

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	5 December 2013
DIRECTOR	Angela Scott
TITLE OF REPORT	Small Financial Assistance Grants – 2013/14
REPORT NUMBER	CG/13/121

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present applications for financial assistance which have recently been received and to allow Elected 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 grant:
 - Celebrate Aberdeen (ACVO) - £2,500
- ii) agree that no funding be awarded to:-
 - ELSA
 - 9th Aberdeen Scout Troop

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a sum of £55,770 included in the 2013/14 Council Revenue Budget.

The amount committed from this budget prior to this committee is £16,865, leaving £38,905 remaining. If the above recommendations were to be approved the amount committed would be £19,365, leaving £36,405 remaining.

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 follows:

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 Celebrate Aberdeen Parade (ACVO) – (Further information at Appendix A)
This committee on 13th June 2013 requested officers contact the organisers of the Celebrate Aberdeen parade and invite them to make an application for financial assistance towards the costs of traffic management and traffic orders for the parade on 8th June 2013. This application has now been received and is attached in Appendix A.

It is recommended that maximum funding of £2,500 be awarded in line with similar applications.

5.2 The European Law Students Association (ELSA) Aberdeen Branch – (Further information at Appendix B)

An application has been received from the Vice President for Marketing of ELSA Aberdeen seeking sponsorship towards the activities of the branch including hosting lectures on issues of Civil Liberties and Human Rights and organising a study visit to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) where members will have the opportunity to meet and attend a private lecture with Vice President Koen Lenaerts.

The application does not provide any detail of the financial circumstances of the group and it is unclear to what purpose any funding awarded to be used. Therefore, in terms of assessment criteria b) above, this application would not be supported.

If funding was for the purposes of the study visit to the ECJ then in terms of assessment criteria g) above, this application would not be supported.

It is therefore recommended that no funding is awarded.

5.3 9th Aberdeen Scout Troop – (Further information at Appendix C)

Applications have been received from the Scout Troop via Councillors Cormie and Greig seeking funding to support a trip they are organising to Arizona and the Grand Canyon in October 2014. It is expected that 36 scouts aged 10 to 14 will take part with the greatest part of the funding coming from the families of the Scouts. However, to keep the costs to a reasonable level and allow Scouts from all financial backgrounds to attend, the Troop has already raised £7,500 through various fundraising activities and is targeting a further £20,000.

In terms of assessment criteria g) above, this application would not be supported and therefore it is recommended that no funding is awarded.

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

Sandra Buthlay

Senior Accountant

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☎ (52) 2565



23rd October 2013

Sandra Butchlay
Senior Accountant
Aberdeen City Council
Corporate Governance
3rd Floor
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1AH

Dear Sandra,

CELEBRATE ABERDEEN PARADE 8TH JUNE 2013 – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

We are most grateful to the Council's Finance and Resources Committee for the opportunity to apply for financial assistance in respect of the costs of traffic management and traffic orders in relation to the above parade. I confirm that we would be grateful if you would report to the Committee our thanks and wish to take up this opportunity. I attach copies of invoice reference P0073754 for £800 for temporary traffic restriction and of invoice reference D0039456 for £2399.57 for traffic management.

Provision of this finance will be of great value in enabling ACVO to deliver support, development, involvement and opportunity to the at least 130 Third Sector organisations, 3500 volunteers and 80 private sector companies who engaged with the parade, enabling them to continue to deliver a positive impact on the City throughout the year, including by the provision of Aberdeen Impact Bursaries for organisations in a critical situation or which are pursuing a social enterprise opportunity.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or my colleague Sarah Irvine.

Yours sincerely

ALISON CHANDLER
ENTERPRISE & SUSTAINABILITY LEAD

Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations, Greyfriars House, Gallowgate, Aberdeen, AB10 1LU
Tel: (01224) 690058; E-mail: enquiries@acvo.org.uk

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APPENDIX B

10 OCT 2013

11/10/2013

Karolina Saltmeryte
VP for Marketing
ELSA Aberdeen

Jonathan Belford
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1AH

Dear Mr Belford,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the opportunity to sponsor the European Law Students Association (ELSA) Aberdeen branch. The European Law students Association was established in Vienna in 1981. Currently it is the world's largest independent, non-political and non-profit law student's association. ELSA's network consists of 42 national groups and it is represented in some 300 law faculties across Europe with over 38,000 members. Each local group is run by and for students or young lawyers providing a platform for developing their existing skills and acquiring new ones, while meeting fellow students and legal professionals from all over Europe. Ultimately ELSA seeks to contribute to legal education, to foster mutual understanding and promote social responsibility of law students and young lawyers. Our vision is a just world in which there is respect for human dignity and cultural diversity.

The Aberdeen branch of ELSA was re-established in 2012 due to the drive of a few dedicated students aiming to encourage and inspire their peers into building a strong community of internationally-minded lawyers. Despite being a young association we have already put in place an integrated social network platform. Last year we organised an international career evening with external speakers from the industry, academia and government hosting over 70 participants. As the year progresses we aim to participate in the range of events that are organised by ELSA International, such as the ELSA Moot Court (EMC2) and the Human Rights Moot Court Competition. Not to mention that ELSA offers its members the unprecedented opportunity to participate alongside national delegates in meetings of the highest international level such as UNESCO, INTA and the Council of Europe. However our vision for ELSA Aberdeen includes our own undertakings as well. Plans are already in motion for hosting lectures on issues of Civil Liberties and Human rights in coordination with the relevant modules offered by the law school. We also hope, given adequate sponsorship, that we will be able to organise a study visit to the ECJ where members will be given the opportunity to meet and attend a private lecture with Vice-President Koen Lenaerts.

It is our sincerest hope that Aberdeen City Council would like to support ELSA Aberdeen and aid us in bringing to fruition these ambitious goals. At this point I would like to invite you to consider establishing a long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationship with ELSA Aberdeen. If you would choose to sponsor us, we will promote your sponsorship through our social media platform, on all marketing content and posters we display across the university campus throughout the year and in addition your logo will always be displayed at our events and activities. We would greatly appreciate any donation you would be willing to contribute. If your organisation would like to be involved with ELSA Aberdeen please do not hesitate to contact me directly at **k.saltmeryte**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karolina Saltmeryte
VP for Marketing
ELSA Aberdeen

Magdalena Olesiewicz
President
ELSA Aberdeen

From:
Sent: 14 October 2013 11:39
To: MembersEnquiries
Subject: Cllr Cormie - Small Grants Fund

Hi,

Please can you log the following on behalf of Councillor Cormie.

Councillor Cormie has been contacted by the 9th Aberdeen Scout Troop. The troop are in the process of organising a trip to Arizona for next year where they will take part in activities with other Scout troops. The troop have been doing lots of fundraising and have approached Councillor Cormie requesting that he make a donation through his ward budget. As Councillors no longer have ward budgets, Councillor Cormie wondered if the scout troop would qualify for a small grant from the Council.

Would this be possible?

Members' Support Assistant

From: Martin Greig
Sent: 16 October 2013 16:33
To: MembersEnquiries
Subject: FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR 9TH SCOUTS TROOP VISIT TO ARIZONA

A local Scout Group (the 9th Aberdeen Scout Troop) has asked me to help identify funding opportunities to support their trip to Arizona in October 2014. Their message is attached below.

They are already vigorously fundraising but will need assistance to reach the total needed. They have raised £7.5K and have another £20K to raise. Some of the Scouts come from backgrounds with financial issues.

I am keen to find out if the Council or other organisations can help them. I hope that this is possible.

I would be grateful for your comments and suggestions to assist the Troop to reach its target amount.

Thank you.

Martin Greig

STARTS

The 9th Aberdeen Scouts are planning a trip to Arizona and The Grand Canyon in October 2014, with thirty six scouts from Aberdeen aged 10 to 14 expected to attend.. Amongst other activities, our Aberdeen Scouts will ;

- Meet and experience joint learning activities with Scouts from The Boy Scouts of America
- Visit and hike in one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World – The Grand Canyon
- Learn about the traditional life of Native American Indians
- Experience the history of The Wild West of America
- Learn about the geography and native animals of Arizona

The greatest part of the funds needed for this event will be coming from the families of the Scouts directly. However in order to keep the cost of the trip to a reasonable level and allow scouts of all financial backgrounds to attend, there are also a number of fund raising events such as sponsored climbs, coffee mornings, Bag packs, Quiz Nights etc. being organised. The scouts have also commenced a “Bob a Job” fundraising campaign doing small jobs for others for a small payment. The Troop has already raised £7,500 towards the trip and are targeting £20,000 more in the coming months.

We are interested in any support we can obtain from local groups including matched funding for fundraising, donations, sponsored clothing or baggage. I am enquiring whether there may be any Council funds from which a contribution could be made to this trip? Some of the Scouts are from the Ashley, Queens Cross and Hazlehead areas and several attend Hazlehead Academy. As a parent I would very strongly affirm the excellent character of the 9th Aberdeen Scout Group. The Scouts are engaged with a wide range of activities over the course of the year and the Group is run by a very dedicated group of able leaders on a voluntary basis. The quality of the experience of the Scouts will continue to have a beneficial effect in years to come on the young people themselves and on the wider community.. On behalf of the 9th Aberdeen Scouts I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this and hope you may be interested in supporting the 9th Aberdeen Scout Troop on an educational trip of a lifetime.

ENDS