

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture and Sport**

DATE: **20 September 2012**

ACTING DIRECTOR: **Charlie Penman**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/12/041**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before the Committee applications 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:

Active Aberdeen – Festival of Sport, Physical Activity and Dance	£5,000
City of Aberdeen Gymnastics	£2,260

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 £77,281 remaining in this budget. Please see appendix 1 for previous awards of grants funding in the current financial year,

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 £98,181. Sports Grants application forms and guidelines are available on the Aberdeen City Council website 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 2.

5.1 Active Aberdeen – Festival of Sport, Physical Activity and Dance

Aberdeen City Council and its partners (Aberdeen Sports Village, RGU Sport, Sport Aberdeen and Communities Sports Clubs] wish to organise a month-long festival of sport, physical activity and dance within the city. This event will be part of Events Scotland’s “Games for Scotland” programme. This series of events aims to inspire Scots across the country to take part in activities which celebrate Scotland’s culture, heritage and Scotland’s role as host of the next Commonwealth Games in 2014.

This event will provide a platform to promote the vast number of opportunities already available for citizens and visitors of the city, and in addition will offer members of the public an opportunity to try a new activity. No opportunities will be offered without a sustainable pathway, in order to encourage as many people as possible to continue with physical activity and sport after the event and help to contribute towards a more active nation.

The event will use the 17 Commonwealth Games sports as a framework, giving residents and visitors of all ages a chance to try an activity. The opportunities will be promoted through a range of media (PR/ Social media) and will be designed to attract all citizens from young people, students through to older aged individuals. There will be a particular focus on girls and young women, people with a disability and members of the community from regeneration areas, with specific opportunities designed to attract these target groups.

Dance will be incorporated, promoting **citymoves** ‘Dancelive’ festival as well as other existing/new dance opportunities.

Aberdeen City sport and physical activity providers are keen for this to become an annual event in the city in the run up to the 2014 Commonwealth Games. By receiving this funding the partners will be enabled to design and implement the appropriate model for this type of

activity, building on lessons learned as they go forward and continue to develop the event.

Event Scotland has already agreed to provide £10,000 for this event and this funding from the City Council will be used as match funding.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£5,000	£5,000

5.2 City of Aberdeen Gymnastics Open Competition

This application seeks support in meeting the costs of the 2012 City of Aberdeen Gymnastics (COAG) competition. The competition will cover five disciplines of Gymnastics and is open to participants of all abilities ranging from beginner through to elite level. Over four hundred participants aged eight and upwards are expected, with the event clearly established as a key date in the city's gymnastics calendar.

Taking place over two days in September at the Beach Leisure Centre, this event will primarily benefit gymnasts from Aberdeen City and Shire, however it does attract participation from other British clubs.

The overall cost of the event which includes all equipment, venue hire and administration costs is £7,140. This application seeks support for half of this figure with funds used to part cover specific aspects including staff costs, hire of the venue and specialised equipment. The remaining costs are covered by the Club through various means including charging an entry fee to both competitors and spectators, as well receiving in-kind contributions. The level of funding recommended is based on providing support for half of the relevant costs included in the application, taking into consideration the already reduced venue hire cost that has been offered to the club.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£3,570	£2,260

5.3 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 November 2012. 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

This report relates to 'Aberdeen – the Smarter City':

- We will promote and improve opportunities for physical activity and sport to enable Aberdeen's citizens to lead more active, healthier lives.

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

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix 1

Summary Table of Financial Assistance Sports Awards 2012/13

Sports Organisation	Funding Awarded	Committee Approval
Aberdeen Rugby League Club	£640	Education, Culture & Sport 07/06/12
Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association	£13,000	Education, Culture & Sport 07/06/12
Total Grant Funding Awarded to date	£13,640	
Grant Funding Remaining	£84,541	

Appendix 2

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.