

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE: Education, Culture and Sport  
DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
ACTING DIRECTOR: Patricia Cassidy  
TITLE OF REPORT: Sports Grants  
REPORT NUMBER: ECS/12/021

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

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

Aberdeen Rugby League Club	£640
Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association	£13,000
Stoneywood – Dyce Cricket Club	£0

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The sports grants budget for the 2012/13 financial year is £98,181. Assuming that the recommendation is approved there will be £84,541 remaining in this budget.

An additional sum of £25,000 was agreed by Council in February to support sports activity for young people. This will be the subject of future reports to Committee and is not covered in this report.

### 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 2012/13 has been set by the Council at £103,703.00. Sports Grants application forms and guidelines are available on the Aberdeen City Council website [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sportsgrant](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sportsgrant). These documents are also available in hard copy upon request.

The grant criteria are 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.

Officers support organisations with feedback and information about how to improve the quality of their application, where deadlines allow, and if it is requested. For more information about frequent reasons for resubmission, deferral or rejection please see appendix 1.

### **5.1 Aberdeen Rugby League Club**

Aberdeen Rugby League Club (ARLC) are a newly constituted club which aim to provide opportunities for residents to participate in the sport. The club have a vision to become Scotland’s top Rugby League side and attract national fixtures to the city. They currently have one adult team and two junior team competing at under 15 and 17 age group and are looking to create two additional squads this year.

The main outcomes of the project are to:

- Increase participation through provision of coaches to run sessions in schools
- Increase female participation via provision of coaching for a ladies squad
- Increase club participation through running additional under 17 and adult squads
- Increase the number of qualified coaches and volunteers leading to a better quality coaching and volunteer base and a more sustainable club.

The purpose of the funding request is for financial assistance towards helping the club to expand during 2012 and beyond. This will be through supporting the purchase of new kit, equipment, travel costs and by funding individuals to attend coach education.

The full amount requested on the application was £4895. It is recommended that the sports grant funding provide financial assistance of £640 towards the equipment purchase and coach education level 2 costs elements. The full request is not recommended for approval as it does not fully meet the criteria of the sports grant, does not evidence impact on development of sport locally and can be supported by other funding streams such as **sportscotland**.

In return for this the club will support the delivery of rugby league coaching to senior 1 and 2 pupils at the Aberdeen Grammar school and continue to work towards ClubCAP, Aberdeen city's club accreditation scheme.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£4895	£640

## 5.2 Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association

Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association (AYRA) has submitted an application seeking support for continued partnership funding in support of a Rugby Development Officer in the City.

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 main outcomes of this project are to:

- Increase the number of participants at schools and clubs participating in rugby
- Increase in the number of secondary schools playing rugby and participating in local, regional and national levels of competition.
- Increase in the number of quality of coaches in Aberdeen City to improve the quality and safety of coaching at all age groups in schools and clubs.

The Development Officer will work closely with the City's Active Schools Network and secondary PE departments to support an enhanced programme of school based 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 the 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.

AYRA is currently being reviewed by Officers as part of PBB option ECS C10, the Root and Branch Review of Commissioned Arts and Sports services. The findings related to this budget saving will be reported to Elected members in March 2013. This will provide comprehensive recommendations for the future allocation of budgets to local sports organisations that have received a significant investment from Aberdeen City Council over the past few years and may result in some realignment of the City's investment in the sport of rugby.

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

### **5.3 Stoneywood – Dyce Cricket Club**

Stoneywood Dyce Cricket Club was formed in 1991 from an amalgamation of neighbouring Stoneywood Cricket Club and Dyce Cricket Club with the club currently occupying an area adjacent to the airport.

The club has three adult teams and alongside this has been creating a vibrant junior section who compete at under 11, 13, 15 and 17 level.

The application received from the club seeks a substantial amount of financial support towards the installation of a two bay fixed practice area and the upgrading of junior changing facilities.

Elected members may be aware that Aberdeen City Council has recently invested in the installation of three artificial cricket pitches in the city at Harlaw Road Playing Field, Hazlehead Academy and finally Harlaw Academy playing fields. These pitches show a commitment to the development of cricket in the city for all.

Unfortunately the application submitted by Stoneywood Dyce Cricket Club does not meet the criteria of the sports grants as budgets cannot be used for capital work. Should this funding recommendation be agreed, Officers will meet with the club to support them to identify other funding streams which may be more appropriate to their needs.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
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£10,000	£0 application does not meet criteria
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#### **5.4 Review of External Investment for Culture and Sport**

The PBB option ECS C\_10, Root and branch review of commissioned arts and sports services is currently being conducted by Officers in the Education, Culture and Sport Directorate. Recommendations relating to this review, designed to achieve significant budget savings and to improve the return on the City's investment in external culture and sports providers, will be presented to Elected Members in Spring 2013. The sports grants programme is subject to that review, and as such, Officers are working with several of the sports Grant supported organisations to assess the impacts of their work in the City, and will make recommendations accordingly.

#### **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 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**

Grant applications from AYRA, Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association and Stoneywood-Dyce cricket club lodged in the Members Library.

#### **8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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## **Appendix 1**

**Sports Grants** – Please find below frequent reasons for resubmission, deferral or rejection of funding applications

- Application forms not fully completed or illegible
- The benefits of the initiative do not clearly show the primary benefit is to residents of the City, but to a wider demographic
- Projects do not have clear outputs or outcomes
- Match funding is either not confirmed (in which case an application is deferred) or indicated.
- There is no evidence of need ascertained, of wider benefit, and/or there is evidence of duplication of services already supported by Aberdeen City Council
- The organisation or Club has outstanding debt with Aberdeen City Council
- The club cannot meet FPHP (Following the Public Pound) guidance and/or has not submitted reports against previous grant allocations
- The group or club is not constituted as required by the grants criteria
- The group or club does not have a bank account with two authorised signatories
- Applications for transport represent a significant proportion of the grant with no evidence of participants subsidising travel
- Requests to visit or train at facilities out with the City may be rejected if similar facilities are available locally
- Projects or requests for staffing do not evidence any forward planning recognising future stability
- Standards of coaching or volunteering do not meet acceptable standards
- There are inadequate or no monitoring and evaluation plans

### **Feedback and additional support**

Council Officers from a variety of backgrounds and knowledge work together to assess the wider value to the sports sector of each application.

Where time permits, Aberdeen City Council staff will contact organisations on receipt of their applications to seek clarification or further information. This is not always possible when applications are received very close to the deadline for Committee reports. Organisations are offered a telephone call or a face to face meeting to help improve their applications.

Where applications are recommended for deferral or rejection, organisations are contacted and offered verbal or written feedback to support a resubmission.

In addition, Officers provide advice and support to sports organisations with application to Awards for All, and other small sports grants funding streams.