

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Finance and Resources
<b>DATE</b>	13 June 2013
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Stewart Carruth
<b>TITLE OF REPORT</b>	Small Financial Assistance Grants – 2013/14
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CG/13/071

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present application for financial assistance which have recently been received by the Head of Finance and to allow Members to make a decision on providing funding from the financial assistance budget.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) agree to award the following grants:
  - Doors Open Day - £300
  - Queens Cross Church for Lajee Centre Visit - £320
  - Aberdeen Student Charities Campaign – total 2013 cost of traffic management and barriers, up to value of £2,500 inclusive of VAT

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a sum of £58,000 included in the 2013/14 Council Revenue Budget.

At its last meeting the Committee approved funding for Scottish National War Memorial project to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great War, at a cost of £1,500. This is an example of the type of funding offered available and if the Committee were to approve the recommended financial assistance grants then a total value of £11,948 will have been committed from this budget for the year to date, leaving £46,052 remaining for future small financial assistance grants.

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The award of grants and financial assistance provide benefits to the City of Aberdeen and its citizens.

### 5. BACKGROUND

At the meeting of 25 April 2013 the Committee approved a revised set of assessment criteria for the awarding of small financial assistance grants.

These were as follow:

Small Financial Assistance Grants – Assessment Criteria	
a)	An application will only be considered where there is no established Council funding budget alternative;
b)	An application can be submitted by an individual, group or organisation for a clear and specific purpose and must include relevant background information and financial circumstances;
c)	If funding is being provided to the applicant from another Council budget the application will not be considered;
d)	Funding, where awarded, will not be available in the subsequent year from this budget;
e)	Funding, where awarded, will not exceed £2,500;
f)	Applications from individuals seeking sponsorship, for taking part in fundraising events abroad or for placements with charitable organisations or trusts in developing countries, will be declined;
g)	Applications from individuals, groups or organisations seeking assistance towards costs of excursions outwith the City will not be supported;
h)	Applications from national organisations will not be supported unless there is some clear and measurable local benefit;
i)	Applications in relation to health related matters, which are seen as the clear responsibility of the health authorities, will not be supported;
j)	Costs associated with hiring the Beach Ballroom either in whole or in part, can be considered, for fund-raising events and gatherings;
k)	An award of financial assistance will only be considered where budget remains available.

In the past the Committee has, where it's deemed it appropriate, approved funding that has not been in line with the assessment criteria however the applications received have been assessed on the basis of the criteria.

**Applications:**

5.1 Doors Open Day – (Further information at Appendix A)

An application has been received from the Committee responsible for organising the Aberdeen Doors Open Day on an annual basis. Following a reduction in funding from its principal financial support – Aberdeen City Heritage Trust – the organisation is looking for financial support from the Common Good of £300. The Common Good income was fully committed to projects and expenditure when it's budget was set in February 2013 and as such there is no opportunity to access it for further funding purposes.

An alternative option would be the cultural grants budget. It is recognised that the timing of the next round of cultural grants would not assist in the preparation of the event. On this occasion it is recommended that funding of £300 be awarded.

5.2 Queens Cross Church – Visit to Aberdeen by members of Lajee Centre, Palestine – (Further information at Appendix B)

Sixteen teenagers from the Lajee Centre, Palestine are touring Ireland and Scotland in late June / early July 2013 and the church would like to support a visit to Aberdeen, with Queens Cross Church hosting performances. The cost of additional transport to Aberdeen requires fund raising of £1,000 to be achieved.

The Council has a cultural grants budget and an approach was made however it was established that the timing of the next round of cultural grants prohibits an application and if the Committee were minded then it could be recommended to contribute £20 per person, resulting in financial assistance of £320. If approved then it is to be paid only in the event of the visit going ahead.

5.3 Aberdeen Student Charities Campaign

On an annual basis the Student Charities Torcher parade has required the installation of temporary barriers and traffic management arrangements put in place. This has always been funded by the Campaign itself, with the cost being payable to Aberdeen City Council and in 2012 the cost was £2,400 inclusive of VAT. The 2013 Torcher took place at the end of April and the Committee is asked to consider supporting the Aberdeen Student Charities Campaign by providing financial assistance to cover the costs in 2013, thereby enabling more of the money raised to be used towards the charitable objectives.

It is recommended that financial assistance of £2,500 (or the total cost, inclusive of VAT, if lower) is approved.

**6. IMPACT**

The City Council will, within financial constraints, seek to support external organisations and partnerships within the City. All applicants will be given equal consideration within the general criteria for the disbursement of grants and donations from the budgets.

**7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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