

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Finances and Resources

DATE: 12 November 2009

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Stewart Carruth

TITLE OF REPORT: Applications for the Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme 2009-2010.

REPORT NUMBER: H&E/09/072

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for funding requests from the Equality of Opportunity Grants Budget 2009/2010.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee approve the following Equality of Opportunity Grants:

- £1930 to Aberdeen Chinese School towards the costs of organising community celebrations for both the Chinese Moon Festival and the Chinese New Year.
- £992 to Aberdeen Women's Alliance towards the costs of organising events to commemorate both International Day Against Violence Against Women (25 November 2009) and International Women's Day (8 March 2010).
- £500 to Deafblind Scotland to provide guiding support to deafblind people in Aberdeen to facilitate their attendance at a meeting of the Scottish Advisory Group on Deafblindness in the Glasgow area
- £2560.30 to Good Egg Theatre Company, a not for profit theatre group, to produce and stage a performance of "Safe House", a play written about domestic abuse
- £500 to Aberdeen Inter-Faith towards the cost of organising events, primarily as part of the celebration around Scottish Inter-Faith week

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The awards recommended will be met from the Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme budget for 2009/2010, which includes the minority grants budget of £19,500 and the crèche budget of £3,000. Should committee approve all of these grants, the revised balance for the remainder of the financial year is £12974.70.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The grants scheme supports the priorities of a Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking Aberdeen and the Council's City Regeneration Strategy to make 21st century Aberdeen a successful city

for all its people. By creating a more inclusive city and by tackling the geography of inequality, the City Regeneration strategy seeks to lay firm foundations for the development of the City.

The scheme also contributes to the National Outcome 7 – We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society and the National Outcome 11 – We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. Meanwhile, it supports the aim of the Council's Strengthening of Local Democracy Strategy: Enable every citizen to be more active in his or her community regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, where they live or disability to ensure everyone can contribute to 'active citizenship'.

An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) is carried out annually on the Equality of Opportunity Grants Budget as a whole. The EHRIA carried out on the Equality of Opportunity Grants Budget 2008/2009 found that:

The scheme delivers positive outcomes for all equality target groups in the City including women, people from ethnic minority communities, people with disabilities, people from LGBT Communities, people from faith groups, people from the regeneration areas, families and young people. Further promotional opportunities have been identified to encourage groups previously not applying for grant assistance to apply for grants in future.

The Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme is reviewed annually. It will also be necessary to review this grants scheme as part of a future review of the Council's Funding Pack.

The full EHRIA has been publicised on the ACC website:

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/Grants/SL\(Grants\)/gra_FundingGrantsAssistance_Home.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/Grants/SL(Grants)/gra_FundingGrantsAssistance_Home.asp)

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

6. REPORT

A folder containing the copies of the full original applications is available in the Elected Members' Library.

REF		Minority Grants (£)	Crèche cost (£)
	Remaining Balance of Budget available 2009/2010	17114	2343
1.	Towards the costs of organising community celebrations for both the Chinese Moon Festival and the Chinese New Year	1930	
2.	Towards the costs of organising events for International Day Against Violence Against Women and International Women's Day	710	282
3.	To provide guiding support to deafblind delegates	500	
4.	To produce and stage a performance of "Safe House", a play written about domestic abuse	2410.30	150
5.	Towards the costs of organising events for Aberdeen Inter-faith	500	
	Total	6650.30	432
	Amount remaining in budget if these awards are made.	11063.70	1911

6.1 Aberdeen Chinese School

- Aberdeen Chinese School, established in 1991 to promote Chinese language culture and support Chinese people living and/or working in the city, is a non-profit-making organisation. The charity plays a key role in promoting the Chinese language and culture among the Chinese community and other communities.
- The school receives a grant from Aberdeen City Council's Education, Culture and Sport Service to help provide weekend classes in the form of a grant towards the cost of having classrooms at Linksfield Community Centre. This grant is applied for annually and is restricted and committed.
- The school plans to organise celebrations for the Chinese Moon Festival and the Chinese New Year at Linksfield Community Centre, attracting at least 500 participants from different cultures and backgrounds. It aims to reach more people from local communities to help promote community cohesion and social inclusion.
- The grant requested is to cover the following costs (venue costs come from Aberdeen City Council's Letting Section)

	£
a) Hiring Dining Room and Drama Room at the Linksfield Community Centre in 2009 and 2010 (2 x £165 = £330 for Drama Room, 2 X £150 = £300 for Dining Room)	630
b) Hiring tables and chairs for the two events	150
c) Designing and producing publicity materials such as flyers, posters, banners, etc	650
d) Hiring a van to transport musical instruments to perform at the events	150
e) Volunteering expenses including travel and child care costs	150
f) Chinese cultural performances by local community musicians	200
Total	<u>1,930</u>

Aberdeen Chinese School will organise fundraising events to cover the catering cost of the events. Families from the Chinese community are also encouraged to bring along some authentic home-made Chinese food to share with participants.

- This group has received no previous financial support from the Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme. In past years the school depended completely on the sponsorship by the Chinese Community to organise the events. However, due to the current recession, the school is finding it difficult to secure such sponsorship.
- The Committee are reminded that there may be applications from other groups such as Aberdeen Chinese Association, also seeking funding towards the cost of organising events for the Chinese New Year.
- However, as the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the committee award the £1930 requested.

6.2. Aberdeen Women's Alliance

- Aberdeen Women's Alliance was constituted in January 2004 as the consultative forum for women in Aberdeen to meet, network and collectively influence decision making in the Council and its partners. It now has more than 200 members with a Lead Group of 12 members.
- This is a two part application from the Alliance to assist with both costs towards an event to mark International Day Against Violence Against Women on 25 November 2009 and International Women's Day on 8 March 2010.
- An evening event on 25 November at the Citadel, Aberdeen, will consist of a main speaker to outline the issues around coping with the consequences of violence, followed by a Question and Answer Session and an open discussion. It is estimated that around 30 women will attend on 25 November although there will be capacity for more attendees if the need arises.

- The breakdown of the costs requested (£250) is as follows
£

Postage	30
Venue	80
Sundries	30
Care costs	40
Speaker expenses	50
Volunteer expenses	<u>20</u>
Total	250

- This event will form part of the Community Planning Diversity and Equality Fortnight of events to be held in November 2009.
- The second planned event will be held during the evening of 8 March 2010, with the theme of "Women's Wellbeing". A main speaker will lead the debate and then a World Café format will be followed to allow round the table discussions and the subsequent collation of views.
- The part of the grant (£742) is to cover venue and publicity costs, interpreting costs and 50% of the childcare costs to allow as much participation as possible by women in Aberdeen.

- The breakdown of costs follows

Interpreting fees	£	280
2 interpreters x £140 per interpreter		
Creche		282
50% 4 hours x 4 workers (Aberdeen City Council creche)		
Venue hire		<u>180</u>
	Total	742

Both events will

- Bring together women from different experiences and backgrounds to discuss issues affecting their lives and their communities
 - Break down barriers among communities to improve mutual understanding and build up new links/friendships
 - Support women to explore different perspectives on gender issues
 - Promote gender equality and cultural diversity, including how to effectively tackle gender stereotypes and prejudices
 - Increase awareness of how local, national and international actions can make a difference to women's lives
 - Celebrate women's achievements locally
- As the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the Committee award a total of £992 (£250 + £742) to Aberdeen Women's Alliance.

6.3. Deafblind Scotland

- Deafblind Scotland's sole focus is to work with adults who have a severe dual sensory impairment resulting in problems of communication, information and mobility. Deafblind Scotland began working in Scotland in 1989 and actively supports people throughout the country. Currently 35 deafblind people in Aberdeen are known to benefit from Deafblind Scotland's services.
- Deafblind Scotland arranges a quarterly meeting of the Scottish Advisory Group on Deafblindness (SAGOD), which is a group entirely made up of deafblind people and is a forum in which they discuss issues that affect them. The group meet in venues around the country and in November 2009, SAGOD will be held in the Glasgow area.
- The grant of £500 is requested to provide guiding support to two deafblind people in Aberdeen to enable them to attend this meeting and to help them communicate during the discussion. SAGOD has previously received a grant for this purpose and costs other than guiding and travel are borne by Deafblind Scotland.
- The direct costs are made up as follows:

	£
2 guides, each 0700 - 1900 hours at £18.45 per hour	442
Car costs 266 miles at 0.26 ppm	<u>69.16</u>
	Total 511.96

- As the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the Committee award the £500 requested.

6.4. Good Egg Theatre Company

- The Good Egg Theatre Company is a local not for profit group, which aims to produce and stage theatre works including original work, issue based and educational projects and projects which help the cause of minority groups.
- They plan to produce a performance of "Safe House", a play written about domestic abuse, which was one of the winners in last year's Writers and Actors Collaboration (WAC) play festival and has been nominated for the Meyer Whitworth Award.
- The group hopes to attract 150 people as the audience in the Lemon Tree and has been working with Aberdeen Women's Alliance, Grampian Women's Aid and Rape and Sexual Abuse North-East to ensure that women affected by the issues have been involved from the planning stage onwards.
- The performance on 3 December 2009, following on from International Day Against Violence Against Women on 25 November, would raise awareness of some of the issues directly related to domestic abuse and bring into the Aberdeen public domain information about services available locally.

- The breakdown of costs is as follows

	£
Venue Hire of Lemon Tree	460
Rehearsal space hire for 54 hours of rehearsal x £7.80 p hr	421.20
Costume	228
Set	498.10
Props	30
Transporting the set (van hire)	45 per 24hr hire
8 Volunteer's travel expenses for 9 weeks rehearsing 3 times a week	462
Publicity (to be included in Lemon Tree Brochure)	150
Publicity - to have flyers printed and display posters	116
Providing babysitting in lieu of a creche for certain audience members who may need it (15 families at £10 each)	150
Total	<u>2560.30</u>

- The cost of tickets will be kept to a minimum to include groups of people who would not ordinarily come to the theatre. Targeted women's groups would be allocated a number of free of charge tickets for members to attend. Any profit from ticket sales would go towards funding the tour of the play and future performances/events.
- As the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the Committee award a total of £2560.30 to the Good Egg Theatre Company, of which £150 is to cover childminding costs.

6.5. **Aberdeen Inter-faith**

- The Inter-faith network for the UK was founded in 1987 to promote good relations between people of different faiths in this country. Its member organisations include representative bodies from the Baha'i; Buddhist; Christian; Hindu; Jain; Jewish; Muslim; Sikh; and Zoroastrian communities; national and local inter-faith bodies, and academic institutions and educational bodies concerned with inter-faith issues.
- Aberdeen Inter-faith expects 300 people to attend events over its year programme and maintains contact with various faith communities and encourages participation in civic/faith events.
- Inter-faith week runs from 15 to 21 November and aims to
 - strengthen good inter-faith relations at all levels;
 - increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society; and
 - increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious belief

- The week is community-led, with local people and groups of different backgrounds holding their own events and highlighting work going on to promote understanding between people of different faiths and beliefs.
- Aberdeen Inter-faith has requested £500 for events and publicity for the year commencing November 2009, but primarily to cover events to celebrate Inter-faith week in November. This ties into the Community Planning Diversity and Equality Fortnight of Events being held in November 2009, and also with the forthcoming Single Equalities Bill, which will create a new single equality duty on public bodies to include religion or belief.
- As the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the Committee award the £500 requested.

7. AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

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9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Grant Guidelines – Extracted from Aberdeen City Council’s Funding Pack

The Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme

Aberdeen City Council is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for everyone and values the diversity of all its citizens. There is a small grants budget to support community groups and other non-profit organisations contributing to this work.

Applications are considered by: The Council’s Resources Management Committee.

Funding available:

Most of the grants awarded are likely to be in the £250 - £500 range, although applications for larger amounts will be considered for longer-term projects. Applicants will be expected to contribute something in cash or in kind, or both, towards the costs of their project. These contributions should be in proportion to the size and income/expenditure of the group and the amount being requested.

The projects can be short term or long term but they must all demonstrate that they will contribute to promoting equality in the city and support the current equality work priorities.

Here are some ideas of the kinds of project likely to be funded:

Support to organise or attend conferences or meetings on equal opportunities issues.
Production of materials, training resources, etc to raise awareness of equalities issues and/or challenge discrimination and exclusion.
Publicity, travel expenses, speakers’ expenses, venue hire costs, etc for meetings arranged to give voice to those who face discrimination so that their views and voices are heard.
Initiatives to increase public awareness of equality issues or the needs of the equality target groups.
Projects which will influence policy and practice on equal opportunities matters at local, regional or national levels.
Projects building on the capacity of members of the equality target groups to get involved in and influence the democratic process.
Childcare, interpreting/translation and other access costs to enable people to participate in the above kinds of projects.

Funding is not available for:

Costs which have already been incurred or previously committed.
Food and drink costs.
Access costs (childcare, interpreting/translation, etc) for general events funded elsewhere.
Travel costs to equality events outwith the City will only be considered if there is no reasonable opportunity to attend a similar event within the city.

Who can apply?

Page 4 of the Aberdeen City Council Funding Pack includes the following:

Groups working to benefit one or more of the Equality Target Groups i.e. Women, Minority Ethnic People, People with Disabilities, Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexual and Transgender People, Travellers and Refugees.

Groups including people from the Equality Target Groups.

In particular, the Council is keen to support projects in line with its own current equal opportunities work priorities, which are:

Tackling violence against women.

Promoting access to employment and services for the equalities target groups.

Developing anti-racist policies and practices.

Developing a strong ethnic minority voluntary sector.

Participation/representation of equalities target groups in decision-making and ensuring they are represented in the democratic process.

Removing any barriers to equality – by tackling exclusion or discrimination resulting from social attitudes, environmental or institutional barriers.

Providing support for refugees.

Tackling racist incidents/violence.