

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Urgent Business
DATE	11 July 2013
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Energy Cities Challenge Cup

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to bring before this Committee an application from Aberdeen Football Club (AFC) towards the costs to deliver an Energy Cities Challenge Cup in the city on the 4th September 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the committee:

- i) Acknowledge receipt of a request from Aberdeen Football Club to support the delivery of the Aberdeen v Viking FK (Stavanger) match and associated activities which will take place in the city during Offshore Europe 2013.
- ii) To agree that £25,000 of financial assistance should be provided from the Common Good Fund.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial strategy for the Common Good is such that working balances are to be maintained at a level whereby two years' worth of Common Good expenditure could be met if required. Current expenditure levels are £2.85 million, therefore cash balances require to be retained at a minimum level of £5.7 million.

Current predictions are such that by March 2014, surplus funds will be £6.3 million, leaving approximately £600,000 available for one-off items of expenditure such as this. This provides an opportunity for the Common Good Fund to provide the necessary funding.

The total cost of the event is £63,500. AFC is requesting £25,000 from the Council. A breakdown of the event budget and the costs for which Aberdeen Football Club is seeking support is detailed in appendix 1. This report recommends that the committee note the application and exercise reasonable judgment that financial support should be provided from the Common Good Fund.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Where the provision of grant funding by the Council is in excess of £2,500 it means that there requires greater consideration of the various aspects of the local code of practice for funding external bodies and 'following the public pound'. Specific requirements apply in relation to information provided, financial management history and a funding agreement being in place to recognise the purpose and outcomes of the funding as well as the roles and responsibilities of both the Council and the organisation. This would be put in place by staff in Education, Culture and Sport.

The committee should be aware that the city council is also supporting, in conjunction with the energy industry, the Offshore Energy Festival which will be taking place on the same day as the football match, in a number of venues throughout the city centre.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 AFC has invited Norwegian Tippeligaen football club Viking FK (Stavanger) to take part in a match at Pittrodrie Stadium on Wednesday 4th September 2013 to compete for the Energy Cities Community Cup.

This match takes place during Offshore Europe 2013 and follows on from the previous game, which took place in Stavanger during Offshore Europe 2012. This event will continue to develop the relationship between the two cities.

The main aim of this event as detailed by AFC is to:

- Establish and grow relationships with other football clubs with like minded aims and values as AFC with a view to sharing knowledge and best practice, particularly in areas of community engagement through football and youth development.
- Offer the opportunity for citizens of Aberdeen to experience, at no cost, professional football in a live sporting arena.
- Engage with the local community
- Promote the advancement of public participation in sport in Aberdeen City through the promotion of participation in football and other sporting activities and acting as advisors in relation to the development of football and other sporting activities
- Promote the advancement of health benefits of physical activity and provision of assistance in relation to sports – related and healthy lifestyles matters
- Promote the advancement of community development by encouraging participation in football clubs and other sports clubs, literacy, numeracy, employment skills, life skills. Social inclusion, and social activities to all sections of the community

- Promote equality and diversity by encouraging participation and integration into a range of inclusive and accessible programmes which strive to bring together all sections of the community, regardless of race, religion, creed, age, gender, sexuality or physical activity
 - Promote the advancement of education by the promotion of programmes and activities which have an education value
- 5.2 AFC has already advertised that this match will be free for all and in addition they plan to deliver a programme of community activity from the 25th August until the match day on the 4th September 2013.
- 5.3 The financial assistance request to the City Council is to provide £25,000 to assist in the delivery of on and off pitch event activities planned and identified in Appendix 1. The event programme is all inclusive and assists the city council in maintaining and developing the city's continued civic pride and showcase Aberdeen's ability to host major sporting events. Aberdeen Football Club expects around 7,000 spectators to attend the match event with the free tickets being controlled via the use of a voucher system and distributed to schools and local communities throughout the city.
- 5.4 In the longer term the football club has an aspiration to invite teams from other oil and gas cities to broaden this exchange of cultural awareness and operational behaviours, whilst continuing to make the event accessible for all members of the local community. This would also offer further opportunities for collaborating with other football clubs demonstrating examples of best practice in their community and youth initiatives.

An outline of the event costs is detailed in Appendix 1.

5.5 Criteria for Common Good Support

In considering the request for funding the purposes to which the funds held in the Common Good can be applied have to be taken into consideration.

At its meeting of 6 December 2012 the Finance and Resources Committee considered an updated financial strategy for the Common Good and agreed that the purpose and nature of Common Good expenditure would be as follows:

Purpose – is to ensure that is it prudently conserved for future generations.

Nature of Expenditure – the items of expenditure which can be met from the Common Good are as follow:

- Upholding the dignity of the City;

- The prudent management, upkeep and improvement of those items of Council Property which form part of the Common Good;
- Safeguarding the corporate rights of the community and defending its interests;
- Granting donations to public institutions or charities – this must be exercised in the interests of the general public of the City;
- Any other purpose, which in a reasonable judgement of the Council is for the good of the community as a whole or in which the inhabitants may share; as distinct from the interest or benefit of any particular individual or group.

Overall, the purposes for which Common Good funds may be utilised are limited to the City and its interests.

In addition, recent practice has excluded any activity from receiving assistance from the Common Good for which Aberdeen City Council or other public body has a statutory duty to support.

It has been assessed in consultation with officers within Legal and Democratic Services, that this application may meet the criteria to be eligible for assistance from the Common Good but it is for members to exercise reasonable judgement and decide if this event is for the good of the community as a whole or one in which the inhabitants may share.

6. IMPACT

The management of the Common Good contributes towards the most efficient and effective use of the Council's funds.

It is essential that the Common Good is managed in such a way that it continues to be able to support the wide range of ventures it presently does.

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

There are no background papers to this report

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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APPENDIX 1 - EVENT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENT OF EVENT OBJECTIVES

The activities surrounding the event have been designed for the good of the community as a whole, to be as accessible to local residents, and to be as inclusive as possible. The events involved while incurring a significant cost to AFC to undertake, will not incur any subscription or entrance fee for attendees.

ACTIVITY	DATE / TIME	DELIVERED BY	VENUE	RELATIVE OBJECTIVE(S)	AFC INVESTMENT	FUNDING REQUESTED
Community activities working group	Summer 2013	ACC / AFC / Stavanger	Pittodrie	A	£1,450	£250
Energy Cities 4v4 Festival (2005-2007 age groups)	Sunday 25 th August	SFA / AFC	TBC	D, E, F & H	£250	£250
Primary Schools Trophy Tour	Monday 26 th to Friday 30 th August	AFC / Stavanger / Offshore Europe representative	Various	D, E, F & G	£500	£500
Coaches In-Service & PCS Workshop	Sunday 1 st September 10am to 3pm	AFC / Stavanger / SFA Coaches	ASV	D, E, F & H	£1,600	£1,300
Multi-Cultural Football Festival	Sunday 1 st September 3pm to 6pm	AFC	ASV	D, E, F & G	£800	£800
Walking Football Festival	Sunday 1 st					

	September 6pm to 8pm	AFC	ASV	D, E, F & G	£650	£650
'Travel in Style' Workshops	Monday 2 nd & Tuesday 3 rd September	AFC	Pittodrie	D, E, F & G	£1700	£1700
Family Fan Park	Wednesday 4 th September 17.00 – 19.45	AFC	RDS Concourse (outdoor)	D, E, F & G	£1,000	£750
Junior Match-day Club	Wednesday 4 th September 18.00 – 19.00	AFC	ASV	D, E, F & G	£350	£250
Rock RDS	Wednesday 4 th September 18.45 – 19.30	AFC	RDS Concourse (indoor)	D, E, F & G	£500	£100
Pipe Band Stadium March	Wednesday 4 th September 19.00 – 19.45	TBC	Stadium / pitch perimeter	D, E, F & G	£600	£350
MATCH: Aberdeen FC v Viking FK	Wednesday 4 th September 19.45 KO	AFC	Pittodrie Stadium	B, C	£44,000	£18,000

Half-time Match Activities – AFC Girls playing small sided games on the pitch	Wednesday 4 th September 20.30 – 20.45	AFC	Pittodrie Stadium	B	£100	£100
Delivery of Energy Cities Community Cup Marketing Plan	Various (see Appendix A)	AFC	Pittodrie Stadium	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	£10,000	£ -
TOTALS					£63,500	£25,000