

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	21 February 2013
DIRECTOR	Stewart Carruth
TITLE OF REPORT	Applications for Financial Assistance 2012/13
REPORT NUMBER	CG/13/???

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 £19,576. If approval were given to the suggested funding levels detailed in this report (£1,500) then a balance of £32,724 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 Tillydrone Vision (letter attached)

Tillydrone Vision is a community group based in Tillydrone. They have been working in partnership and helping support orphan children at Bezallel School in Kamuli Town, Uganda for the past nine years and have also established a Twinning relationship.

As a celebration of the Twinning the group have invited the Mayor and Town Clerk of Kamuli to visit Aberdeen in March 2013. The estimated cost of the visit is £3,000 of which the group will raise half.

A request has been received for a contribution of £1,500 to match the funding the group will raise towards the visit.

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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Tillydrone Vision

c/o Rev James Weir

[REDACTED]
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5 December 2012

Dear Councillors Young & Crockett

I write to you as Chairman of Tillydrone Vision.

As you know Tillydrone Vision is a Community Group Based in Tillydrone, Aberdeen.

For the past nine years we have been working in partnership and helping support more than 200 Orphan children at Bezallel School, Kamuli, and Kaliro HIV/AIDS Co-operative, in Uganda.

To date with the help of the Community of Tillydrone and our supporters, we have managed to sponsor 12 young people from Tillydrone to visit, meet with, and become involved in the work we are doing both at home and in Uganda.

In September 2013 we aim to sponsor a further four young people to travel as part of a visiting group to Uganda.

Only the young folks sponsored receive aid for their trip. All other visitors are volunteers and must fund their own costs in full.

As a part of our commitment, Riverbank School has partnered with Bezallel School and the children share correspondence.

With the help of our community of supporters we have shipped two containers loaded with clothing, shoes, books and toys to Uganda.

A request was made for a Tractor to help the school grow some of their own foods. This was met and we were able to send a Tractor, Trailer, Plough, Farming Tools and various other items necessary. It has been a key asset to the school and also to local peasant farmers who are allowed to hire the tractor for a reduced daily rate to help plough land.

The small income from hiring is sufficient to employ men to operate and maintain the equipment.

In 2010 we raised funds to have a wall built around Bezallel School to protect and help save the children for whom the school is the only home they have.

With fundraising efforts we managed to buy some land and establish a piggery to help the Kaliro HIV/AIDS Co-operative gain a source of income.

As a group we have been instrumental establishing a Twinning between Tillydrone Aberdeen, and Kamuli Town, Uganda.

This twinning is valued by Kamuli Town and acknowledged each year when we visit when all of the visitors meet with the Mayor. In the past two years the meeting has now become a Dinner with Kamuli Mayor and Council Officials.

As a celebration of the Twinning of Tillydrone Aberdeen, and Kamuli Town we have invited the Mayor and Town Clerk to visit Aberdeen in March 2013.

Plans are now being made for engagements to help mark and recognise the significance of this visit for our community in Tillydrone.

Tillydrone Vision are meeting all costs for the visit and to help defray costs our guests will stay with my family whilst here in the City of Aberdeen.

In total we estimate the visit will cost approx £3,000.

Tillydrone Vision has agreed to seek ways in which we can raise this money.

I am writing to ask if the Council would consider a contribution of £1,500 to match the funding we will raise towards what will be for the Community of Tillydrone something of an auspicious occasion to be celebrated.

As far as we are aware Tillydrone is the only Community in Aberdeen to have a Twinning with any overseas Town and we may possibly be unique in Scotland in our Official Twinning Partnership.

Further, I have no knowledge of any other Community Twinning Programme having done what we are proposing, so this will be a first not just for Tillydrone and Aberdeen, but indeed for Scotland.

Every penny raised by Tillydrone Vision goes towards the work we are doing in Tillydrone and Uganda. As a charitable organisation we operate via a committed team of volunteers who meet and pay all of their own expenses.

You can read more of the work we are doing on our website at www.Tillydrone-Vision.org.uk

I do hope that Aberdeen City Council can look favourably upon this local initiative of international involvement and much more important, a community's real care and concern for other peoples.

Rev. Jim Weir
Chairman, Tillydrone Vision