

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture and Sport**

DATE: **27 March 2014**

DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Funding Community Projects**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/14/018**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to note the budget decision on contracts and procurement in respect of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) relating to the various external organisations which provide community learning and development services, commissioned by the Council. These organisations are:

Aberdeen Lads Club, Fersands and Fountain Community Project, Middlefield Project, Printfield Project and St Machar Parent Support Project and Workers' Educational Association.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- a) Approves the estimated expenditure in relation to the Funded Projects for 2014/15 as set out in the Financial Implications section of this report and
- b) Notes the addition in allocation of funding of £20,000 to Aberdeen Lads Club to support the health and wellbeing of its members.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total budget for these commissioned projects for 2014/15 is £679,408. This amount is contained within the approved budget for the service, however the expenditure for these projects has not yet been approved by Committee. The projects have been funded at comparable levels for a number of years.

The funding for each organisation is as follows:

Aberdeen Lads Club: £123,957

Fersands and Fountain Community Project: £232,677

Middlefield Project: £104,766
Printfield Project: £65,812
St Machar Parent Support Project £112,416
Workers Educational Association: £39,780

This report asks the committee to approve the allocation of the expenditure as set out above.

The organisations listed above include the budgeted income from the Council within their business plan for 2014/15. Any delay to the payments could result in cash flow difficulties for these organisations.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Property Implications

None

Legal Implications

The Council's Standing Order 1(3) states: No tender shall be invited or contract entered into unless the total estimated expenditure has been previously approved by the Council.

This requires specific Committee approval. The allocation of a budget as part of the Council's budget setting process is insufficient.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 The service has historically provided funding to a number of organisations to deliver community learning and development activities on behalf of the Council. These organisations are all unincorporated charitable bodies.

The services provided by the funded projects include childcare, youth work, adult learning and capacity building.

Within these funded projects an element of the funding received is used for underpinning management and administrative costs which enable these projects to access funding/services beyond that of the funding from ACC into their areas of work.

Aberdeen Lads Club – This project provides childcare services including after school care. They provide youth work activities including clubs and play schemes for 5-18 year olds, with the largest groups being with primary aged children. They organise a community café. They lead the partnership that runs Feeling Great events across several regeneration areas. They provide support to the local community to

engage in community development. The Club is run by an Executive Committee.

Fersands and Fountain Community Project – Two funds are provided; one for Fersands Community Project, one for Fersands Mini-Family Centre. The organisations provide a range of childcare and parent & child services. They organise a wide range of youth work activities for primary & secondary aged young people and young adults. They run some adult learning groups in partnership with a range of agencies. They provide support to the local community, including their management committee, to engage in community development. They run an after school club and support Woodside Network in partnership with Printfield Project.

Middlefield Community Project – This project organises extensive youth work activities, for primary & secondary aged young people and young adults. They run some adult learning groups in partnership with a range of agencies. They provide support to the local community, including their management committee, Middlefield Area Residents Action Group and a range of volunteers, to engage in community development. The project also runs an extensive range of childcare services which are primarily funded from another ACC service.

Printfield Project – This project provides childcare services. They provide youth work activities including clubs and playschemes for 5-16 year olds, mostly with primary aged children. They support some adult learning groups in partnership with a range of agencies and run a social enterprise charity shop. They provide support to the local community, including their management committee to engage in community development. They run an after school club and support Woodside Network in partnership with Fersands and Fountain Community Project.

St Machar Parent Support Project – Provides support to pupils attending St Machar Academy or any of its feeder primaries and their parents/carers/families and to parents/carers/families living within the support needs and attends a school run by Aberdeen City Council. This support aims to improve pupil attendance and attainment and improve parent's engagement with schools and their children's learning. The Project is run by a Management Committee.

Workers Educational Association Scotland (WEA) – This organization provides adult and family learning opportunities for adults and families across Aberdeen. The funding is used across several areas of their work: parenting and family learning; an element of the Reach Out programme working with marginalised adults; work with the elderly; and community adult learning classes.

5.2 Review

A review of all funded activity is included within the CLD and Libraries Analysis Review. This review aligns with the root and branch review for all Culture and Sport commissioned work and is the subject of another Committee report. This report will be considered by committee in due course.

6. IMPACT

This report relates to 'Aberdeen – the Smarter City':-

- We will help every citizen to improve their knowledge and skills, together contributing to our success as a learning city.
- We will embrace the distinctive pride the people of Aberdeen take in their city and work with them to enhance the sense of well-being here, building strong communities which look out for, and look after one another.
- We will challenge inequalities wherever they exist and bring our communities closer together.

Smarter Living:

- We will enhance the physical and emotional wellbeing of all our citizens by offering support and activities which promote independence, resilience, confidence and self-esteem.
- We will work with our partners to seek to reduce the levels of inequality in the city.
- We will improve access to and increase participation in arts and culture by providing opportunities for citizens and visitors to experience a broad range of high quality arts and cultural activities.
- We aspire to be recognised as a City of Culture, a place of excellence for culture and arts by promoting Aberdeen as a cultural centre hosting high quality and diverse cultural events for the whole community and beyond.

Smarter People:

- We will provide a high quality education service within our schools and communities which will improve attainment and life chances of our children and young people to achieve their full potential in education, employment or training.
- Working with our third, public and private sector partners, we will provide opportunities for lifelong learning which will develop knowledge, skills and attributes of our citizens to enable them to meet the changing demands of the 21st century.
- We will aim to have a workforce across the city which has the skills and knowledge to sustain, grow and diversify the cultural economy.

This report also relates to the Single Outcome Agreement as follows:

Thematic priorities:-

Safer Communities:

- People feel safe throughout Aberdeen's communities

Learning and Workforce:

- Reduced levels of unemployment
- Universal literacy

Children & Young people:

- Every child and young person in Aberdeen enjoys being young and at the same time feels safe, nurtured, healthy, active, included, respected and responsible

Multi-lateral Priorities:-

Priority Families:

- Communities demonstrate independence, resilience, confidence, self-esteem and aspiration. Preventative approaches reduce the number of families experiencing multiple and complex negative outcomes.

Underlying Principle:

Target those most in need:

- Deprivation is reduced, resulting in the closure of outcome gaps within Aberdeen's population.

Public - This report will be of interest to members of the affected Management Committees and may be of interest to the wider public as the recommendations will impact on services delivered throughout the City.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The organisations affected, include the budgeted income from the Council within their business plans for 2014/2015. Any delay to the payments could result in cash flow difficulties for these organisations.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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