

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture and Sport**

DATE: **30th May 2013**

DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants (Over £5,000)**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/13/030**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before the Committee an application for financial assistance from the Grampian Institute of Sport and makes recommendations accordingly.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the committee:

- a) considers the following application from the Grampian Institute of Sport and approves the following recommendation:

| Organisation | Amount Granted |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Grampian Institute of Sport | £8,000 |

- b) Agree the allocation of £5,000 as match funding for the council application to Event Scotland to deliver an event to mark one year to go until the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games on the 23rd July 2013 in Duthie Park.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Sports Grants budget for the 2013/14 financial year is £230,000. If the recommendation is approved, there will be £217,000 remaining in this budget.

Officers within Education, Culture and Sport are currently redefining the sports grant criteria and putting together a range of promotional material and events to publicise the sports grants currently available more widely throughout the city. This will also include identifying capacity to support community sports clubs and organisations through the application process.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional legal, resource, personnel, property, equipment, environmental or health and safety implications arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Aberdeen City Council's Sports Grants is a funding programme which is open to any voluntary or not-for-profit organisation or club who deliver sport or physical activity within the city. Grants of up to £10,000 are available and applications can be submitted throughout the year. In exceptional circumstances, we may consider applications above this level.

The Sports Grants budget for 2013/14 has been set by the Council at £90,000 with an additional £140,000 being provided from the Common Good fund for the current financial year.

The grant criteria is aligned to the key objectives of "Fit for the Future" the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Aberdeen (2009-2015). Each application is assessed against the criteria, with recommendations developed and put forward to the relevant Committee for a decision.

All applicants are provided with support from officers before and after applications have been considered. This includes the offer of individual support sessions, resulting in detailed feedback on how to improve the quality of their application. For more information about common reasons for resubmission, deferral or rejection please see Appendix 2.

5.1 Grampian Institute of Sport – Performance Coach Development Programme

The Grampian Institute of Sport is seeking funding to pilot a new High Performance Coach Development Programme for Aberdeen. It is intended that the programme will provide coaches with the necessary resources to maximise potential of our local athletes and help to achieve significant results on a national and international stage.

The programme will be targeted at existing High Performance coaches who will be identified and endorsed by the Institute of Sport in conjunction with National Governing Bodies. The pilot scheme which will begin in June

2013 will see an intake of approximately eight coaches across a range of sporting disciplines.

It is intended that the high performance coaches will have an opportunity to be exposed to different programmes and scenarios with the aim that they will share these with other athletes and the wider coaching workforce in the city. Coaches will also be encouraged to incorporate best practices from a range of disciplines and challenge current practice to provide a platform to experiment and innovate.

The overall cost of the programme which will operate until December 2014 is £16,000. The Grampian Institute of Sport is looking for 50% match funding to initially pilot the project. This funding will enable support to carry out an initial needs analysis and then contribute to the development of a high performance coach development programme. If this project is successful it is hoped that the athlete and coaching pathways will start to see additional throughput to gain Scottish Institute of Sport support services. Coaches will bring knowledge back to the area through workshops or mentoring and it is hoped that more coaches will be up skilled. This should help in the long run as fewer people will have to travel out with the region, as more knowledge would be within.

The council will be recognised as a key partner in this programme and monitoring of this project and its outcomes will be carried out on a quarterly basis by officers in line with the following the public pound guidelines.

| Funding Requested | Funding Recommended |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| £8,000 | £8,000 |

6. **IMPACT**

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

- We will promote and improve opportunities for physical activity and sport to enable Aberdeen’s citizens to lead more active, healthier lives.

The report relates to the Arts, Heritage and Sport strand of the Community Plan, specifically in relation to the Sports, Leisure and Recreation vision of developing Aberdeen as an “Active City”.

The report relates closely to the objectives of “Fit for the Future, the sport and physical activity strategy for Aberdeen City (2009-2015)”. These objectives are:

- Promote and increase opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity for everyone in Aberdeen.
- Provide a comprehensive and high quality range of sports facilities in Aberdeen.
- Maximise social, educational, health and economic benefits of sport and physical activity in Aberdeen.
- Develop and sustain pathways which nurture local, regional and national sporting people to reach their potential.
- Raise the profile of sport in Aberdeen.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Local sports groups and organisations adopt a variety of methods to attract funding, however some groups would be unable to host an event or develop further without the financial assistance available from the City Council.

All unsuccessful applicants will be offered support to reapply to future investment rounds if appropriate or supported in identifying alternative funding programmes.

All successful applicants are expected to agree to terms and conditions which mitigate any risk of exposure to the Council and that all supported activity meets Council Policies, processes and the Following the Public Pound guidelines.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Grampian Institute of Sport grant application – available in the Members Lounge

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix 1

Summary Table of Financial Assistance Sports Awards 2013/14

| Sports Organisation | Funding Awarded | Committee Approval |
|--|------------------------|--|
| Grampian Institute of Sport | £8,000 | Education, Culture & Sport (pending) 30/05/13 |
| Games for Scotland (match funding for council application to Event Scotland) | £5,000 | Education, Culture & Sport (pending) 30/05/13 |
| Total Grant Funding Awarded if recommendations approved | £13,000 | |
| Grant Funding Remaining | £217,000 | |

Appendix 2

Sports Grants – Please find below frequent reasons for resubmission, deferral or rejection of funding applications

- Application forms not fully completed or illegible
- The benefits of the initiative do not clearly show the primary benefit is to residents of the City, but to a wider demographic
- Projects do not have clear outputs or outcomes
- Match funding is either not confirmed (in which case an application is deferred) or indicated.
- There is no evidence of need ascertained, of wider benefit, and/or there is evidence of duplication of services already supported by Aberdeen City Council
- The organisation or Club has outstanding debt with Aberdeen City Council
- The club cannot meet FPHP (Following the Public Pound) guidance and/or has not submitted reports against previous grant allocations
- The group or club is not constituted as required by the grants criteria
- The group or club does not have a bank account with two authorised signatories
- Applications for transport represent a significant proportion of the grant with no evidence of participants subsidising travel
- Requests to visit or train at facilities out with the City may be rejected if similar facilities are available locally
- Projects or requests for staffing do not evidence any forward planning recognising future stability
- Standards of coaching or volunteering do not meet acceptable standards
- There are inadequate or no monitoring and evaluation plans

Feedback and additional support

Council Officers from a variety of backgrounds and knowledge work together to assess the wider value to the sports sector of each application.

Where time permits, Aberdeen City Council staff will contact organisations on receipt of their applications to seek clarification or further information. This is not always possible when applications are received very close to the deadline for Committee reports. Organisations are offered a telephone call or a face to face meeting to help improve their applications.

Where applications are recommended for deferral or rejection, organisations are contacted and offered verbal or written feedback to support a resubmission.

In addition, Officers provide advice and support to sports organisations with application to Awards for All, and other small sports grants funding streams.