

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	21 June 2012
DIRECTOR	Stewart Carruth
TITLE OF REPORT	Applications for Financial Assistance 2012/13
REPORT NUMBER	CG/12/064

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to present applications for financial assistance which have recently been received by the Head of Finance 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 as it considers appropriate.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial assistance budget for 2012/13 is £54,000. If approval were given to the suggested funding levels detailed in this report then a balance of £51,350 will be available for future applications.

4. **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.

5. **BACKGROUND**

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 fundraising 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.

Applications

5.1 Donor Sessions at the Music Hall - Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (letter attached)

A request has been received on behalf of Aberdeen & North East Transfusion Services to consider providing financial assistance towards the cost of three donor sessions during 2012/13.

Similar applications in previous years have seen the award of £500 and it is suggested that the same level of funding be approved for 2012/13.

5.2 Annual Alcoholic Anonymous Convention – Aberdeen & District Gathering Committee (letter attached)

A request has been received from the local secretary of Alcoholics Anonymous to consider providing financial assistance towards the cost of the annual convention in the Beach Ballroom. We have been advised that the cost of hiring the Beach Ballroom for this event is £2,400.

Similar applications in previous years have seen the award of £800 and it is suggested that the same level of funding be approved for the 2012 event.

5.3 European Association of Registrars (EAR) Annual Congress (letter attached)

A request has been received on behalf of the Association of Registrars in Scotland (AROS) to consider providing a minimum contribution of £500 towards the cost of providing a translation service at this event.

The Council's registration staff are members of AROS which is itself a member of EAR. EAR holds an annual congress in one of its member states with Scotland being invited to host the event in May 2013. This is the first time the congress will have been held in the UK and provides an opportunity for all local councils to become involved in the event. The congress will take place in Edinburgh and along with promoting our capital city will be promoting local council areas.

An important part of organising the congress is to make sure every delegate can understand the topics being discussed and therefore a translation service is provided at a cost of approximately £13,000.

It is suggested that an award of £500 be made.

5.4 Northern Trophy Day – Dancesport Scotland (copy e-mail attached)

A request has been received on behalf of the Aberdeen and North of Scotland members to consider providing financial assistance towards the cost of hiring the Beach Ballroom for this event. The cost of hiring the Beach Ballroom is £850.

Similar applications in previous years have seen the award of the full £850 cost and it is suggested that the same level of funding be approved for the 2012 event.

6. 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.

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.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS


Attached letters/e-mail

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Sandra Buthlay

Senior Accountant

sbuthlay@aberdeencity.gov.uk

 (52) 2565

Reference 5.1



Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service
Aberdeen & North East Scotland
Blood Transfusion Centre
Foresterhill Road
Foresterhill
Aberdeen AB25 2ZW



Telephone 01224 685 685
0845 90 90 999 (Donor Enquiries)
Fax 01224 695 351

www.scotblood.co.uk



Mr Mark Youngson
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1AH

Date 28 February 2012
Your Ref
Our Ref VS/DR

Enquiries to Victoria Shirran
Direct Line 01224 812455
Fax 01224 695351

Dear Mr Youngson

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST – DONOR SESSIONS AT THE MUSIC HALL

Following the success of the donor sessions that we held in the Music Hall in the past 12 months, I once again wish to request your financial assistance from the Aberdeen City Council for three proposed sessions for the coming year.

With ample space, room for confidential areas and comfort for our attending donors, The Music Hall provides an ideal venue for the purpose of a Donor Session. It's central position also affords us the attendance of not only regular donors who work in the city centre but the prospect of attracting passing visitors or potential new donors.

It is our hope once again to include The Music Hall in our 2012/2013 programme three times over the coming year. Our dates are Thursday 12 July 2012, Thursday 11 October 2012 and Thursday 7 March 2013. Due to limited resources to fund hall hire, I request on behalf of Aberdeen & North East Blood Transfusion Services, Aberdeen City Council's consideration for financial assistance in this area.

I would ask that when discussions take place regarding our request, consideration be given to the fact that we aim to provide a crucial service for the people of Aberdeen and the North East at all times and your support enables us to do that both efficiently and cost effectively.

Thanking you for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

VICTORIA SHIRLAN
Donor Services Office Manager



NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service.

Reference 5.2



19 March 2012

Aberdeen City Council
Finance Department
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB11 1AH

178205

Dear Mr Whyte,

As local secretary of Alcoholics Anonymous, I am writing to you on behalf of the Aberdeen and District Gathering committee. The committee is responsible for organising the annual A.A. convention in the city.

Alcoholics Anonymous within Aberdeen and District is growing each year and provides invaluable hope and support to many individuals and families within the community.

Although our fellowship is self-supporting through its own contributions, the support of our local authority plays a vital role in ensuring we can continue to provide this event.

As you are no doubt aware, we have held our annual convention at the Beach Ballroom for some years now and have again booked the venue from 24-26 August for the 2012 event.

The cost of hiring the Beach Ballroom has risen this year and, given that Alcoholics Anonymous is a non-profit making organisation operating within very tight financial constraints, we are wondering if it might be possible to offset this by raising the level of discount granted to us?

The council has been generous in their support of this event in the past and we trust that once again our request will be viewed favourably at the next finance monitoring sub committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours sincerely,

Peter Thomson
Secretary
Aberdeen & District Gathering

Reference 5.3



The Association of Registrars of Scotland Est. 1865

28 March 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

I am contacting you on behalf of the Association for Registrars of Scotland (AROS) of which your registration staff are members, AROS works closely with the National Records of Scotland (NRS), Local Authorities and other Government Departments, giving professional advice on registration procedures and taking part in working groups when changes of legislation are being introduced. We have also been invited to attend Parliamentary Committees to give views on registration issues.

AROS has been representing Scottish Local Authority Registrars since 1865 and is one of the oldest established Professional Associations within Local Authority and is certainly the oldest Registrars Association in Europe.

Our only funding is from member's subscriptions (£12 per annum) but this helps us provide a valuable networking group for Registrars and Assistant Registrars. As an Association we are very pro-active in contributing towards a workable and customer friendly registration system.

In 2004, AROS was formally granted membership of the Europäischer Verband der Standesbeamtinnen und Standesbeamten (EVS) otherwise known as the European Association of Registrars (EAR). Since then National Records of Scotland (NRS) have paid our yearly membership to EAR, for which we are extremely grateful.

The EAR holds an annual Congress in one of its Member States and AROS has been represented at several events over the years. The Member States are Austria, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Scotland, Switzerland, England and Slovenia. Observers from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Luxembourg, Macedonia,

Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Turkey also attend. The annual congresses are well attended by hundreds of delegates who are eager to learn about the registration systems and legislation from other countries.

Scotland has been invited to host this annual congress in May 2013. This is a great privilege and honour for Scotland as this will be the first time in its history that the EAR annual congress will have been held in the UK. It will be a great opportunity for all local councils to become involved in this event. The congress will take place in Edinburgh and along with promoting our capital city we will be promoting our local council areas along with giving staff the opportunity to be part of this historic event.

In May 2013 we hope the number of delegates will be 100 – 150 plus their spouses/partners all coming to Scotland perhaps for the first time, a huge opportunity for us to promote Scotland as a place for them all to visit again in the future.

Although the delegates pay for their own flights and accommodation (or their Association does) we still have an enormous amount of funds to raise. One of the most important parts of organising the congress is to make sure every delegate will be able to understand the topics being discussed therefore we have to provide a simultaneous translation service with 6 translators in 4 different languages and all their equipment hire. The average cost we have been quoted for this is over £13,000.

AROS would like to ask if your council would be willing to contribute/sponsor this part of the congress. A suggested minimum figure of £500.00 would be appreciated but anything above this figure, even more so. This would ensure that we would be able to raise the funds required to make this congress a huge success and in the process raise the Registration Service profile.

I look forward to hearing from you and would appreciate a reply by the 27 April 2012.

Yours sincerely

Shirley Dickie
President, Association of Registrars of Scotland

Please reply to:
Alison Reynolds, EAR Congress Co-ordinator

Telephone: 0131 529 2600
Or Mail: Registrars Office
59/63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1RN

Reference 5.4

FROM MARGO FRASER; DANCESPORT SCOTLAND

NORTHERN TROPHY DAY - 14TH OCTOBER 2012
BALLROOM AND LATIN AMERICAN DANCE COMPETITION
BEACH BALLROOM, ABERDEEN

Dear Mr Parrott

Further to the writer's telephone conversation with you we write to confirm our request for funding for the above.

At the request of our Aberdeen and North of Scotland members we have been organising this event since 2004. Initially the Northern Dance Club in Aberdeen applied for the grant but because of circumstances and as the official Governing Body and sole organiser we took over the application for assistance which we have been fortunate to receive for the past 5 years. The assistance has been the amount to cover the cost of the hire of the Beach Ballroom. (normally paid directly by the Council to the Ballroom)

The Northern Trophy Day is organised purely for our Aberdeen and North of Scotland members and they are aware that we could not afford to run this event without assistance. The Beach Ballroom have advised us that the cost of this year's hire is as last year i.e. £850.00. We have booked the hall and advised them that, as usual, the booking is provisional dependent on financial assistance.

I attach a breakdown of our approximate costs for last year's event. As you will see we made a small profit of £35.00. Without financial assistance we would have made a loss of over £800.00 which as a small non profit making association we could not afford.

In the past the application has been granted by the Aberdeen Council's Finance and Resources Committee and we have had various contacts throughout the years i.e. Jonathan Belford, Lesley Thomson, Helen Sherrit etc. We would be grateful if you could pass this request on to the appropriate person and advise who our contact would be this year and/or if any further information is required. Last year there was a delay in the request going to the June committee meeting and we did not know until two days before the event if we were going to be granted assistance. We obviously would not like this to happen again as the event is advertised throughout the Country and a late cancellation would be embarrassing for us.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Margo Fraser

Executive Administrator

DANCESPORT SCOTLAND