

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	15th September 2011
DIRECTOR	Annette Bruton
TITLE OF REPORT	Sports Grants
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/11/048

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before the Committee applications for financial assistance from sports organisations and makes a recommendation for these applications.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

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

Aberdeen Secondary Schools Football Association	£1,500
Active Schools – Young Ambassadors	£720

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The sports grants budget for the 2011/12 financial year is £103,448. Assuming that the recommendation is approved there will be £61,105 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. Sports Grants application forms and guidelines are available on the Aberdeen City Council website. These documents are also available in hard copy upon request.

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 Secondary Schools Football Association

Aberdeen Secondary Schools Football Association (ASSFA) has an objective of providing organised football for pupils attending Secondary Schools within Aberdeen City. Membership of the association is open to all Secondary Schools in the City.

The purpose of this funding request is to enable the ASSFA to continue to organise competitions for all pupils who attend affiliated schools. Overall it is projected that over 1,000 pupils made up of both boys and girls would take part in the inter-school competitions ranging from Under 13 through to senior level. These tournaments are played after-school and on Saturday mornings with many volunteers including teachers responsible for organising and officiating. The grant requested would also allow teams from Aberdeen to continue to represent the City nationally at Girl's Under 15 and Boy's Under 15 and senior level.

Furthermore, this application has also indicated the funding would be used for payment to referees. Currently referees are in short supply and the Association is looking to use funds to consider paying referees as an incentive and also to cover referee training classes for senior pupils.

The ASSFA received Sports Grants of £1,500 in 2009 and 2010, and no evidence of development from previous applications has been received. This sentence is not clear, if grant conditions have not been met this needs to be overt.. As such, this recommendation is for the same amount as previous years. The association has indicated that this level of grant would be sufficient for this financial year and will allow them to continue to explore options for additional funding from other sources. A group which is looking specifically at external funding has been set up within the ASSFA and officers within the council will offer additional support as required. It is hoped that attracting external funding will, from the next financial year, increase the sustainability of their activity.

Officers will also work with the ASSFA to ensure their activity is continually aligned to the Scottish Football Association's Youth Action Plan. This grant, should it be approved by committee, will be dependant on the ASSFA's ability to follow this national action plan.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£5,000	£1,500

5.2 Active Schools – Young Ambassadors Programme

The Young Ambassador programme is a volunteer led initiative which works with young people aged 14-19 and forms part of the Games Legacy for the city. Young volunteers are trained as ambassadors and develop skills which allow them to promote the importance of sport and physical activity amongst other young people in Aberdeen. They receive full training including at least one formal qualification in child protection, first-aid or leadership.

The role of ambassadors is embedded within schools and communities and involves increasing participation, promoting active and health lifestyles and spreading the word of the Olympic and Paralympic values. The young ambassadors are provided with continual support from the Sport Aberdeen Active Schools team who, along with guidance, help establish sporting sessions which are open to school pupils from throughout the city. These sessions provide a practical opportunity for the ambassadors to implement the skills they have acquired throughout the programme.

This funding request relates to providing the opportunity for the five young ambassadors in the city to attend the conference and training opportunities available as part of the programme. As this is a national programme many of the events are outside of Aberdeen and, should this grant recommendation be approved, the funding would be used towards the travel costs incurred as well as the training and equipment.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£720	£720

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

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix 1

Summary Table of Financial Assistance Sports Awards 2011/12

Sports Organisation	Funding Awarded	Committee Approval
Aberdeen Disability Sport	£600	Education, Culture & Sport 02/06/11
City of Aberdeen Gymnastics	£2,570	Education, Culture & Sport 02/06/11
North East of Scotland Lawn Tennis Association	£2,000	Education, Culture & Sport 02/06/11
Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association	£13,000	Education, Culture & Sport 02/06/11
Scottish Schools Competition (Gymnastics)	£1,250	Education, Culture & Sport 02/06/11
Aberdeen Sports Council	£7,000	Education, Culture & Sport 02/06/11
The Royal Caledonian Curling Club	£5,250	Education, Culture & Sport 02/06/11
Scottish Ballet	£8,453	Education, Culture & Sport 02/06/11
Total Grant Funding Awarded to date	£40,123	
Grant Funding Remaining	£63,325	