

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	2nd June 2011
DIRECTOR	Annette Bruton
TITLE OF REPORT	Sports Grants
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/11/032

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:

Aberdeen Disability Sport	£600
City of Aberdeen Gymnastics	£2570
North East of Scotland Lawn Tennis Association	£2000
Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association	£13,000
Scottish Schools Competition (Gymnastics)	£1250
Aberdeen Sports Council	£7000
The Royal Caledonian Curling Club	£5250
Scottish Ballet	£8453

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The sports grants budget for the year 2011/12 is £103,448. Assuming that the recommendations are approved there will be £63,325 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 2011/12 has been set by the Council at £103,448. 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 8th of October 2009 is provided, outlining the assessment process.

The grant criteria is 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 Aberdeen Disability Sport

This grant would allow Aberdeen Disability Sport to offer bowling sessions throughout the season for bowlers in Aberdeen with disabilities. Beyond general participation it will also allow bowlers from the city to participate in the Scottish Disability Sport National Lawn Bowl Championships which, like last year, is to take place at Westburn Outdoor Centre.

Aberdeen Disability Sport is the local voluntary branch of Scottish Disability Sport. The organisation provides opportunities for people to progress in their chosen sport and access quality training and competition. They also work with local sports clubs to promote sport and leisure activities and improve access for those with disabilities.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£600	£600

5.2 City of Aberdeen Gymnastics

This application seeks support in meeting the costs of the 2011 City of Aberdeen Gymnastics (COAG) competition. The competition will cover five disciplines of Gymnastics and is open to participants of all abilities ranging from beginner through to elite level. Over four hundred participants aged eight and upwards are expected, with the event clearly established as a key date in the city’s gymnastics calendar.

Taking place over two days in June at the Beach Leisure Centre, this event will primarily benefit gymnasts from Aberdeen however it does attract participation from other British clubs.

The overall cost of the event which includes all equipment, venue hire and administration costs is £7140. This application seeks support for half of this figure with funds used to part cover specific aspects including hire of the venue and specialised equipment. The remaining costs are covered by the Club through various means including charging an entry fee to both competitors and spectators as well receiving in-kind contributions. The level of funding recommended is based on providing support for half of the relevant costs included in the application.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£3570	£2570

5.3 North East of Scotland Lawn Tennis Association

The North East Tennis Tournament Group (NESLTA) has submitted an application seeking support for both the City of Aberdeen North East Tennis Championships and the North East Indoor Tennis Championships. Both events are held at the Westburn Tennis Centre in July and December respectively.

Each year these competitions attract over three hundred participants ranging from the age of eight through to seventy. As part of a national pathway for competitions in Britain, these competitions play a crucial role in raising the profile of the sport in the city. The tournaments not only attract national participation but also present opportunities for local participants to compete within Aberdeen.

NESLTA has a specific tournament group, all members of whom are volunteers, to organise competitions in the city. The funding requested from Aberdeen City Council within this application is for several costs including equipment, venue hire and referee fees. The overall cost for the tournaments is £7510 with NESLTA gaining income from entry fees while also pursuing funding from external sources

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£2000	£2000

5.4 Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association

Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association (AYRA) have submitted an application seeking support to continue its youth development programme in the city. This programme, which includes the management of a Youth Rugby Development Officer, forms part of an agreement with the Scottish Rugby Union. Following the success of last year international match held in Aberdeen, a partnership between SRU and Aberdeen City Council to support AYRA's youth development programme provides the required legacy.

The main aim of AYRA is to provide physical activity opportunities and promote and develop rugby as a readily accessible and fully inclusive sport to boys, girls, men and women within Aberdeen City. This will be achieved through the employment of a dedicated full time rugby development officer. The players introduced to the sport will have pathways to continue their rugby development through the local city rugby clubs.

The benefits of this include:

- Increased opportunities for participation at grass roots level and development of player pathway. Increase in curricular rugby and development of school club links.
- Higher standards of coaching and playing delivered through player development sessions and coach education courses.
- It is expected to reach up to 1000 primary aged children in schools and 500 secondary aged children through curriculum and extra curricular sessions.

The Development Officer will work closely with the city's Active Schools team and secondary PE departments to support an enhanced programme of school based "taster" curricular and extra curricular activities including the promotion of after school rugby clubs and the development of school teams and competitions. Pupils will have the opportunity to experience rugby with school friends at an assessable environment. These clubs also give the pupils the opportunity to develop skills and experience which will allow them to join an established junior club within the city without feeling intimidated by their lack of knowledge.

Outside school there will be development of participation and involvement through the local clubs by encouraging and supporting young people to become active members of the club youth and adult sections as players, coaches, referees or volunteers.

The Development Officer will be link with the junior clubs in the city and will act as the "known" face at the club to assist the transition from school to club involvement on club evening and weekend sessions. Player development programmes will be planned and implemented through the clubs to increase player enjoyment, improve playing standards and promote lifelong involvement in the sport.

The sport will be played in safe, fun, community based environments at local rugby clubs and community venues closely linked to local schools, colleges and the wider community. There will be a particular drive to make the game accessible through identifying appropriate locations for activities and to promote activity among underrepresented groups such as teenage girls and women, economically disadvantaged and marginalised people and ethnic minority groups.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£13,000	£13,000

5. 5 Scottish Schools Competition (Gymnastics)

This application is seeking support towards the Scottish Schools Gymnastics Regional Heats. The event, taking place at Aberdeen Sports Village, is aimed at both primary and secondary schools based in Aberdeen. Last year, over three hundred children from twenty three different city schools participated. This event is a Scottish Gymnastics competition and not only increases wider participation in Gymnastics but increases the profile of the sport in the City.

The overall cost of the event is £2500 which includes venue hire, equipment and judges fees. The terms and conditions of the sports grants mean that any grant can only cover fifty percent of the overall cost of an event. As such, this recommendation represents half the overall cost.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£2500	£1250

5.6 Aberdeen Sports Council

This request is for an annual programme grant to support the work of the Aberdeen Sports Council. The Aberdeen Sports Council provides essential advisory and financial support to the member sports clubs in the city. They also provide grant funding to both individual athletes and coaches within a variety of sports.

The Sports Councils main objectives include:

- To promote interest and participation in Sport and Recreation among sportsmen, women and children within the City of Aberdeen.
- To assist in co-coordinating the activities of the various Sports and Recreational Organisations within the City of Aberdeen.
- To assist with the formation of Sports Clubs and Recreational Organisations where none exist, or where existing clubs need help.
- To award grants to sportsmen, women and children within Aberdeen and help them in their pursuit of excellence.

This funding would be used to support the administration of the Sports Council, the scholarship programme for local volunteers, the grant scheme for local sports men and women and other costs including insuring fund raising events. Historically, a Sports Grant from Aberdeen City Council has been the principle funding received by the Sports Council however they consistently fundraise and also charge an affiliation fee to member clubs and organisations.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£7000	£7000

5.7 Royal Caledonian Curling Club

This is a request for continued partnership funding in support of the position of a Curling Development Officer, based at Curl Aberdeen. A Curling Development Officer has been in post since 2002, initially on a part time basis and since 2007 on a full time basis. This request would allow the partnership with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, Curl Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council to continue and build on the development of curling in Aberdeen City.

The Curling development Officer has works with the Active Schools team to introduce primary and secondary schools in the city to Curling. This includes in-school 'dry sessions' and volunteer workshops as well as a wide range of extra-curricular and club activity based at Curl Aberdeen. This activity and the role of the officer are continually monitored through regular performance reports and a partnership steering group.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£5250	£5250

5.8 Scottish Ballet

This application relates to 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 and would represent a flagship Olympic themed event for the city.

The overall cost of the project across two years is £78,000 with £46,000 secured from alternative sources. The remaining costs are currently being pursued with Aberdeen City Council confirming part funding of £7870 from the Sports Grants budget in the 2010/11 financial year. The remaining funds required to complete the first year of the project were originally sought by Scottish Ballet from the 2011/12 Cultural Grants programme however in light of the increased competition for these grants, the application was referred to the Sports Grants programme.

This recommendation would allow for the first year of the project to be completed leaving approximately £16,000 remaining to be found in order to carry the project into a second year. Should this recommendation be approved, Scottish Ballet will be encouraged to apply solely to the Cultural Grants programme for the 2012/13 financial year. This would ensure that any potential investment in the project from Aberdeen City Council could be split evenly between the Sport and Cultural grants.

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 30th 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 carry out 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 in 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.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£8453	£8453

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

‘Sports Grants’ – Education, Culture & Sport Committee, 24th March 2011

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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