

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	25 April 2013
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Aberdeen Trades Union Council Mayday March
REPORT NUMBER:	OCE/13/017

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report brings before the Committee for its consideration a request for financial assistance from the Aberdeen Trades Union Council towards the costs of a Mayday March to be held in Aberdeen on Saturday 4 May 2013.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the request and agrees whether or not to provide financial assistance towards the costs of the proposed Mayday March and if so, to what level of expenditure.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Officers from the Council's Events team estimate the total cost of the traffic management requirements for the proposed event to be £3,500 inclusive of the application cost, the staffing and barrier installation and removal, and the related costs for the full road closure from Albyn Place to Castlegate.

Officers from the Finance team state that in the past an application in relation to the Trades Union Council Mayday March has been made and when approved has been paid from the Council's general Financial Assistance Budget. The most recent financial support provided was £185 in financial year 2008/09 and was specifically for the cost of bus hire. The request for funding of £3,500 is affordable in relation to the budget for 2013/14.

If an award of £3,500 were approved then consideration of the local code of guidance on funding external organisations and Following the Public Pound will require to be undertaken. The specific requirements for this level of funding include, providing the Council with a copy of the latest set of signed accounts (these may or may not have to be audited or verified depending on the requirements for the specific organisation),

and a funding agreement in the form of a letter is put in place to cover a range of non-financial targets and information (such as setting out the purpose of the funding, the policy and strategy it is linked to, monitoring and reporting requirements and a statement on access to the accounting records of the organisation).

The Council does recognise that small values of funding should not create or support an administrative burden on either the Council or an organisation requesting funding, therefore for funding of less than £2,500 the local code makes no specific requirements to financial, non-financial information or a formal funding agreement.

#### 4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

In terms of the Local Government Act 1986 (as amended) a local authority shall not publish any material which, in whole or in part, appears to affect public support for a political party. Furthermore a local authority shall not give financial or other assistance to a person for the publication of material which the authority are prohibited by this section from publishing themselves.

“Publicity, publish and publication” are given a very wide meaning. They refer to any communication, in whatever form, addressed to the public at large or to a section of the public. So in the case of this procession it is only fair to assume given the nature of the pre-march information that banners will be carried articulating political affiliation and points of view. To that end it is the view that to provide this financial support would amount to a breach of the Local Government Act 1986.

#### 5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

At the time of writing the report, Legal and Democratic Services officers were awaiting comments from Police Scotland in light of an objection to the March received from National Front Scotland. An update on the situation will be provided at the Committee meeting.

#### 6. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Attached is the text of an e-mail received from the Joint Secretary of Aberdeen Trades Union Council requesting that the City Council meets the estimated £3,500 cost of the proposed Aberdeen Mayday March.

#### 7. IMPACT

Given the subject matter of the report, it is likely to be of interest to the public.

8. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Given the subject matter of the report, there is likely to be a reputational impact for the Council in either providing or refusing support towards the costs of the March.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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**e-mail of 8 April 2013 received from the Joint Secretary of Aberdeen Trades Union Council**

RE: ABERDEEN TRADES UNION COUNCIL MAYDAY MARCH.

I formally request that Aberdeen City Council meet the cost of the annual Aberdeen Mayday March of £3500 approximately.

The official documents have all been submitted.

Aberdeen Mayday March- assemble at 11am on Saturday 4th May 2013, march off at 1130am.

March the full length of Union Street, free of charge to Aberdeen Trades Union Council.

Open air speeches at the Castlegate.

Please confirm as a matter of urgency as all our publicity is on hold.