

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture and Sport**
DATE: **28th March 2013**
DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**
TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants**
REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/13/013**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before the Committee an application for financial assistance from RGU:Sport and makes recommendations accordingly.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the committee:

- (a) considers the following application from RGU:SPORT and approves the following recommendation:

Organisation	Amount Granted
RGU: SPORT- Volunteer for Sport Programme	£10,000

- (b) Instruct officers to redefine the sports grant criteria and put 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.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Sports Grants budget for the 2012/13 financial year is £98,181. If the recommendation is approved, there will be £12,311.62 remaining in this budget and this under spend will be returned as a saving. Appendix 1 outlines the previous Sport Grant awards in the current financial year.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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.

There is a recognition, however, given the under spend in the current budget that there is a requirement to redefine the current sports grants criteria to ensure that the funding contributes to the delivery of Fit for the Future, Aberdeen City's sport and physical activity strategy. It is expected that by redefining the grants we will be better equipped as a local authority to support the development of clubs, coaches and volunteers, talented athletes and sports event which help put Aberdeen on the map as a sporting city.

It is likely that the grants will be relaunched in the summer and a range of promotional material and events will be arranged in order to publicise these more widely across the city.

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 2012/13 has been set by the Council at £98,181.

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 RGU: SPORT

RGU Sport is seeking to further develop a volunteering programme first established in 2010. Volunteer for Sport (VFS) is open to all Robert Gordon University students in first and second year and aims to increase the number of trained coaches and volunteers locally.

The VFS students receive training in first aid, child protection and positive coaching scotland courses and gain a United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) Level 1 or 2 qualification in rugby, hockey, basketball, climbing or rowing. On completion of this training the students are placed in school and community settings across the city to deliver quality coaching to children and young people. This programme is expected to provide over 700 hours of

coaching between April and December 2013 and will in turn help to inspire a whole new generation of children and young people to take part in sport and physical activity.

The overall cost of this project is £29,500. The recommendation is to provide £10,000 of funding towards this project which will be matched by £19,500 from RGU Sport. This covers a range of incurred costs including equipment, marketing and promotion, uniform and coaching course costs.

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
£10,000	£10,000

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. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The RGU: Sport grant application – available in the Members Lounge and distributed by email to external members of committee.

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Jo Conlon
Sports Policy and Partnership Officer
jconlon@aberdeencity.gov.uk
(01224) 523798

Appendix 1

Summary Table of Financial Assistance Sports Awards 2012/13

Sports Organisation	Funding Awarded	Committee Approval
Aberdeen Rugby League Club	£640	Education, Culture & Sport 07/06/12
Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association	£13,000	Education, Culture & Sport 07/06/12
Active Aberdeen – Festival of Sport, Physical Activity and Dance	£5,000	Education, Culture & Sport 20/09/12
City of Aberdeen Gymnastics	£2,260	Education, Culture & Sport 20/09/12
Aberdeen Secondary Schools Football Association	£1,000	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 07/11/12
Hazlehead Netball Club	£317.50	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 07/11/12
Silver City Blues Swimming Club	£1,700	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 07/11/12
Special Olympics Grampian Area – Ski Group	£4,900	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 07/11/12
Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development Grants	£4,500	Education, Culture & Sport 22/11/12
Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club	£4,950	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 10/01/13

Aberdeen Dolphins Swimming Club	£2,500	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 10/01/13
Adventure Aberdeen	£4,000	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 10/01/13
Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association	£12,000	Education, Culture & Sport 31/01/13
Garthdee Alpine Sports	£2450.88	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 08/03/13
Glentanar Community Football Club	£1170.00	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 08/03/13
Netball Scotland	£3,500	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 08/03/13
North Region Girls Football League	£3,396	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 08/03/13
Stoneywood Dyce Cricket Club	£1,585	Culture & Sport Sub Committee 08/03/13
The Robert Gordon University	£10,000	Education, Culture & Sport 28/03/13
Total Grant Funding Awarded if recommendations approved	£85,869.38	
Grant Funding Remaining	£12,311.62	

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.