

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	<b>Education, Culture and Sport</b>
DATE	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b>
DIRECTOR	<b>Annette Bruton</b>
TITLE OF REPORT	<b>Sports Grants</b>
REPORT NUMBER:	<b>ECS/11/012</b>

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before the Committee applications for financial assistance from sports organisations and makes a recommendation for each application. Eight funding applications have been received.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

(i) That the Committee considers the applications and approves the following recommendations:

Hazlehead Gold Club – Ladies Section	£420
Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association	£10,000
Active Schools – Aberdeen City	£1,000
Scottish Ballet	£7,870
Aberdeen Physically Disabled Swimming Club	£1000
Aberdeen Grammar School Former Pupil Netball	£500
Camanachd Association	£2000
Netball Scotland	£3710

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The sports grants budget for the year 2010/11 is £69,000. Assuming that the recommendations are approved there will be £310.90 remaining in this budget.

#### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Local sports groups and organisations adopt a variety of methods to attract funding, however, some groups would be unable to host an event or develop further without the financial assistance available from the City Council. Groups who do not meet the criteria will be assisted by officers to source alternative solutions.

#### **5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

The Financial Assistance budget for 2010/11 has been set by the Council at £69,000. A copy of the guideline notes for sports organisations is included in the City Council Funding Pack sent to potential applicants. In addition, a copy of the Revised sports grants criteria approved at the Education, Culture and Sport Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2009 is provided, outlining the assessment process.

The new criteria are directly linked to the five key objectives of “Fit for the Future” the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Aberdeen (2009-2015). Applications are assessed against the criteria and recommendations made for Committee approval.

##### **5.1 Hazlehead Gold Club – Ladies Section**

Aberdeenshire Ladies Golf association host a County open meeting, one of twelve open meetings in the North East, yearly at Hazlehead Golf Club. The Golf Association brings together members from clubs throughout Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire to compete, with, in 2009, thirty nine players and in 2010 over fifty entrants. Seventy five percent of entrants are from Aberdeen City, however as the twelve county open tournaments are held throughout Aberdeen and the Shire, the players from both areas benefit from a reciprocal arrangement whereby the green fees are reduced for all players.

The application for funding is to discount the green fees on the Number one course down to £10 per player from £20.25, covering entries for fifty five players.

Women and girls from eighteen to over seventy years of age come together at this event. Members of the Golf Association contribute their own time to the planning and management of the event and to the Association itself. The recommendation is less than the requested amount as it has been established that the reduced amount is the actual required figure.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£500	£420

##### **5.2 Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association**

Formed in 1960, Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association (ASRA) provides a wide range of rowing activities to school age children throughout the City. The Association works to create opportunities to become involved in rowing by

providing a pathway which allows beginners to undertake taster sessions before progressing to indoor clubs and eventually outdoor club rowing.

ASRA is set-up as a charitable trust and has a two tier governance and management structure. The Board of Trustees leads on long-term planning while the ASRA Committee deals with the day to day running of the Association.

Since 2007, ASRA have been running two main programmes with secondary schools in the City. The indoor (Dry Start) programme provides a minimum six week training block within participating schools and ASRA have provided four rowing machines to participating schools that do not have their own. The outdoor (Wet Start) programme follows this up with the opportunity to participate in a ten week training block on the River Dee. ASRA currently have one paid development officer who is supported by a team of eight volunteer coaches all of which contribute between five and twelve hours coaching per week.

The overall cost of running the schools rowing projects is approximately £50,000 per annum. This covers a range of incurred costs including equipment, staff salaries, travel, insurance and administration. In order to meet this cost, ASRA have successfully received funding from external bodies including the Big Lottery Fund and Sportscotland. Furthermore, the Association also receives support through their own fund raising initiatives and corporate sponsorship.

This application is requesting support to extend and improve the ongoing indoor and outdoor programmes. ASRA aim to use this funding to introduce the programmes into the majority of the city's secondary schools. Within this, over one thousand S1 pupils would receive taster sessions which are followed up by the opportunity to participate in lunch time indoor clubs. Furthermore, over two hundred S1-S3 pupils will enter the indoor programme and receive a six to ten week block of specialised indoor rowing training. The funding will also be used to provide over one hundred pupils with the opportunity to enter the outdoor programme and receive a 10 week training block on the River Dee.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£10,000	£10,000

### **5.3 Active Schools – Aberdeen City**

This application is seeking support to provide branded clothing to S4 – S6 pupils who are currently volunteering within Active Schools initiatives.

One of the main priorities of the Active Schools team is to recruit volunteers to support extra curricular programmes. Currently, the Active Schools Team are running a programme which aims to recruit senior students (S4-6) from city academies to help assist with after school activities within their area. By encouraging these pupils to volunteer, the aim is to improve their confidence levels and leadership skills which will not only promote personal development but improve future education or employment opportunities.

The volunteers who are recruited will receive, in return for ten hours volunteering, training opportunities in their chosen area of interest. From this, this application seeks support to provide branded clothing which will be provided to volunteers who commit to further long-term involvement in Active Schools initiatives. It is hoped that this will not only provide a reward to committed volunteers but also help retain volunteers by showing there are part of a team. Furthermore, the use of branded clothing for volunteers raises the profile of Active Schools and increases awareness of volunteering throughout each school.

This application is seeking support to provide branded clothing for a minimum of fifty volunteer pupils. As senior pupil volunteers are working with around twenty different groups it is projected that this application will benefit over two hundred pupils and both primary and secondary levels.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£1000	£1000

#### **5.4 Scottish Ballet**

An application has been received from Scottish Ballet seeking support for a Cultural Olympiad project aimed at combining ‘cultural’ and ‘sporting’ disciplines. The ‘Dancing Parallel’ project will be run as a partnership between Scottish Ballet, English National Ballet, Big Dance, Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF) and services from within Aberdeen City Council. The project would, on a Scottish level, be exclusive to Aberdeen.

The project aims to involve fifty young people from identified regeneration areas in the city and bring them together to with an English based group selected by English National Ballet. Overall, this joint group will receive two weeks training in both Parkour and Dance in both Aberdeen and London. Parkour is a sport which can be described as ‘running through urban areas while performing various complex gymnastics manoeuvres over or on man-made obstacles such as walls and buildings’. The sport is rapidly increasing in popularity and a Parkour network has recently been established in Aberdeen.

The principle output of the collaboration will be the creation of a film that is of high artistic merit and will be screened before each professional performance of Scottish Ballet, English National Ballet and National Dance Company Wales collaborative programme (working title Great British Ballet), created for the Olympics in 2012. Dates for the professional performances are Tuesday the 19th of June to Saturday the 23rd in Glasgow, Tuesday the 26th of June to Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> in Cardiff and Wednesday the 4th July to Sunday the 8th in London. There is also the potential for the film to be screened across the United Kingdom on the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Live Sites as part of Big Dance 2012, the Cultural Olympiad’s dance strand. Furthermore, the film could be used within Aberdeen as required.

A film maker will be commissioned to create the film and will carryout an initial consultation process where the young people will be invited to contribute their ideas of what the final film should look like in relation to the Cultural Olympiad themes. Following visits to each city, the two groups of young people will

rehearse in their home city and then will be filmed performing in contrasting areas. For example young people in Aberdeen could perform on the beach and young people London in a contrasting environment.

Furthermore, the partnership with the Aberdeen International Youth Festival will allow participants to spend one week in Aberdeen together during the festival, learning new skills in dance in the morning and parkour in the afternoon. In the evenings all participants will attend cultural youth events organised by AIYF and also share some of their work as part of the “Festival in the City” performance day. This partnership will also provide free dance and parkour drop in workshops to young people in the city.

This project reflects the core values of the Cultural Olympiad which are sharing understanding, respect, generating a positive legacy, inspiring and involving young people and celebrating the United Kingdom. The project will explore environmental isolation and how young people connect with their local environments. Through two weeks of training and creative workshops the project aims to explore just how dance and parkour help to cross physical and mental boundaries, instill respect and the sense of being connected to the wider world. The project will also increase participation in and appreciation for both dance and parkour which are generally perceived as gender specific. Participants will receive a unique and hugely positive experience which will bring a range of lasting benefits. The city will gain a wider benefit through the large-scale local and national coverage of the project, which will highlight Aberdeen as a major Cultural and Sporting city.

The overall cost of the project across two years is £78,000 however £46,000 has already been secured. Of the remaining funding required, the partners are exploring a range of funding opportunities. This recommendation is a reflection of costs considered applicable to the Sports grants and stage one of the project. An application has also been submitted towards a Cultural Grant. Should this recommendation be approved, its confirmation would be linked to the outcome of the Cultural Grant application as the project requires complete funding to be viable.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£32,647	£7870

## **5.5 Aberdeen Physically Disabled Swimming Club**

An application has been received from Aberdeen Physically Disabled Swimming Club (APDSC) seeking support for the delivery of their programme. APDS currently provide access to swimming for physically disabled people in a safe and secure environment and currently over twenty members attend regular sessions. The sessions, which include hydrotherapy and one to one coaching, not only provide support for improving technique and building confidence but provides a range of social benefits to those involved.

The programme is generally self-sustaining however this grant seeks specific support for coping with increased pool hire costs due to re-location. Following the closure of the Linksfield swimming pool, APDSC were unable to source an

available public alternative and now meet at The Robert Gordon University's sports centre.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£1000	£1000

### **5.6 Aberdeen Grammar School Former Pupil Netball**

Aberdeen Grammar School Former Pupil Netball (AGSFP Netball) is a new netball club which aims to provide more opportunities for women to participate in sport and physical activity. Despite the name, the club is open to all and is advertised across the city.

Currently the club meet once a week at Aberdeen Grammar School where a recreational session is available for women aged sixteen and over. The club hope to expand to establish further recreational activities and potentially a competitive team. The application received seeks support towards ongoing costs including equipment and facility hire. The club charge a fee to participants, however should this application be successful, this fee will be reduced in the hope that this will attract an increased number of participants.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£500	£500

### **5.7 Camanachd Association**

To mark the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Aberdeen University Shinty Club, the Cammanachd Association is bringing the flagship Sutherland Cup Final to the city. This cup, which is shinty's national junior competition, sees teams from all over Scotland compete and will take place at Kings College on Saturday the thirtieth of July. The event is expected to attract an audience of around one thousand however as it will take place as part of the Tartan Day celebrations, the association hope to attract a larger and more diverse audience.

This application seeks support to run a series of youth coaching sessions which will culminate in a local shinty festival on the morning of the Cup Final. It is intended that Shinty's National Development Officer, Ronald Ross MBE, will work alongside Active Schools to run these sessions to over two hundred applications from across the city. Furthermore, coach education will be offered to volunteers with the aim of establishing both a formal junior club as well as a series of after-school activities.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£2000	£2000

## 5.8 Netball Scotland

Netball Scotland have submitted an application seeking support to host an International Test Match Series in Aberdeen. This series would see The Scotland National Open Squad compete against Sri Lanka on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2011 as part of an ongoing programme designed to aid preparation for the 2014 commonwealth games. Despite the popularity of Netball, Netball Scotland is a relatively small governing body and this application seeks support for various costs involved with bringing an international match to Aberdeen. This includes marketing, subsistence for volunteers and accommodation.

This match provides an excellent opportunity to promote the sport in the city and highlight Aberdeen as an international sporting city. This will allow the Aberdeen District Netball Association to promote the sport locally amongst both members and the wider public, using the profile of an international event to increase participation in local netball activities.

Currently no venue has been secured for this event and thus recommendation is provisional. Should the committee approve the recommendation, officers will work with Netball Scotland to source a venue and only once confirmed will the funding be allocated.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£3170	£3170

## 6. IMPACT

The report relates to the Arts, Heritage and Sport strand of the Community Plan, specifically in relation to the Sports, Leisure and Recreation vision of developing Aberdeen as an “Active City”.

The report also links to Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking through Culture, Arts and Sport:

- Increase participation in sport, provide support for athletes and reward excellence
- Recognise the contribution of Sport, Culture and Arts to promoting the area as a tourist destination
- Recognise the role of Sport and Arts in tackling anti-social behaviour

Furthermore the report relates closely to the objectives of “Fit for the Future, the sport and physical activity strategy for Aberdeen City (2009-2015)”. These objectives are:

- Promote and increase opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity for everyone in Aberdeen.
- Provide a comprehensive and high quality range of sports facilities in Aberdeen.
- Maximise social, educational, health and economic benefits of sport and physical activity in Aberdeen.

- Develop and sustain pathways which nurture local, regional and national sporting people to reach their potential.
- Raise the profile of sport in Aberdeen.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**None**

## **8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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Appendix 1

**Summary Table of Financial Assistance Sports Awards 2010/11**

<b>Sports Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Awarded</b>	<b>Committee Approval</b>
Netball Scotland	£678	Education, Culture & Sport 15/04/10
North East Tennis Group	£2000	Education, Culture & Sport 15/04/10
City of Aberdeen Gymnastics	£3400	Education, Culture & Sport 27/05/10
Aberdeen Churches League	£500	Education, Culture & Sport 27/05/10
Scottish Schools Gymnastics	£1000	Education, Culture & Sport 27/05/10
Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association	£10,000	Education, Culture & Sport 27/05/10
Grampian Institute of Sport	£2000	Education, Culture & Sport 27/05/10
Aberdeenshire Ladies County Golf Association	£500	Education, Culture & Sport 27/05/10
Aberdeen Secondary Schools Football Association	£1500	Education, Culture & Sport 16/09/10
The Chris Anderson Trust	£2500	Education, Culture & Sport 16/09/10
Grampian Coaching	£5000	Education, Culture & Sport 16/09/10
Aberdeen Sports Council	£7000	Education, Culture & Sport 16/09/10
Aberdeen Disability Sport	£582.50	Education, Culture & Sport 16/09/10
Young Sports Ambassadors	£175	Education, Culture & Sport 16/09/10
The Royal Life Saving Society	£662.60	Education, Culture & Sport 18/11/10
Grampian Orienteers	£2000.00	Education, Culture and Sport 20/1/11
Aberdeen Dolphin Swimming Club	£2700.00	Education, Culture and Sport 20/1/11
<b>Total Grant Funding Awarded to date</b>		<b>£42,198.10</b>
<b>Grant Funding Remaining</b>		<b>£26,801.90</b>