

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

COMMITTEE:	Full Council
DATE:	1 May 2013
DIRECTOR:	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT:	Management Committee Funds
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/13/029

---

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to seek formal approval to transfer Management Committee funds, held by Aberdeen City Council to the appropriate Management Committees.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Council approves the transfer of Management Committee funds, held by Aberdeen City Council on behalf of the Management Committees, to independent bank accounts held by the Management Committees as listed in paragraph 5.6.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Historically, the Council has held funds belonging to Management Committees, in trust, on behalf of these Management Committees. This recommendation, if approved, will enable these funds to be transferred to the bank accounts held by these independent Management Committees.

The cumulative value of these funds (for all Management Committees) is approximately £1.26million.

### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Once these funds are transferred, the ongoing resource requirements in terms of managing and administering these funds will go. Note – there is no current resource allocated within the approved structures to carry out this work. Once the funds are transferred, the staff who have continued to provide support for this work during the transition, will focus on their substantive roles.

### **5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

- 5.1 Historically, the Council held, managed and administered funds on behalf of Management Committees attached to Council run community centres. The change in Council policy and budget reductions in 2011, resulted in some of these Council run community centres becoming leased community centres run by fully independent Management Committees. Other centres have become Learning Centres, which, while the buildings and programming are still within the responsibility of the Council, the attached Management Committees are now fully independent to the Council.
- 5.2 The associated budget reductions resulted in the significant reduction to Community Learning and Development staff, including administrative support staff. Therefore there is no longer sufficient resource within the establishment to manage and administer these funds within the Council.
- 5.3 In light of these changes, it is appropriate that the funds be transferred to bank accounts held by these independent Management Committees. Previous legal advice in respect of these Management Committee funds has confirmed that the legal ownership of these funds sits with the Management Committees in question, or the relevant successor Committee where there has been a reorganisation or election.
- 5.4 Leading up to the proposed transfer of these funds, officers have supported the Management Committees to ensure that they have robust governance and procedures in place; that the appropriate individuals have received financial training; that the Management Committees have independent bank accounts in place; and that the Management Committees have robust financial systems in place.
- 5.5 Colleagues in legal services have reviewed the old and new constitutions for each Management Committee to ensure that each Management Committee is the legal owner of or successor to the funds.
- 5.6 The affected Management Committees are those associated with the following Community and Learning Centres:
- Beacon Learning Centre
  - Bridge of Don Learning Centre
  - Cornhill Learning Centre
  - Cults Learning Centre
  - Cummings Park Community Flat
  - Dyce Learning Centre

- Hanover City Centre Area Man Committee (note this Management Committee is not currently linked to a Council Community or Learning Centre.)
- Hazlehead Learning Centre
- Kincorth Leased Community Centre
- Loirston Leased Community Centre
- Mastrick Leased Community Centre
- Mile-end Learning Centre
- Northfield Leased Community Centre
- Rosemount Learning Centre
- Seaton Leased Community Centre
- Sunnybank Learning Centre
- Tilly Youth Project
- Tilly Flat Learning Centre
- Tullos Learning Centre

\*Please note that some of the above Management Committees have still to finalise and agree their revised constitutions at an AGM or EGM. The funds for the affected Management Committees will not be transferred until these formal processes have been completed.

## **6. IMPACT**

Corporate – This report relates to ‘Aberdeen – the Smarter City’

- We will work with our partners to seek to reduce the levels of inequality in the city.
- We will enhance the physical and emotional wellbeing of all our citizens by offering support and activities which promote independence, resilience, confidence and self-esteem.
- We will provide a high quality education service within our schools and communities which will improve attainment and life chances of our children and young people to achieve their full potential in education, employment or training.
- We will improve access to and increase participation in arts and culture by providing opportunities for citizens and visitors to experience a broad range of high quality arts and cultural activities.
- Working with our third, public and private sector partners, we will provide opportunities for lifelong learning which will develop knowledge, skills and attributes of our citizens to enable them to meet the changing demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- We will aim to have a workforce across the city which has the skills and knowledge to sustain, grow and diversify the cultural economy.
- We aspire to be recognised as a City of Culture, a place of excellence for culture and arts by promoting Aberdeen as a cultural centre hosting high quality and diverse cultural events for the whole community and beyond.
- We will embrace the distinctive pride the people of Aberdeen take in their city and work with them to enhance the sense of well-being here,

building strong communities which look out for, and look after one another.

This report also relates to the Combined Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement as follows:

- Protecting children and vulnerable adults
- People of all ages take an active part in their own learning to achieve their full potential Learning and training is appropriate and accessible to learner's needs
- Children and young people access positive learning environments and develop their skills, confidence and self esteem to the fullest potential
- Children, young people and their families/carers are involved in decisions that affect them. Their voices heard and they play an active and responsible role in their communities
- Educational attainment in Aberdeen is continuously sustained and improved
- School leavers enter positive destination of employment, training or further and higher education with a focus on and support for young people who require More Choices and More Chances
- Children and young people actively participate in their communities and have optimum involvement in decision making
- All children, young people and their families have access to high quality services when required and services provide timely, proportionate and appropriate response that meeting the needs of children and young people within Getting it Right for Every Child, (GIRFEC) requirements
- Improve the quality of life in our most deprived areas
- Citizens are increasingly more active in their communities regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, where they live, disability or faith/religion/belief and contribute to 'active citizenship'
- Develop pathways to participation which enhance the diversity of local representation at and engagement with regional, national and international arts, heritage and sporting events
- Our public services are consistently high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

Public - This report will be of interest to members of the affected Management Committees and may be of interest to the wider public as a result of the significant media coverage of the changes in community centres over the last couple of years.

## **7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

If the recommendations are not accepted, there may be a legal challenge from the Management Committees. Also the current position whereby Council staff are managing and administering these funds is unsustainable as there is no identified substantive resource to carry out these tasks.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

22/11/12 Education, Culture and Sport Committee, Community Centres

20/9/12 Education, Culture and Sport Committee, Community Centres

6/7/12 Education, Culture and Sport Committee, Community Centres

28/3/12 Special Education, Culture and Sport Committee, Community Centres

23/2/12 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Community Centres

24/11/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Community

Development Fund – Childcare and Out of School Provision

24/11/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Community Centres

15/9/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Update on Implementation of Budget Decision - Reduce Communities Team

17/6/11 Finance & Resources Committee, Kaimhill Community Facilities – Update on Progress of Management Agreement

2/6/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Update on Implementation of Budget Decision - Reduce Communities Team

2/6/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Lease Agreements for Voluntary Organisations Occupying Woodside Fountain Centre

24/3/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Implementation of Budget Decision – Reduce Communities Team

## **9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

Gail Woodcock

Service Manager Sport & Communities

[gwoodcock@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:gwoodcock@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

01224 522732