assistance for local clubs and organisations. ClubSport Lewis and Harris (CSLH) and the ClubSport Uist and Barra (CSUB) have submitted grant applications to enable the organisations to provide a range of grant options for affiliated clubs and associations. The Lewis and Harris Sports Council and the Uist and Barra Sports Council have now both approved the change of name to ClubSport Lewis and Harris and ClubSport Uist and Barra respectively at AGMs over the past year, in line with a change to the National body – Scottish ClubSport.
- 2.2 The ClubSport Groups operate a well-established grant aid programme for their memberships. For many years ClubSport Lewis and Harris has been awarded of £13k and ClubSport Uist and Barra £8.5k but due to cuts to the Sports Grant budget approved by members as part of budget savings for 2024/25 it is proposed that the following grant funding is devolved: - ClubSport Lewis and Harris - £10k; ClubSport Uist and Barra - £6k. This devolved decision-making process continues to work well for sport at a grass roots level and enables volunteers involved in local sport to set priorities within their local communities throughout the Western Isles. 75 clubs and 5 associations are currently supported.
- 2.3 A separate fund to specifically assist young people was initially set up with legacy monies donated by Transocean in 2016 and administered by the Western Isles Development Trust (WIDT) over a 3-year period. High demand for this fund led to it being consistently oversubscribed in each of the 3 years. In December 2019, the Comhairle agreed that £22.5K of Crown Estate revenues (£15K for Lewis and Harris; £7.5K for Uist and Barra) would be top sliced from this and future rounds of Crown Estate funding. £25k was allocated from the most recent Crown Estate funding.
- 2.4 The income and expenditure projections for both organisations are summarised in Appendices 1 and 2 to the Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle approve continued support for the Local ClubSport Groups through devolving £10k to the ClubSport Lewis and Harris and £6k to ClubSport Uist and Barra Sports from the 2024/25 Sports Grant budget.**

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Appendix: 1. Strategic Requirements of ClubSport Lewis and Harris
 2. Strategic Requirements of ClubSport Uist and Barra
Background Papers: None

IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

| Resource Implications | Implications/None |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Financial | As part of the budget savings for 2024/25 members approved a cut to the Sports Grants budget from £29,674 to £21,041. This has left £16,000 available to the ClubSport Groups for this financial year, with proposed proportionate allocations of £10,000 and £6,000. |
| Legal | None |
| Staffing | None |
| Assets and Property | None |
| | |
| Strategic Implications | Implications/None |
| Risk | There is a risk that our clubs and groups are unable to offer the opportunities for members to travel to mainland and inter-island events, reducing their chances of maximising their potential. |
| Equalities | The grant funding scheme in place at both ClubSport Groups allows clubs and groups to minimise costs and support those who are in financial difficulty. The funding helps break down the barriers to participation in sport and activity all levels. |
| Corporate Strategy | None |
| Environmental Impact | None |
| Consultation | None |