

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources Committee
DATE	13 th June 2013
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Financial Contribution to Aberdeenshire Council for Hosting North Sea Conference 2014
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/13/106

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek a total contribution from Aberdeen City Council to Aberdeenshire Council of up to £20,000 plus a dinner, towards their hosting of the North Sea Conference in June 2014. £5,000 has already been approved from existing service budgets at EP&I Committee on 21 May 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee approve this request for financial support to Aberdeenshire Council with the following conditions attached;

1. A total of £20,000 cash contribution is agreed subject to the main conference plenary sessions being held at the AECC. All conference publications must carry the Aberdeen City Council logo as a conference sponsor.
2. The hosting of a dinner, subject to the dinner being held at AECC or Beach Ballroom.
3. Committee identifies a source of funding for the costs of the dinner, plus the additional £15,000 cash contribution.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A cash contribution of £20,000 is requested, of which £5,000 is already approved at EP&I Committee from current service budgets. The hosting of a dinner for conference delegates is also requested, with

Aberdeenshire Council forecasting an approximate cost of £54 per head (up to 600 delegates x £54 = up to £32,200).

If the financial contribution is approved then a source of funding will require to be identified by committee.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Aberdeenshire Council are undertaking a procurement process to select the conference venue based on best value and ability to meet the specified venue requirements. This may have an impact upon their ability to accept the conditions attached to the financial support which committee are asked to agree.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The North Sea Commission and the INTERREG North Sea Region Programme host a joint annual conference every June. Aberdeenshire Council offered to host the 2014 conference, and this offer has been accepted. This conference is a key date for stakeholders across northern Europe, and Norway, as it will see the launch of the 2014-2020 North Sea Region Funding Programme.

Due to the mutual benefits for both local authorities of having this event on our doorstep they are looking for a financial contribution to cover some of the costs. A request was made by Aberdeenshire Council that Aberdeen City Council agree to provide cash contribution of £20,000 and to host an official conference dinner.

The request made by Aberdeenshire Council is identical to the request made by Aberdeen City Council to Aberdeenshire Council when the CPMR conference was held in Aberdeen. Aberdeenshire contributed £20,000 and paid for a dinner at Adore House.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – The conference is held jointly by the North Sea Commission and the INTERREG North Sea Region Programme. The 2014 conference will launch the 2014-2020 INTERREG North Sea Region Programme, giving local stakeholders the opportunity to have an increased attendance and look to develop potential projects which could be eligible to receive funding. It is also an opportunity to showcase the area and promote the transnational project activity which Aberdeen City Council has undertaken in the current 2007-13 programme period. This will encourage other regions to continue to want to work with Aberdeen City Council.

Public - This report is unlikely to be of interest to the general public. The funding opportunities to be discussed are of relevance to eligible organisations, not to individual citizens.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Aberdeenshire Council has indicated that they will follow all necessary procurement procedures to ensure that best value is secured. The recommendations of this report would place an upper limit on the financial contributions made by Aberdeen City Council should the committee agree to provide financial support.

Should the committee agree to provide the financial support requested, there are conditions attached which would ensure that the money is being spent within the City boundaries.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers to be taken into consideration.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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