

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Urgent Business Committee
DATE	25 March 2013
DIRECTOR	Stewart Carruth
TITLE OF REPORT	Applications for Financial Assistance 2012/13
REPORT NUMBER	CG/13/040

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 £21,851. If approval were given to funding the full cost of hiring the Beach Ballroom (£1,500) then a balance of £30,649 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 Fashion Show in aid of CLAN (letter attached)

Third year students at Robert Gordon University have been tasked with organising an event to celebrate 30 years of CLAN cancer support. The group aim to raise awareness of CLAN's charity shops within Aberdeen and are organising a fashion show to celebrate 30 years of CLAN and 30 years of fashion.

The group would like to hold the event in the Beach Ballroom which due to its size will allow them to be more creative in the staging of the event which in turn should generate local media interest. This venue can cater for large numbers of the public to attend as well as having the capacity for stands promoting local business and services in Aberdeen.

The cost of hiring the Beach Ballroom is £1,500 and the request received is for any financial contribution towards this cost.

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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>>> "KIRSTY MORRISON (0904724)" < > 06/02/2013 14:53 >>>

Lord Provost,

My name is Kirsty Morrison, I'm a third year PR student at Robert Gordon University and I'm writing to you regarding a cause that is very close to my heart. As part of my third year course work I have been tasked with organizing an event that will celebrate 30 years of CLAN cancer support.

CLAN as I'm sure you are aware, offer valuable support to the Aberdeen and North East community. Throughout the past 4 months I have been overwhelmed by how much CLAN do for the public. Learning more about the charity has inspired my university group and I to give something back to CLAN.

We aim to raise awareness of CLAN's charity shops within Aberdeen, which in turn should entice the Aberdeen public to shop locally. To do this the group aims to hold a fashion show in the city celebrating 30 years of CLAN and 30 years of fashion.

The event is in the planning stages, however following a successful pitch the charity are happy for us to run the fashion show. After careful consideration of locations it has been suggested that it is important that the event should take place in an iconic Aberdeen venue. The venue the group have in mind is The Beach Ballroom.

Holding the event in the Beach Ballroom not only lets large numbers of the Aberdeen public attend, it also allows for stands promoting local business's and services in Aberdeen. Such as the services the council have to offer. The size of venue allows the group to be more creative in the staging of the event which in turn should generate local media interest.

Following the research carried out of the charity, the group have become aware of how much CLAN means to the Aberdeen public. Therefore we feel that hosting an event in the spectacular ballroom to celebrate this fantastic charity will be a great opportunity for both the charity and the council who will benefit from the media attention, opportunity to network with the Aberdeen public, and stall promoting council related services.

It is with great anticipation that I appeal to yourself, to ask for any financial assistance that the council can offer in relation to hiring the venue. I'm extremely passionate about ensuring that the event is a success for everyone involved. I look forward to hearing from you, and would be more than happy to meet to discuss the event further.

Kind Regards

Kirsty Morrison
(Group leader, Communication and PR, RGU)

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