

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture & Sport**
DATE: **12th September 2013**
DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**
TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants**
REPORT NUMBER: **ECS_13_054**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before Committee, three applications for financial assistance and makes recommendations accordingly.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the committee:

- (a) considers the applications through **the significant sporting events grant programme** and approve the following recommendations:

Applicant	Funding Recommended
Commonwealth Water Polo Championship 2014 Organising Company Ltd	£30,000
The Northern Trophy Day	£850.00

- b) considers the application through **the coach and volunteer workforce development grant programme** and approve the following recommendation:

Applicant	Funding Recommended
Colin Sim – Aberdeen Wheelers Cycling Club	£150.00

- c) Note the categories agreed by the Culture and Sport Sub Committee on the 1st July 2013 relating to the new sports grant funding streams.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The sports grants budget for the 2013/14 is £90,000 in addition to this there is £140,000 allocated this year from the Common good budget. Assuming that the recommendations are approved at the Culture and Sport Sub committee this cycle, there will be £176,000 remaining in this budget. Please see appendix 1 for previous awards of grants funding in the current financial year.

Officers within Education, Culture and Sport have recently redefined the sports grant criteria and capacity has been identified to support community sports clubs and organisations through the application process.

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. Groups who do not meet the criteria will be assisted by officers to source alternative solutions.

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.

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 Sports Grants Applications Framework

On the 1st July 2013, the Culture and Sport Sub Committee approved Officers recommendations to redefine the sports grant criteria and design an application process which attracts new applicants and addresses clear gaps in the city's sport and physical activity provision.

The new categories for the Grants Programme are as following:

- **Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development** - This fund aims to support coaches and volunteers to obtain a higher level of coaching award in their chosen sport.
- **Club Development** – The aim of this grant is to increase the availability of sporting opportunities in the city by assisting existing sports clubs to develop their sports programmes and by encouraging the establishment of new sports groups/clubs/sections.

- **Talented Athletes** - The aim of the scheme is to recognise individual talented sports performers in Aberdeen and encourage them to develop to their full potential by providing funding to assist with the costs associated with competing at a high level.
- **Significant Sporting Events** - The aim of this grant is to help sporting, community and event organisations deliver significant sporting events within the Aberdeen City Council boundary. The Programme, through the *Event Assistance Grants* and *Event Development Grants* categories will provide funding support for events that are national or international in focus, or that are regionally significant, and are recognised by the relevant governing body of sport.
- **Commonwealth 2014 Community Games fund** – This fund aims to help local communities in Aberdeen to celebrate Glasgow 2014 at a grassroots level by hosting events with a physical activity and sport aspect within in Aberdeen between 23rd July – 3rd August 2014.

The guidance for each of the above categories is available in appendix 3

5.2 Significant Sporting Events Grant Programme

5.2.1 Commonwealth Water Polo Championship 2014

The exciting sport of Water Polo, a sport born in Scotland, is coming home in 2014. The Commonwealth Water Polo Championship Organising Company is looking to host the “Homecoming” 3rd Commonwealth Water Polo Championships at the Aberdeen Aquatics Centre in April 2014.

This will be the first major event in the facility which is due to open in the early part of 2014 and will help to extend the benefits and opportunities offered by the Commonwealth Games to communities in the North East. This event was successfully hosted in Manchester in 2002 and Perth, Australia in 2006. Hosting this Water Polo event will further enhance Scotland’s and more importantly Aberdeen’s ability to host major sports events on the international stage. Australia is also currently campaigning strongly to have the sport included in the 2018 Commonwealth Games and this mix is expected to stimulate positive media attention not only in the UK but Worldwide.

Following the success of sell-out crowds at the London 2012 Olympics, the 20 teams from 11 nations (Australia, Canada, Cyprus, England, Northern Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, South Africa, Scotland, Singapore and Wales) who are due to compete will generate good crowds. The 360 competitors and 40 officials will stay in accommodation in the city over a 10 day period.

The Commonwealth Water Polo Championship will be an excellent opportunity to energise Aberdeen’s water polo development and ensure a lasting legacy from the event. Scottish Water Polo and Scottish Swimming will work with local partners to explore all aspects of development activity that can be delivered pre, during and post competition.

The Aberdeen & Grampian water polo development plan which has recently been developed has three phases and is now completing the first phase. The

first phase targets that have been met include holding continuous professional developments sessions, starting a registered club, introducing mini polo & water polo to schools and local authority pools. The second phase is the establishment of the Scottish Water Polo Academy (SWPA) at the Aquatic Centre in the early part of 2014, educating coaches to United Kingdom Coaching Certificate Levels 1 & 2, and forming a local junior league with at least 5 clubs. The third phase is filling out a performance pathway from beginners to a senior club with junior and senior clubs competing in Scottish & British National Events. The already established men's and women's programmes at Aberdeen and Robert Gordon Universities will also be integrated into this pathway and important to the development of future coaches and officials.

As part of the Commonwealth Tournament, local schools will be given tickets for the event and information about the Academy and local clubs. Before, during and after the event, there will be junior games and development festivals. The intention is to be ready to capitalise on the short window of opportunity that hosting a major event brings to a city in terms of interest from residents and future participants.

The Commonwealth Water Polo Championship 2014 Organising Company Ltd has submitted a comprehensive application and business plan; copies of this are available in the members lounge. The total cost to deliver this event is £414,340 and the organising company are looking for a contribution of £30,000 from the local authority to bring this event to the city. The contribution from the local authority will be through the Significant Sporting Events Grant Programme and Aberdeen City Council will be a main partner and will be recognised in all branding and promotional material produced.

An officer from Education, Culture and Sport will sit on the partner working group alongside Scottish Swimming, British Swimming, Aberdeen Sports Village and Event Scotland and will report back to the Culture and Sport Sub Committee with progress in February 2014.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£30,000	£30,000

5.2.2 The Northern Trophy Day – Dancesport Scotland

Dancesport Scotland was established in 1945 and is the national Governing Body for Ballroom and Latin American Dancing in Scotland.

Since 2004 the governing body has been organising the Northern Cup at the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen and this event has now become one of the highlights of the dancing calendar for dancers from across the North of Scotland. In addition the competition which will take place on the 27th October this year will be a national event which will attract participants from as far a field as England and Wales.

The governing body is looking for a grant of £850.00 towards the cost of the venue hire. The event is predominantly delivered by volunteers which ensures that the event costs are minimal. The overall budget for the event is £2270.00.

Should this grant be approved, officer from Education, Culture and Sport will work with the governing body to ensure that opportunities to participate in ballroom and Latin American dancing are promoted across the city.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£850.00	£850.00

5.3 Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development Grant

5.3.1 Colin Sim – Aberdeen Wheelers Cycling Club

Colin has been an active member of the Aberdeen Wheelers Cycling Club for the past six years.

This application through the coach and volunteer workforce development grant stream is for a contribution towards the costs of the United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) Level 2 course which will be taking place at the Caird Park Velodrome in Dundee.

Following this course Colin intends to volunteer to coach both the senior and youth sections of his club and will on average commit 5-6 hours per week.

The total cost of the course is £395.00 of which Scottish Cycling are contributing £100.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£395.00	£150.00

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. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

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.

All successful applicants are expected to agree to terms and conditions which mitigate any risk of exposure to the Council and that all supported activity meets Council Policies, processes and the Following the Public Pound guidelines.

Discussions are currently underway with the organisers of the Waterpolo event and partners about underwriting the event linked to risk management. If appropriate, a further report will be brought for the consideration of an appropriate Council committee

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The application forms and business plan will be available in the members lounge prior to the Education, Culture and Sport committee.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix 1

Summary Table of Financial Assistance Sports Awards 2013/14

Organisation	Funding Awarded	Committee Approval
Grampian Institute of Sport	£8,000	Education, Culture & Sport

		30/05/13
Games for Scotland (match funding for council application to Event Scotland)	£5,000	Education, Culture & Sport 30/05/13
Aberdeen Synchronized Ice Skating Club	£5,000	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 01/07/13
Auchmill Golf Club	£5,000	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 01/07/13
Commonwealth Water Polo Championship 2014 Organising Company Ltd	£30,000	Education, Culture & Sport 12/09/13
The Northern Trophy Day – Dancesport Scotland	£850.00	Education, Culture & Sport 12/09/13
Colin Sim – Aberdeen Wheelers Cycling Club	£150.00	Education, Culture & Sport 12/09/13
Total Grant Funding Awarded if recommendations approved	£54,000	
Grant Funding Remaining	£176,000	

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.