

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education Culture and Sport**

DATE: **16th June 2014**

DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/14/042**

CHECKLIST RECEIVED: **YES/**

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 club development grants** and approve the following recommendations:

Applicant	Funding Recommended
North Region Girls Football League	£ 3,295
Total Award	£ 3,295

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

Applicant	Sport	Funding Recommended
G Carter	Football	£135
J Stronach	Cycling	£200
Total Award		£335

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The sports grants budget for the 2014/15 is £90,000. Assuming that the recommendations contained within this report are agreed, there will be £83,173.75 remaining in this budget.

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 North Region Girls Football League

Following ACC Sports Grant Funding for 2012/2013 the second year of this project aims to further develop football for girls of primary age in Aberdeen. This project comprises of 2 parts; part 1 - to increase participation at grassroots level; part 2 - to improve the development pathway for talented players. Both projects will develop the NRGFL's existing programme of football events for girls of primary age in Aberdeen and complement the Scottish Football Association's Youth Action Plan.

In 2012/13 the North Region Girls Football League held 31 events for primary 1 to primary 4 aged girls with 50 girls regularly attending each event. The older and more able girls who participated have gone on to organise under 8's and under 9's events. These events have successfully acted as the first step on the player pathway for girls in Aberdeen. The North Region Girls Football League would like to continue the positive outcomes of the first year of the project and further promote, increase and develop football opportunities for all P1-4 girls in Aberdeen City. They hope to provide fun

based football activities which increase the number of girls developing a desire to play, in turn increasing the number of girls participating in football, long term. They also hope to improve the social, developmental and overall technical abilities of the participants by involving them in sport at a young age.

Their Talented Girls project has seen 30 sessions take place from May 2012-April 2013 and at these sessions they had approximately 35 girls attend each session. Following on from this programme several girls have progressed onto the Under 14 North Regional Squads and to the 2020 Development Centre's. With this project they hope to increase the number of quality training sessions for existing club & school players in the City of Aberdeen, which will in turn improve skill level, tactical awareness, and the confidence levels of each individual player. They also hope that this project will assist in the positive development of the individual participants and they hope to improve the links between clubs in the Aberdeen area. The players involved in this project are likely to represent various clubs now and in the future, therefore training together will help develop positive relationships and foster a positive environment for girls playing club football in the City.

In order to progress their projects they are looking for grant support to assist them with the purchase of essential equipment, design and printing of new promotional posters and flyers, running of a Scottish Football Association Coaching Course to up skill 10 of their volunteers and to support with the costs of hiring a lead and assistant coach for the talented girls project.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£ 3,295	£ 3,295

5.2 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

5.2.4 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.

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 2014/15

Organisation	Funding Awarded	Committee Approval
Development Grants		
Granite City Guerillas	£725	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
North Region Girls Football League	£3,295	Education Culture and Sport Committee 16.06.14 (pending)
Significant Sports Events Grants		
Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development Grant		
Neil Kinninmonth	£98.75	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
Alex Doig	£98.75	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
Jon Entwistle	£98.75	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
Kenneth Reid	£175	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
Talented Athletes Grants		
C Onyia	£1,000	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
D Vernon	£500	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
C Leiper	£500	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
G Carter	£135	Education Culture and Sport Committee 16.06.14 (pending)
J Stronach	£200	Education Culture and Sport Committee 16.06.14 (pending)

Total Grant Funding Awarded if recommendations approved	£6,826.25	
Grant Funding Remaining	£ 83,173.75	

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 FTTP (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.