

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	4 October 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. Expenditure incurred to date, plus outstanding approved commitments, yet to be paid out, amounts to £8,169. If approval were given to suggested funding levels detailed in this report (£2,000) then a balance of £43,831 will remain available.

4. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

In some circumstances 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 have been applied, although in the past there have been certain applications that have been supported by the Committee that would ordinarily fail to meet the criteria:-

- 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 Robert Gordon University – Interprofessional Education and UK-Japan collaboration in medical research and public health practice.

A request has been received on behalf of the School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences at Robert Gordon University to consider providing financial assistance towards the cost of attendance at the 'All Together Better Health VI' conference in Kobe, Japan from 5th – 8th October 2012.

In accordance with the general criteria (b) above the application would not be supported however in the past specific applications for assistance with travel costs have been approved by the Committee and as such it is for the Committee to determine whether it wishes to support the application.

If the Committee were to be look favourably on the application then it is recommended that funding approved should be £2,000.

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 Aberdeen – the smarter city.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Attached letter

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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