

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE: **Education and Children's Services**  
DATE: **2 December 2014**  
DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**  
TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants**  
REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/14/057**  
CHECKLIST COMPLETED: **YES**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before Committee, five 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:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Funding Recommended</b>
Transition Extreme	£20,040.00
Granite City Flames Basketball club	£1,961.92
<b>Total Award</b>	<b>£11,961.92</b>

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

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Funding Recommended</b>
Scottish Swimming	£15,000.00
<b>Total Award</b>	<b>£15,000.00</b>

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

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Funding Recommended</b>
Beacon Volleyball Club	Beacon Volleyball Club	£1,000.00
Mhairi Meston	University of Aberdeen Trampoline Club	£250.00
Claire Buckley	Aberdeen Atoms Netball Club	£75.00
<b>Total Award</b>		<b>£1,250.00</b>

### **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 £61,788.08 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 Transition Extreme

Transition Extreme is an innovative social enterprise and recognised as Scottish Charity SC036358. They provide a range of services to citizens such as skating, climbing, BMX, inline skating and learning zones for creativity and educational purposes. They are heavily involved in youth work organisations and support young people in Aberdeen particularly during the difficult transition from childhood to adulthood and thereafter maximising their potential in society.

Transition Extreme aim to increase participation in sport from childhood to adulthood – often engaging those not attracted to conventional sports. They also provide a diversionary facility which supports initiatives to reduce crime, substance abuse and antisocial behaviour.

They are seeking financial support to purchase six roctogon units and 4 True Blue Auto Belay systems. The roctogon modular units are mobile and can be extended, thus creating new and developing challenges for young children. They would also be used for outreach work in the community to attract young starters to climbing and increase the likelihood of retaining long-term involvement in the climbing. The auto-belays allow independent climbing and greater choice for training and solo sports. This will offer greater choice and encourage more people to participate more regularly.

By purchasing both increase the range of opportunities for young children, disabled people and parent/child groups who wish to participate in introductory climbing and bouldering activities. The purchase of this equipment fills the current gap at the base of the learning pathway by lowering the age range and enabling more people to participate and learn skills safely.

The groups who will use this equipment will be community, disability, schools, disengaged and disadvantaged young people. The experience will improve learning; socially include participants, offer health improvements, and employability prospects.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
<b>£20,040.00</b>	<b>£20,040.00</b>

### 5.1.2 Granite City Flames Basketball Club

The Granite City Flames Basketball club is brand new club registered by the Scottish Governing Body, basketballscotland. The club is based in Torry and provides year-round basketball instruction and experience for children between 6 and 14 year olds. They are committed to the development and empowerment of future leaders/athletes by using basketball as a tool to

improve health and fitness and develop life skills and values. However, most importantly they want to provide a fun experience for local children in their community.

As from September the club is looking to launch 6 teams (U10, U12, U14) (Boys and Girls) that will enter Regional Development League and National Challenge. Both leagues have developed rapidly in last couple of years and have teams competing from all over Scotland. Their matches are always well attended by local parents and there has been a significant increase in the number of spectators from the local community.

As the club is a new venture, they acknowledge the first steps are often the most challenging, and are therefore looking to arrange different events, raffles, and various donations from families and friends to help and cover many expenses connected with launching the club and maintaining a high quality program through the year.

The club is seeking financial support for a varied range of essential equipment such as: adjustable portable baskets, basketballs, agility kits, storage cages, game kits, marketing materials and bibs/uniforms. This will enable them to practice and also have the necessary kit required for matches and will enable all levels, ages and abilities to participate.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
<b>£5000.00</b>	<b>£1961.92</b>

## 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 Scottish Swimming National Age Group Championships

The Scottish National Age Group Championships is one of Scottish Swimming's three annual major events and is planned to run over the course of six days from 31 March – 5 April 2015 at the Aberdeen Sports Village Aquatic Centre. The very best swimmers from across Scotland will take part in the event, competing to become Scottish Age Group Champion and also in a bid to qualify for the British Age Group Championships later in the summer.

This event typically involves approximately 800 swimmers, 130 team managers/coaches and 100 volunteers and officials. All of these categories will come from across Scotland with significant numbers from the central belt. Scottish Swimming will be able to provide an analysis of entries after the event.

Aberdeen City council officers work in close partnership with Scottish Swimming and local partners to develop swimming through the Aberdeen Aquatics Strategy. One of the key objectives in the strategy is to raise the profile of sport by attracting events to Aberdeen Aquatics Centre. Whilst there will be participant benefits there will also be benefits to local volunteers who can be part of a national event.

The funding will help towards costs of food and accommodation and also support the live streaming of some or all of the event. The live streaming will significantly increase awareness of the event and has the potential to gain greater exposure for ASV, the City Council and Scottish Swimming. Scottish Swimming will work with local partners to publicise the event locally, encouraging as many local people as possible to come along and see the swimming and in turn promoting the local opportunities to take part in swimming and sport.

Partners will continue to work in partnership to develop aquatic sports through the implementation of strategic aims, and believe by raising the profile an increase in participation can be encouraged.

<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Funding Recommended</b>
<b>£15,000.00</b>	<b>£15,000.00</b>

### **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 Beacon Volleyball Club**

The Beacon Volleyball Club is based at the Beacon Centre in Bucksburn. The club offers participation at all levels; from junior sessions to recreational sessions and includes teams competing at local and national competitions.

The club has applied for funding to support and develop their coaching workforce in obtaining UKCC level 2 coaching and refereeing qualifications. The club is committed to recruiting, developing and retaining the workforce which will enable them to increase the number and competence level of match officials. They are also focusing on promoting junior and adult volleyball particularly in the Bucksburn and Kingswells area through marketing.

The Beacon Volleyball Club are requesting financial support to subsidise four volunteer club members attending the UKCC level 2 four club members attending the Grade III and IIV courses in refereeing.

<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Funding Recommended</b>
<b>£1,900.00</b>	<b>£1,000.00</b>

### 5.3.2 Mhairi Meston

Mhairi is a member of the University of Aberdeen Trampoline club and offers coaching on a voluntary basis using her UKCC level 1 qualification. Mhairi travels with her club on a regular basis to provide coaching support when they compete throughout Scotland. Mhairi wishes to gain her UKCC level 2 qualification so she can develop her skills but also provide mentoring to new UKCC level 1 coaches. Mhairi has received a subsidy for £260.00 from sportscotland and is therefore applying to hopefully receive financial support to cover the remainder of the course fees.

### 5.3.3 Claire Buckley

Claire is a member of Aberdeen Atoms netball Club and wishes to develop her netball coaching skills and expand her knowledge by attending a UKCC level 2 netball course. Her aim is offer assistance for netball development in the area, particularly at Northfield and Oldmachar Academies. Claire has applied for funding support to attend the course.

Applicant	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
<b>Mhairi Meston</b>	<b>£260.00</b>	<b>£250.00</b>
<b>Claire Buckley</b>	<b>£300.36</b>	<b>£75.00</b>

## 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
<b>Development Grants</b>		
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
Transition Extreme	£20,040.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14 pending
Granite City Flames Basketball Club	£1,961.92	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14 pending
Scottish Swimming	£15,000.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14 pending
Beacon Volleyball Club	£1000.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14 pending
<b>Significant Sports Events Grants</b>		
Dance Sport Scotland-Northern Trophy Day	£850	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
<b>Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development Grant</b>		
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
Sally Carns	£240	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
Claire Buckley	£60.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14 pending
<b>Talented Athletes Grants</b>		
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
J Stronach	£200	Education Culture and Sport Committee 16.06.14
F Agnew	£437.50	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
J Cranna	£600	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
Mhairi Meston	£250.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14 pending
<b>Total Grant Funding Awarded if recommendations approved</b>	<b>£47,266.00</b>	
<b>Grant Funding Remaining</b>	<b>£42,734.00</b>	

## **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.