

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture and Sport**

DATE: **24th November 2011**

DIRECTOR: **Annette Bruton**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/11/068**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before the Committee an application for financial assistance from two sports organisations and makes recommendations for these applications.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

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

Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club	£4,000
Aberdeen Schools Shinty Club	£560
London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp – Cameroon	£15,000

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 £41,545 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 Amateur Athletics Club

Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club (Aberdeen AAC) are working with **scottishathletics** to develop and implement a 'club together' partnership project. The club has a vision that falls in line with the National Strategy for Athletics in Scotland, to increase the number of citizens in Aberdeen participating in athletics and to improve the performance of athletes in the City with talent and aptitude to do so.

The current membership of Aberdeen AAC is 279 members and for the duration of this project they intend to double this, ensuring that the club plays a greater role in broadening community participation and creating pathways to excellence.

The main outcomes of the project are to:

- Promote and increase opportunities for everyone in Aberdeen to participate in athletics no matter what their age, ability or background
- The project will identify and remove barriers to participation in 'hard to reach' groups and increase participation in these groups as well as supporting the delivery of other social targets
- The project will develop and sustain volunteer and athlete pathways that will nurture local to Regional and National athletics representatives as well as helping everyone reach their full potential
- Work in partnership to improve the standard of coaching and volunteering within the City with a specific impact in athletics
- The Club (through the project) will develop relationships with various national partners to promote Aberdeen Sports Village as a host to various national competitions with a priority on the International Celtic Games in 2012
- Work together to maximise available funding and resource opportunities (The Club, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Sports Village, **scottishathletics** and other local partners e.g. education)

The purpose of this funding request is to allow the operational delivery of this partnership project over a two-year period, against which a further application will be presented to Committee. In 2012 –13 the estimated value of this future commitment is £3,500 should the grant be awarded. Aberdeen AAC will be one of fifteen pilot clubs in Scotland and already demonstrate a willingness to develop and a readiness to embrace change. **Scottishathletics** and Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club will jointly fund the appointment of a part time club development officer with the grant from Aberdeen City Council being used to

support the operational implementation of this project, by up-skilling new and existing coaches and volunteers.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£4,000	£4,000

5.2 Aberdeen Schools Shinty Club

Aberdeen Schools Shinty Club is a newly constituted club which aims to provide more opportunities for children and young people to participate in Shinty following the Sutherland Cup final which took place at Kings College in July 2011.

The club meets once a week at Duthie Park where coaching sessions delivered by qualified volunteers are available to secondary aged young people. Over the next year the club hope to expand by entering an Aberdeen team in the Cammanachd Association Development Leagues allowing players to compete against young people of a similar age and skill level.

The application received seeks support towards start up funding to allow the club to purchase 10 helmets. Helmets are compulsory for all young people under 17 year of age playing competitive games and matches on the grounds of safety and the nature of the competitive game.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£1,000	£560

5.3 London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp – Cameroon

In 2008, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) published a list of Pre-Games Training Camp venues, based on an audit of elite sporting facilities across the United Kingdom. This identified venues in which teams and individuals could choose to prepare for London 2012 based on strict technical criteria.

These pre game camps are designed to give athletes the opportunity to train and acclimatise ahead of the games. Within the list four, first class Aberdeen facilities were rightly recognised as accredited venues by LOCOG; Aberdeen Sports Village, Denwood Shooting Range, Robert Gordons College and RGU:Sport.

Aberdeen Sports Village and The Robert Gordon University approached Aberdeen City Council who jointly held discussions with the Chef de Mission of the National Olympic Committee of Cameroon to host the 2012 Cameroon Olympic Team in the city. It is envisaged that the delegation, which will be in the region of 45 – 60 athletes and support staff (subject to qualification) across ten Olympic sports, will be based at the Linksfeld Halls of Residence and train at the Aberdeen Sports Village and RGU:Sport between the 2nd and 16th July 2012.

Hosting this pre games training camp will not only raise the profile of the London 2012 games in Aberdeen but also the profile of Aberdeen in the world through sustainable sporting, cultural and economic relationships. In addition alongside the direct economic benefit of the training camp, it is likely that the city will benefit as the team makes use of local social and leisure facilities and cultural venues.

This funding grant from Aberdeen City Council will contribute to the overall budget to host Cameroon and ensure that the visit has an impact and lasting legacy within the city. Within the guidance of the Sports Grants it states that grants up to £10,000 are available however in exceptional circumstances applications over this amount will be considered. Due to the profile of this activity, its international connections and future impact on the city it is felt that this application demonstrates an exceptional circumstance and it is therefore recommended that this funding amount is agreed.

During the pre games camp it is expected that local communities can experience engagement with the Cameroon Olympic athletes and support staff. There will also be opportunities from local athletes, coaches, business and school children to interact and learn for the international athletes and coaches. Officers will sit on and liaise with the Pre Games Working Group to ensure maximum benefit for the city is achieved.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£15,000	£15,000

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
Aberdeen Secondary Schools Football Association	£1,500	Education, Culture & Sport 15/09/11
Active Schools – Young Ambassadors	£720	Education, Culture & Sport 15/09/11
Total Grant Funding Awarded to date	£42,343	
Grant Funding Remaining	£61,105	