

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	29 September 2011
DIRECTOR	Stewart Carruth
TITLE OF REPORT	Applications for Financial Assistance 2011/12
REPORT NUMBER	CG/11/132

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present applications for financial assistance which has recently been received and to allow members to make a decision on providing funding from the financial assistance budget.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee review the applications and suggested funding levels and approve funding from the financial assistance budget considers appropriate.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial assistance budget for 2011/12 was originally £54k. Prior to this Committee, approvals for support to partner organisations, affiliation fees and grants have amounted to £43k. If approval were given to the suggested funding levels detailed in this report then a balance of £42k will be available for future applications.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The City Council will within financial constraints seek to support the voluntary sector and partnerships with the local community. All applicants will be given equal consideration within the general criteria for the disbursement of grants and donations from this budget

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

If the proposed assistance is not provided it may raise issues on the sustainability of organisations or their ability to hold specific events which will bring or provide benefits to the City of Aberdeen and its citizens.

6. REPORT

Main Considerations

6.1 In considering ad-hoc applications for grants or donations the following general criteria are applied -

a) applications from individuals seeking sponsorship, for taking part in fund-raising events abroad or for placements with charitable organisations or trusts in developing countries, are declined.

b) applications from individuals or groups seeking assistance towards costs of excursions outwith the City are declined.

c) applications which tend not to be supported are those from national organisations unless there was some clear and measurable local benefit, and health related applications which are seen as the clear responsibility of the health authorities.

d) on a number of occasions assistance is provided to both local and national organisations, either in whole or in part, with the costs of hiring accommodation such as the Beach Ballroom for various fund-raising events and gatherings.

Application

6.2 Dancesport Scotland (email attached)

A request has been received from Dancesport Scotland to defray the costs of hiring the Beach Ballroom, in order to host their "Northern Trophy Day", North of Scotland Open Competition at the Beach Ballroom on 2nd October 2011.

The cost of hiring the Beach Ballroom for the event has been set at £850, which would prohibit the event taking place as the level of cost will not be recoverable by the organisation. Normally this type of event is held in the Central Belt with North East competitors having to travel.

A sum of £800 was awarded last year to cover the cost of the Beach Ballroom hire to support this event and a similar sum may be considered appropriate to be awarded again this year.

6.3 Grampian Senior Citizens Forum (letter attached)

A request for financial assistance towards the cost of travel and accommodation for representatives of the above group to attend the national pensioners convention in Blackpool.

Previously funding has been provided from various revenue budgets within the City Council, including the equal opportunities and the elderly and disabled events team budgets however there is presently no scope for these to accommodate a request from the Forum. The request received refers to the Common Good funding however this has never been provided as this would not be an applicable use for the Common Good.

A last resort has been to request that the funding be sought from this financial assistance budget. Based on the criteria that apply to this budget, as detailed in 6.1 above, the application does not fall within the criteria and as such it is suggested that no funding is provided to the Forum.

7. IMPACT

Financial support from this budget can provide beneficial impact to those citizens and local organisations that make application and provide an opportunity to support the objective within the vision of being a Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking council.


8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Attached Email and Letter

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Jonathan Belford
Corporate Accounting Manager

jbelford@aberdeencity.gov.uk

 (52) 2573

Reference 6.2

Email From: Margo Fraser Dancesport Scotland

Further to our telephone conversation I write to confirm that we wish to apply for financial assistance for the Northern Trophy Day to be held in the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen on Sunday 2nd October 2011.

As you know we have been organising this event since 2004 for our Aberdeen members and as the Governing Body for Dancesport in Scotland have been fortunate to receive financial assistance for the past 4 years.

The event is organised purely for our Aberdeen members who are aware that we could not afford to run this popular event without a grant. The Beach Ballroom have advised us that the cost of this year's hire is £850 and the booking is provisional dependent on financial assistance.

We would be grateful if you could process our application.

Thanking you.

Kind regards

Margo Fraser
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

Reference 6.3

GRAMPIAN SENIOR CITIZENS FORUM

*Chairman: George Thomson
56 Spital, Aberdeen AB24 3JU
Telephone: 01224 647 493*

City of
Aberdeen

21 JUN 2011

20th June 2011

Valerie Watts
Chief Executive
Aberdeen City Council
St Nicholas House
Broad Street
AB10 1AR

Dear Madam

Common Good Fund Allocation

In past years Grampian Senior Citizens Forum has been favourably considered by Aberdeen Council in its application for funding. Each year we conjoin with the Trade Unions and attend the National Pensioners Convention in Blackpool. Many believe this is the biggest and most important National Conference for Pensioners in Britain. The deliberations from this event have serious repercussions for all concerned and it is one of the few avenues which enable the elderly in Britain to hold our politicians to account. The promises at elections can be scrutinised and questioned at this meeting by those affected by the pronouncements of our elected representatives. It is self-evident that this is a major event in the calendar for Pensioners' Concerns and attendance at it an essential interchange between interested groups. Our organisation has previously been allocated funding from Aberdeen Common Good Fund and it is hoped that to enable us to meet the costs of this year's event, sympathetic consideration be given to that funding. The volunteer delegates stay for a week in Blackpool and contribute a major share of the expenditure themselves. The transport costs for the hired bus and

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accommodation have risen quite a bit since last year but our budget has been such that these increases have been met. However without the funding from the Common Good Fund, our participation next year would be in jeopardy and the representation from Aberdeen seriously restricted.

I trust that our application will be given sympathetic consideration by the Trustees of the Fund. Without it, Grampian Senior Citizens Forum could be denied their once in a year chance to allow the feelings of our City to be aired at National level.

Yours faithfully,

George Paterson
Secretary.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Paterson", written in dark ink.