

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture and Sport**

DATE: **30 May 2013**

DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Funding Community Projects**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/13/037**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to note the decision under Standing Order 1(6)(b) for an exemption from the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts and Procurement in respect of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) relating to the various external organisations which provide community learning and development services, commissioned by the Council. These organisations are:

WEA, Aberdeen Lads Club, Printfield Project, Fersands and Fountain Community Project, Middlefield Project and St Machar Parent Support Project.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

a) note the decision, under Standing Order 1(6)(b) of the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Procurement, to provide an exemption from the requirement that no contract shall be entered into unless the total estimated expenditure has been previously approved by the Council (Standing Order 1(3)) which was granted in order to allow the continued funding of community learning and development services from the following organisations: WEA; Aberdeen Lads Club; Printfield Project; Fersands and Fountain Community Project; Middlefield Project; and St Machar Parent Support Project (the "Funded Projects").

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total budget for these commissioned projects for 2013/14 is £659,408. This amount is contained within the approved budget for the service, however the expenditure for these projects has not yet been approved by Committee. The projects have been funded at comparable levels for a number of years.

The funding for each organisation is as follows:

WEA:	£39,780
Fersands and Fountain Community Project:	£232,677
Middlefield Project:	£104,766
Printfield Project:	£65,812
Aberdeen Lads Club:	£103,957
St Machar Parent Support Project	£112,416

This report asks the committee to note the decision to continue to fund these organisations and to approve the allocation of the budget as set out above.

The organisations listed above, include the budgeted income from the Council within their business plan for 2013/14. Any delay to the payments could result in cash flow difficulties for these organisations.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Property Implications

None

Legal Implications

The Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Procurement state that "No tender shall be invited or contract entered into unless the total estimated expenditure has been previously approved by the Council. This requires specific Committee approval or the use of appropriate delegated powers. The allocation of a budget as part of the Council's budget setting process is insufficient." (Standing Order 1(3)).

As no such approval had been sought prior to the signature of the SLAs and due to the urgency of the situation, approval was sought under Standing Order 1(6)(b) of the Standing Orders relating to Contracts and Procurement to exempt the SLAs from the requirement that estimated expenditure in respect of all contracts requires to be approved in advance by the Council. This exemption allowed the SLAs to be signed and monies paid to the groups.

Formal noting of the extension of the Service Level Agreements is required to comply with Standing Order 1(6)(b) which states that "Any contract made on behalf of the Council under this paragraph shall be reported to the appropriate Committee of the Council by the Commissioning Officer as soon as practicable."

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Funded Projects

The service has historically provided funding to a number of organisations to deliver community learning and development activities on behalf of the Council. These organisations are all unincorporated charitable bodies.

The services provided by the funded projects include childcare, youth work, adult learning and capacity building.

Within these funded projects an element of the funding received is used for underpinning management and administrative costs which enable these projects to access funding/services beyond that of the funding from ACC into their areas of work.

WEA (Workers Educational Association Scotland) – This organisation provides adult and family learning opportunities for adults and families across Aberdeen. The funding is used across several areas of their work: parenting and family learning; an element of the Reach Out programme working with marginalised adults; work with the elderly; and community adult learning classes.

Fersands and Fountain Community Project – Two funds are provided; one for Fersands Community Project, one for Fersands Mini-Family Centre.

The organisations provide a range of childcare and parent & child services. They organise a wide range of youth work activities for primary & secondary aged young people and young adults. They run some adult learning groups in partnership with a range of agencies. They provide support to the local community, including their management committee, to engage in community development. They run an after school club and support Woodside Network in partnership with Printfield Project.

Middlefield Community Project – This project organises extensive youth work activities, for primary & secondary aged young people and young adults. They run some adult learning groups in partnership with a range of agencies. They provide support to the local community, including their management committee, Middlefield Area Residents Action Group and a range of volunteers, to engage in community development. The project also runs an extensive range of childcare services which are primarily funded from another ACC service.

Printfield Project – This project provides childcare services. They provide youth work activities including clubs and playschemes for 5-16 year olds, mostly with primary aged children. They support some adult learning groups in partnership with a range of agencies and run a social enterprise charity shop. They provide support to the local community, including their management committee and Printfield Forum, to engage in community development. They run an after school club and support Woodside Network in partnership with Fersands and Fountain Community Project.

Aberdeen Lads Club – This project provides childcare services including after school care. They provide youth work activities including clubs and play schemes for 5-18 year olds, with the largest groups being with primary aged children. They organise a community café. They lead the partnership that runs Feeling Great events across several regeneration areas. They provide support

to the local community to engage in community development. The Club is run by an Executive Committee.

St Machar Parent Support Project – This project provides support to pupils attending St Machar Academy or any of its feeder primaries and their parents/carers/families and to parents/carers/families living within the catchment of the St Machar Learning Community whose child has additional support needs and attends a school run by Aberdeen City Council. This support aims to improve pupil attendance and attainment and improve parent's engagement with schools and their children's learning. The Project is run by a Management Committee.

5.2 Review

Officers have now commenced a comprehensive review of all funded activity, which is included within the CLD and Libraries Analysis. This review aligns with the root and branch review for all Culture and Sport commissioned work.

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 21st 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 the recommendations will impact on services delivered throughout the City.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The organisations affected, include the budgeted income from the Council within their business plan for 2013/14. Any delay to the payments could result in cash flow difficulties for these organisations.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7/6/13 Education, Culture & Sport, Community Learning and Development Funded Projects

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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