

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture & Sport**
DATE: **31 January 2013**
DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**
TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants**
REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/13/002**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before the Committee an application for financial assistance from Aberdeen School Rowing Association and makes recommendations accordingly.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the committee:

- (a) Considers the following application from the Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association and approves the following recommendation:

Organisation	Amount Granted
Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association	£12,000

- (b) Notes the recent successes of Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association being named Local Club of the Year in the Sunday Mail Scottish Sports Awards which took place on 6th December 2012 in Glasgow.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Sports Grants budget for the 2012/13 financial year is £98,181. If the recommendation is approved, there will be £41,413.50 remaining in this budget. Appendix 1 outlines the previous Sport Grant awards 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

Aberdeen City Council's Sports Grants is a funding programme which is open to any voluntary or not-for-profit organisation or club who deliver sport or physical activity within the city. Grants of up to £10,000 are available and applications can be submitted throughout the year. In exceptional circumstances, we may consider applications above this level. The Sports Grants budget for 2012/13 has been set by the Council at £98,181.

The grant criteria is aligned to the key objectives of "Fit for the Future" the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Aberdeen (2009-2015). Each application is assessed against the criteria, with recommendations developed and put forward to the relevant Committee for a decision.

All applicants are provided with support from officers before and after applications have been considered. This includes the offer of individual support sessions, resulting in detailed feedback on how to improve the quality of their application. For more information about common reasons for resubmission, deferral or rejection please see Appendix 2.

5.1 Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association

Formed in 1973, Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association (ASRA) provides a wide range of rowing activities to school aged children and young people throughout the City. ASRA is set-up as a charitable trust and has a two tier governance and management structure. The Board of Trustees leads on long-term planning while the ASRA Committee deals with the day to day running of the Association.

The Associations objective is to create opportunities to become involved in rowing. This is achieved by providing a pathway which allows beginners to undertake taster sessions, before progressing to indoor clubs and eventually outdoor club rowing on the River Dee. The club was recognised for its outstanding contribution that it makes to everyday life in the community by being named the Local Club of the year in Sunday Mail Scottish Sports Awards Ceremony in December 2012. This is a remarkable achievement which demonstrates the impact this programme is having whilst assisting the City in raising the profile of sport on a national level.

Since 2007, ASRA have been running two main programmes with secondary schools in the City. The indoor (Dry Start) programme provides a minimum six week extra curricular training block within participating schools and ASRA have provided four rowing machines to participating schools that do not have their own. The outdoor (Wet Start) programme follows this up with the opportunity to participate in an eight to ten week training block on the River Dee. ASRA currently have one paid development officer who is supported by a team of volunteer coaches all of whom contribute between five and twelve hours coaching per week.

The overall cost of running the schools rowing projects is approximately £35,200 per annum. The recommendation is to provide £12,000 of funding towards this project which will be matched by £22,200 from the Association. This covers a range of incurred costs including equipment, staff salaries, travel, insurance and administration. In order to meet this cost, ASRA have successfully received funding from external bodies. Furthermore, the Association also receives support through their own fund raising initiatives and corporate sponsorship.

This application requests support to extend and improve the ongoing indoor and outdoor programmes. ASRA aim to use this funding to introduce the programmes into the majority of the city’s secondary schools. As part of this over 1,000 primary seven and senior one pupils would receive taster sessions which are followed up by the opportunity to participate in lunch time indoor clubs. Furthermore, over 200 senior one – senior three pupils will enter the indoor programme and receive a 6 to 10 week block of specialised indoor rowing training. The funding will also be used to provide over 100 pupils with the opportunity to enter the outdoor programme and receive a 10 week training block on the River Dee.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£12,000	£12,000

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

Aberdeen School Rowing Association Grant Application – available in the Members Lounge

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Jo Conlon
Sports Policy and Partnership Officer
jconlon@aberdeencity.gov.uk
(01224) 523798

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
Active Aberdeen – Festival of Sport, Physical Activity and Dance	£5,000	Education, Culture & Sport 20/09/12
City of Aberdeen Gymnastics	£2,260	Education, Culture & Sport 20/09/12
Aberdeen Secondary Schools Football Association	£1,000	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 07/11/12
Hazlehead Netball Club	£317.50	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 07/11/12
Silver City Blues Swimming Club	£1,700	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 07/11/12
Special Olympics Grampian Area – Ski Group	£4,900	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 07/11/12
Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development Grants	£4,500	Education, Culture & Sport 22/11/12
Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club	£4,950	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 10/01/13
Aberdeen Dolphins Swimming Club	£2,500	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 10/01/13
Adventure Aberdeen	£4,000	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 10/01/13
<i>Aberdeen Schools Rowing</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Education, Culture &</i>

<i>Association</i>	<i>Committee Approval</i>	<i>Sport 31/01/13</i>
Total Grant Funding Awarded to date	£44,767.50	
Grant Funding Remaining	£53,413.50	

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.