

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture & Sport**

DATE: **30th January 2014**

DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/14/002**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the committee:

- (a) considers the applications through **the development grants** and approve the following recommendations:

Applicant	Funding Recommended
Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club	£4,000
Dyce Boys Football Club	£1,214
Granite City Wanderers Hockey Club	£1,131
Northfield Academy	£1,000
Scottish Gymnastics	£1,500
Total Award	£8,845

- b) considers the application through the significant sporting events grant programme and approve the following recommendation:

Applicant	Funding Recommended
Cricket Scotland – Scotland v England One Day International Cricket	£30,000

c) considers the application through **the talented athlete grants programme** and approve the following recommendations:

Applicant	Sport	Funding Recommended
A McGovern	Swimming	£850
K Knowles	Modern Pentathlon	£1,000
E Merry	Hockey	£200
C Chau	Hockey	£300
S Gambro	Hockey	£200
M Skidmore	Hockey	£200
S Cowie	Hockey	£875
R Kelsey	Curling	£1,500
S Butt	Swimming	£2,000
G Donald	Skiing	£2,000
R Tipping	Archery	£850`
J Erskine	Cycling	£200
S Barnes	Football	£70
Total Award		£10,245

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. There is currently £123,146 committed within this budget. Assuming that the recommendations contained within this report are agreed, there will be £106,854 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 Club Development Grant Programme

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.

5.1.1 Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club

Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club (Aberdeen AAC) are working with scottishathletics to continue to develop and implement the ‘club together’ partnership project.

The clubs vision is in line with the National Strategy for Athletics in Scotland, to increase the number of citizens in Aberdeen participating in athletics and to improve the performance of athletes in the City with talent and aptitude to do so.

The current membership of Aberdeen AAC is 400 members and over the next two year they intend to increase this to 475 whilst ensuring that the club plays a greater role in broadening community participation and creating pathways to excellence.

The main outcomes of the project are to:

- Increase participation in athletics building on London 2012 and Glasgow 2014 including growth in membership.
- To develop partnerships with local facilities in order to expand the satellite club structure to other locations, to cater for a growth in demand at beginner level.
- To strengthen the coaching structure building on Scottish Athletics Long Term Development Model
- To develop competitive opportunities, including developing new local events as well as attracting high profile athletic events to the city
- To build the internal capacity of the club to support these developments and improve organisation, deployment and retention of volunteers.

The purpose of this funding request is to allow the operational delivery of this partnership project over a one year period. Amateur Athletics Club will jointly fund the appointment of a part time club development officer with the grant from Aberdeen City Council being used to support the operational implementation of this project, by providing budget towards start up costs for

satellite clubs, marketing initiatives and the development of an event and competition programme.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£5,500	£4,000

5.1.2 Dyce Boys Football Club

Dyce Boys Club is a football club which was founded in 1980. Since the 80's it has expanded year on year, now boasting a membership of 190 boys from the ages of 6 to 15 years. The club has developed 15 professional footballers, and there are also a number of former club members who now play in the Highland or Junior leagues.

The community club has a real focus on the development of youth football and to encourage further development of the club they would like to introduce a 1vs1 skills development programme to all non-competitive playing members. This is following on from attendance at the SFA 1 vs 1 skills development course.

By introducing this at grassroots level Dyce Boys Club hope to allow every youngster in their club the chance to improve their individual skills and techniques and they recognised that improving technical and tactical skills in a 1v1 environment is the foundation for success at all levels of football.

By encouraging creativity and confidence in their young players Dyce Boys Club hope that this will see an improvement in the quality of football played and this will be carried forward into later years. There are very few programmes being run like this by other clubs in the city yet therefore Dyce hope that this type of training will play an important role in attracting new participants. This will play a positive role in the Dyce community, encouraging more young people to become more active, more often.

In order to sustain this programme the club will use their qualified coaches to deliver the programme however initial funds are needed to supply appropriate equipment and to support the training of additional coaches. The total cost of the project is £2428 and the club is looking for £1214 to put towards the cost equipment such as football's, training cones, training bibs, small sided portable goals.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£1214	£1214

5.1.2 Granite City Wanderers Hockey Club

Granite City Wanderers Hockey Club (GCWHC) is a men and women's club who train out of Rubislaw Playing Fields and were the first club in the city to achieve enhanced ClubCAP Club Accreditation. Their main aim as a club is

to provide every member with the opportunity to play hockey at the level which they want to play. The club boasts 5 men’s outdoor teams, 4 women’s outdoor teams, 3 men’s indoor team and 3 women’s indoor teams. Both the men’s and women’s outdoor teams play in Scottish National League 2. The club encourages players of all ages and abilities to take up hockey and develop their skills, with youth development being key objective.

The club has included youth development as an integral part of their strategic plan and they are keen to expand their youth development programme into new areas of the city, providing new experiences to children in the community. The target area for the club is the Bridge of Don area as this is an area which has never been targeted for hockey development previously and as a result of hopefully increasing participation within their club they will be able to enter an u16 girls side into the Youth National League programme.

Working alongside the Active School’s coordinator responsible for the Bridge of Don ASG, the club hopes to develop a pathway for hockey in this area. GCWHC are looking to work alongside the seven feeder primary schools and the two secondary schools within the Bridge of Don ASG to develop school to club links and create a sustainable pathway from school to community clubs. GCWHC have proposed to use some of the current club members tutoring experience to provide CPD opportunities within schools to allow for hockey delivery within curriculum time. The pathway would then run from school to extra-curricular club sessions through to GCWHC sessions should this be desired.

GCWHC pride themselves on being a welcoming club and have members from all over the city, this will allow members to maximise on the social side of playing hockey as well as experiencing the educational and health benefits.

The total cost of the project is £2262 and the club is looking for a grant of £1131 that would support them in providing coaching sessions by a level 1 hockey coach, purchasing training equipment, kit for the under 16 team, promotional material and first aid kits.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£2950	£1131

5.1.3 Northfield Academy

Northfield Academy is a secondary school which is based in the heart of one of the regeneration areas within the city. A significant amount of the Academy’s pupils are amongst the hardest to reach in the city and in line with Aberdeen City Council’s “Fit For The Future Strategy” Northfield Academy are looking to introduce these young people to physical activity and educate them on the benefits of developing healthy lifestyles.

In order to do this Northfield Academy would like to create a fitness room in a central location within the school. This room would be the base for a newly

formed extra-curricular Health and Fitness group, would be used when working with the targeted support pupils and could be used by the wider school community.

In supporting their pupils to access quality fitness equipment the teaching staff believes that they can support the pupils to develop good health and fitness habits beyond their time at school. With the improvement in facilities that this funding could allow for, participation levels could be increased in the Health and Fitness Group and this will allow for pathways to be created and sustained for the learning community of Northfield to develop healthy lifestyles. The creation of a fitness room would allow for a safe and nurturing environment for pupils to learn essential skills and gain the knowledge to maintain a healthy lifestyle, which would help to raise aspirations in the whole school community.

The pupils at Northfield Academy experience barriers to participation in physical activity such as; location and financial constraints, therefore by allowing access to quality equipment on site within the Health and Fitness Group Northfield Academy could begin to address and overcome these barriers.

Northfield Senior Management team have recognised that physical education, physical activity and sport are key to the school and as a result of this they play a major part in the school's improvement plan. The school has agreed to make a contribution through funding CPD opportunities so that staff are trained to use the equipment safely and effectively so they can provide quality education to pupils. The school has also agreed to fund maintenance training for a school technician to ensure the equipment is kept in good condition and is suitable for use.

The total cost of the project is £1996 and the school is looking for a grant of £1000 towards the purchase of 4 x indoor exercise bicycles.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£1000	£1000

5.1.4 Scottish Gymnastics

Scottish Gymnastics are the governing body for Gymnastics in Scotland and are responsible for the development and governance of five World and Olympic gymnastic disciplines which includes Acrobatic Gymnastics, Women's Artistic, Men's Artistic, Rhythmic Gymnastics and Trampoline Gymnastics.

The current membership of Gymnastics in Grampian is 1967 and it is expected that this will grow by 10% each year to 3000 by 2017.

The governing body do not currently have a Regional Development Manager in post to cover the Grampian area and it is recognised that the City Council need to work closely with the governing body to develop the sport so that the

city will be in a better place to provide the full pathway from pre school to elite athletes, including a strong coaching network, quality facility access and strong club infrastructure.

In order to facilitate this Scottish Gymnastics wish to conduct an audit with all local gymnastics clubs to evaluate their current provision and future requirements.

The purpose of the audit will be to establish:

- The management and legal status of clubs and trusts operating in the city
- Utilise Scottish Gymnastics Customer Relationship Management Data
- Map School to Club Links
- Map Club/ Local authority/trust links and programmes
- Summarise the size/ambition/development stage and current operational effectiveness of clubs

The results from the audit along with the similar results being gathered in Aberdeenshire will aid the production of a regional plan for Gymnastics which will be delivered by local partners and the Regional Development Manager once appointed.

Scottish Gymnastics will lead the process and are looking for a 50% contribution from Aberdeen City Council to carry out this work over a 10 week period.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£1,500	£1,500

5.2 Significant Sporting Events Programme

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.

5.2.4 Scotland v England One Day Cricket International

For only the 3rd time ever Scotland are looking to host England in a full One day Cricket international. Cricket Scotland are bringing this exciting event to Aberdeen to showcase the strength of Mannofield as a cricket ground, the large cricketing community which exists within Aberdeen City and the surrounding area and to show the support of the local business community and Aberdeen City Council.

Aberdeen has hosted One Day International Events in four of the last five seasons however these have mainly been against lower ranked teams. This

event will be the first time since 2008 when Scotland played New Zealand that a major country has played in Aberdeen. The England game is the biggest event that Cricket Scotland hosts and will therefore have a great benefit on Aberdeen and the surrounding area. With a large cricketing population in the City it will be the first time they have seen the best players in the world close hand for many years.

This event will also provide an excellent opportunity for cricket to be showcased in the City with it is expected that this event will attract crowds of 2500 people minimum. This event will be a real focal point in showing high class cricket being played and will allow Cricket Scotland to maximise on development opportunities of the sport in the City.

This event will coincide with a community cricket day where taster sessions and a large cricket festival involving local schools will take place on the Wednesday before the match. Members of the Scotland Squad will attend and local children will have an opportunity to play cricket with information being provided to them about how they can continue there interest in the sport and local clubs.

Since Aberdeen won the right to host the game, Cricket Scotland have been working closely with Aberdeenshire Cricket Club who are based at Mannofield, to discuss and agree the majority of the logistics for the game. Meetings have also taken place with Aberdeen City Council Sports and Physical Activity Team, Events team and Roads department to look at issues such as Road Closures, logistics support and sports development opportunities. Cricket Scotland have been in contact with SKY television who will show live coverage of the match, Cricinfo, the premier cricket website, who will provide live scoring online, Match Point who will provide the corporate hospitality and local media outlets which will be involved in the marketing of the game. Cricket Scotland are also looking to engage local food retailers in providing the refreshments for the spectators on the day. A photo opportunity to launch this event will take place in the early part of 2014 in the courtyard at Marischal College.

The total costs of delivering an event of this size is £98,460 and Cricket Scotland 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.

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

5.3 Talented Athlete Grants

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.

A breakdown of this allocation is available in Appendix 3

5.3.1 Allocation of Talented Athlete Grant funding

A panel was developed in order to assess the application forms which were received. This panel consisted of a Scottish Institute of Sport Manager, a Performance Lifestyle Advisor and two officers from the City Council. In addition all applicants had to provide a supporting statement from the governing body for their specific sport. The applications were then reviewed against the set criteria and consideration was given to the level at which the athlete was performing and the associated costs to their training and competition. A high proportion of the athletes applied for the full amount of £2,000 however the panel felt that given that we are part way through the financial year and season that in certain instances following review of the costs submitted that the athletes did not require this full amount in order to develop to their full potential.

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.

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
Development Grants		
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
Bryon Amateur Boxing Club and Fitness Club	£2,000	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Cove Boys Football Club	£2,000	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club	£4,000	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Dyce Boys Football Club	£1,214	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Granite City Wanderers Hockey Club	£1,131	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Northfield Academy	£1,000	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Scottish Gymnastics	£1,500	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Significant Sports Events Grants		
Commonwealth Water Polo Championship 2014 Organising Company Ltd	£30,000	Education, Culture & Sport 12/09/13
The Northern Trophy Day – Dancesport Scotland	£850	Education, Culture & Sport 12/09/13

Scotland v England Cricket International – Cricketscotland	£30,000	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development Grant		
Colin Sim – Aberdeen Wheelers Cycling Club	£150	Education, Culture & Sport 12/09/13
Talented Athletes Grants		
Findlay Bremner (Freestyle Snowboarding)	£2,000	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Iona Riley (Rowing)	£1,800	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Lewis McCue (Rowing)	£1,500	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Gary Wilson (Rowing)	£1,500	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Yifel Fang (Table Tennis)	£1,156	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Joe Yeoman (Swimming)	£700	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Ross Soutar (Gymnastics)	£1,500	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Angus Rennie (Rugby)	£700	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Zoey Clark (Athletics)	£1,500	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Rebecca Bees (Rhythmic Gymnastics)	£1,500	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Richard Hollins (Squash)	£1,500	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Mark Speed (Waterpolo)	£700	Education, Culture & Sport 21/11/13
Andrew McGovern (Swimming)	£850	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Katie Knowles (Modern Pentathlon)	£1000	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)

Emily Merry (Hockey)	£200	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Christine Cahu (Hockey)	£300	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Sofia Gambro (Hockey)	£200	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Millie Skidmore (Hockey)	£200	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Siobhan Cowie (Hockey)	£875	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Rebecca Kelsey (Curling)	£1500	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Suleman Butt (Swimming)	£2000	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Grant Donald (Skiing)	£2000	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Rebecka Tippling (Archery)	£850	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Julie Erskine (Cycling)	£200	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Shaun Barnes (Football)	£70	Education, Culture & Sport 30/01/14 (pending)
Total Grant Funding Awarded if recommendations approved	£123,146	
Grant Funding Remaining	£106,854	

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 FPPP (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.