

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture & Sport**

DATE: **11 September 2014**

DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/14/51**

CHECKLIST RECEIVED: **YES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before Committee, eight 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
Netball Scotland- Back to Netball	£ 2000
Aberdeen Synchronized Ice Skating Club	£ 5000
Total Award	£ 7000

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

Applicant	Funding Recommended
Dancesport Scotland- Northern Trophy Day	£850
Total Award	£850

- c) considers the application through **the coach and volunteer workforce development grant programme** and approve the following recommendations.

Applicant	Club	Funding Recommended
Sally Carns	Bucksburn Netball Club	£240
Total Award		£240

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

Applicant	Sport	Funding Recommended
F Agnew	Swimming	£218.75
J Cranna	Table Tennis	£475
M Burgoyne	Lacrosse	£750
A Zaremba	Volleyball	£475
Total Award		£1918.75

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The sports grants budget for 2014/15 is £90,000. Assuming that the recommendations contained within this report are agreed, there will be £73,165 remaining in this budget. In line with application trends in previous years the outstanding budget will be required to meet the needs of anticipated applications leading up to March 2015.

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 Netball Scotland- Back To Netball Programme

The Bounce Back to Netball (BBN) programme is a Commonwealth Games legacy programme designed by Netball Scotland to encourage and inspire women throughout Scotland to play netball again. It encourages women aged 16+ to participate in regular 60 minute fun sessions facilitated by trained leaders and coaches on a weekly basis.

The aims of the BBN programme are to provide a fun, safe, affordable and accessible team sport for women of all ages and abilities, to provide opportunities for active and inactive women to participate in the sport of netball as a recognised activity which improves general health, fitness and mental and emotional wellbeing. Finally the programme aims to increase the number of women involved in sport in local authorities throughout Scotland.

At present Aberdeen has 9 Netball clubs playing and training within the city boundaries. The majority of these clubs are at capacity with players of all abilities playing in competitive ADNA leagues. Therefore providing a recreational and an accessible entry point for those who may not have played in a number of years or who may be completely new to the sport is difficult and Netball Scotland aims to roll out BBN in conjunction with local clubs to provide a feeder point for them. It will provide opportunities for local women to play netball in a fun and safe environment.

The BBN programme will begin with 2 centres being trialled in Aberdeen City and the idea is to then roll this out into more venues and with more clubs across the region. The grant will enable us to market and promote the programme as widely as possible across the City enabling future centres to be financed by participants.

The BBN programme requires support with the purchase of essential resources, costs associated with coach and leader training, essential equipment to get the programme started and costs associated with marketing and promoting the programme.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£ 2000	£ 2000

5.1.2 Aberdeen Synchronized Ice Skating Club

Aberdeen Synchronized Ice Skating Club is one of the top Synchronized skating clubs in the UK. Over the past 2 years they have gone from strength to strength thanks to the dedication and commitment of their voluntary committee and their club members. The club has gained their enhanced Club Cap quality assurance mark award which is a prestigious award in recognising pro-active clubs working to increase youth and community participation in sport.

The club is consistently increasing membership numbers and now has four squads, which range from junior to senior participants. The clubs squads have had a range of successes over the past year such as gaining 1st place in the Scottish Open Championships and 2nd place in the British Championships. The clubs youngest squad placed 6th in the British Championships and 2nd in the Trophy D'Ecosse but as the first Scottish team they earned their title of Scottish Elementary Champions.

Over the next year the club hopes to raise the profile of synchronized skating in Aberdeen and raise the profile of Aberdeen as a sporting city through participation in a number of competitions in the UK and Europe.

The club has aspirations to enter all four of their squads in to the British and Scottish Championships this year and they hope that by competing at such high level competitions they will be able to add to their achievements. Through appropriate marketing they hope to communicate their achievements and their future aspirations with the local community encouraging new members to join up.

The club is looking for grant support to assist them with the high costs associated with entering 4 teams into the Scottish and British Championships, as well as to assist them with appropriate marketing costs to raise awareness of the squads and to communicate information such a try out dates etc. in the local newspapers.

Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
£5000	£5000

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.

5.2.1 Dancesport Scotland- Northern Trophy Day

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 26th October this year will be a national event, attracting participants from as far afield as England and Wales. The event is nationally chart rated and the winners rely on their results in order to be rated in the UK charts. The event is also used for the Scottish chart rating system to decide who should represent Scotland at World and European events.

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 £2290.00.

Should this grant be approved, officers 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.

Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
£850	£850

5.3 Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development Grant

This fund aims to support coaches and volunteers to obtain a higher level of coaching award in their chosen sport.

5.3.1 Sally Carns- Bucksburn Netball Club

Sally is a recently qualified UKCC level 1 netball coach. She is head coach of the newly formed Bucksburn Netball Club which has both a junior and senior section and is a strong part of the Bucksburn Community Sports Hub that was established earlier this year.

Sally has been fast tracked by Netball Scotland to do her level 2 coaching qualification in the hope that she will also be available to help coach the Netball Scotland Development Centre to be hosted in Aberdeen. By gaining the UKCC Level 2 qualification this will allow Sally to mentor level 1 coaches within the club, especially within the Junior section.

The course will take place in Edinburgh in November and will run for a total of 5 days. Sally is applying for support to assist her with the costs associated with the £360 course and accommodation for four nights.

Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
£360	£240

5.4 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

5.4.1 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.

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

Hannah Leslie
Sport and Physical Development Officer
haleslie@aberdeencity.gov.uk

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
Netball Scotland- Back to Netball	£2000	Education, Culture and Sport (pending) 11.09.14
Aberdeen Synchronized Ice Skating Club	£5000	Education, Culture and Sport (pending) 11.09.14
Significant Sports Events Grants		
Dance Sport Scotland- Northern Trophy Day	£850	Education, Culture and Sport (pending) 11.09.14
Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development Grant		
Neil Kinninmonth	£98.75	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.14
Alex Doig	£98.75	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.14
Jon Entwistle	£98.75	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
Kenneth Reid	£175	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
Sally Carns	£240	Education, Culture and Sport (pending) 11.09.14
Talented Athletes Grants		
C Onyia	£1,000	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
D Vernon	£500	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.14

C Leiper	£500	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.14
G Carter	£135	Education Culture and Sport Committee 16.06.14
J Stronach	£200	Education Culture and Sport Committee 16.06.14
F Agnew	£218.75	Education, Culture and Sport (pending) 11.09.14
J Cranna	£475	Education, Culture and Sport (pending) 11.09.14
M Burgoyne	£750	Education, Culture and Sport (pending) 11.09.14
A Zaremba	£475	Education, Culture and Sport (pending) 11.09.14
Total Grant Funding Awarded if recommendations approved	£16,835.00	
Grant Funding Remaining	£ 73,165.00	

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.