

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance & Resources
DATE	29 September 2011
DIRECTOR	Annette Bruton
TITLE OF REPORT	Application for Round 2 Funding -Youth Activities Small Grants Fund 2011/12
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/11/061

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report sets out the recommendations made by the Youth Activities Grant Funding Group for the second round of funding for the financial year 2011/12, the closing date for which was 21 July 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- a. consider the summary of applications and ratify the Funding Groups recommendations and
- b. Instruct the Head of Service, Communities, Culture and Sport to arrange for distribution of the funds.
- c. Approve the changes to the funding process as outlined in section 4.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The council approved the Youth Activities Grant Budget for £50,000 from the Common Good Fund for the year 2011/12 at Finance and Resource Committee on 10 February 2011

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The current system used for applying and approving funding results in payments being made too late for activities or events to proceed. This is due to the committee cycle being so lengthy. Further problems arise with the payments systems and we have recently seen several groups still not having received funding several months after it being approved.

After discussion with the Funding Group, Officers recommend that a new system being approved:

- Applications to be accepted at any time during the year.

- Funding Group to meet on a Monthly basis, and discuss all applications.
- Senior Officers (Gail Woodcock/Linda Murray/Craig Singer) be enabled to authorise payments immediately as advised by the Funding Group.
- All decision, spending and comments to be reported to this committee **for information**.

These changes to the process would ensure that groups are able to plan within reasonable timescales and activities would take place as planned due to payments being made within a reasonable timescale.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- a. Representatives from: The Aberdeen City Youth Council, the Vice Convenor of Finance and Resources, the Chair of the Aberdeen Children and Young People's Services Strategic Planning Group or their nominated representatives and one other elected member consider the applications on behalf of the Finance and Resources Committee and are known as the Funding Group.
- b. The closing date for this round of funding was 21 July 2011. The Funding Group considered the applications on 2 August 2011.
- c. **8** new applications were received for this round. It is recommended that **7** of those are funded. Appendix 1 holds the detail of applications received and the recommendations made. If council approves the applications, there will be £20,418.07 remaining. As is usual, a folder containing the full original copies of all the applications received will be available in the Members' Library. The Funding Group has also requested that a copy of all reports provided by groups, following the spending of their award, is also made available in the Members Library as and when the reports are available.

6. IMPACT

The report supports priorities of a Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking Aberdeen, and the Council's Partner's commitment to develop integrated services for children and young people. In the policy statement "Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking" the Council sets out its aims to make Aberdeen an even better place to live and work. The Youth Activities Small Grant Funding, by promoting the involvement of young people, contributes to this aim. It links to the Strengthening Local Democracy Strategy, Getting Involved and Neighbourhood Action Challenges of the Community Plan. It also links to the Community Safety Strategy and the Action Plan for Crime Reduction.

The Youth Activities Small Grants Fund contributes positively to equal opportunities. In particular, clear positive impacts have been identified for the following groups: young people in general; young people

with disabilities both in terms of the impact of the activities funded and in terms of involving young disabled people; (there is a requirement under the Disability Equality Duty to encourage participation by people with disabilities in public life); young Gypsy/ Travellers; and Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual young people.

The Youth Activities Small Grant Funding offers young people opportunities to contribute to the life of the city and to their communities. Young people receiving funding are likely to benefit in terms of experience, confidence and skills, and therefore contribute to Single Outcome Agreement 4.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – shows the detail of received applications and recommendations being made to committee regarding funding.

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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