

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE Communities, Housing & Infrastructure  
DATE 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
DIRECTOR Pete Leonard  
TITLE OF REPORT European Funding & Projects Update  
REPORT NUMBER CHI/14/083  
CHECKLIST COMPLETED Yes

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to provide Elected Members an update on European Funding & Projects.

To seek approval for project development should they be successful as well as any associated travel for project workshops and meetings.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Approves the participation of Aberdeen City Council in the Horizon 2020 'Cultural Heritage' funding call
  2. Approves the participation of Aberdeen City Council in the Horizon 2020, 'Making Scientific Subjects and Careers more attractive to young people', funding call
  3. Notes the assistance provided for the Europe for Citizens Town Twinning funding call
  4. Notes the announcement of DAPHNE funding and plans to submit an application under this funding call.
  5. Approves any associated travel for project workshops and meetings

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Under the Horizon 2020 Funding calls, not-for-profit or public sector organisations receive 100% funding therefore there is no

anticipated financial implications. Under this 100% funding rate includes associated travel costs and staff time.

- There are no financial commitments out with the set service budget. For any financial commitments a report will be made to Communities, Housing & Infrastructure Committee for approval.

#### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

##### Travel

As far as possible, measures relevant to the destination will be taken to reduce any risks in line with Council Policy.

##### Risk Management

It is important that Aberdeen is fully represented in all European matters, especially those dealing with energy issues, and all opportunities for influencing policy and the development of transnational projects for the City's benefit are grasped in order that opportunities are maximised. This level of participation will help increase the understanding of the new programmes and will assist in developing the capacity to successfully develop new projects and work with other European cities that will benefit Aberdeen City.

##### Human Rights/Equality/Diversity

European Policy takes full account of the Equal Opportunities Policy of the Council.

##### Sustainability

Aberdeen City Council has a clear contribution to make to sustainable development with an emphasis on enhancing productivity through improved resource efficiency, new business opportunities in the developing market for sustainable technologies and delivering better and more efficient Council services. By attending these events, it will give Aberdeen City Council the opportunity to look at the possibilities of best practice and drawing down more funds from EU programmes to raise the quality of life through increasing economic opportunity for all on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis. Attendance at this event will help ensure Aberdeen promotes awareness as an internationally recognised energy efficiency hub and pool for generating innovative solutions.

##### Environmental

European activities are implemented in line with the aim of achieving a quality and sustainable environment.

##### Social

The principles of Social Inclusion underpin European cohesion policy.

##### Economic

European representation and inter-regional networking contributes to the City's overall effort to maximise opportunities and to promote its

interests, both at home and overseas with the aim of creating sustainable economy and energy efficiency environment.

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

### **5.1 Participation of Aberdeen City Council in the Horizon 2020 ‘Cultural Heritage’ Funding Call**

Horizon 2020 is the new European funding programme for Research and Innovation for which there is 80 billion Euros of funding between 2014 and 2020. Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness.

Robert Gordon University is submitting a funding application to Horizon 2020 under '*Cultural heritage urban modelling as a built environment community resource*' and is leading the application as well as project. The leader of the project has asked Aberdeen City Council to be a full partner in the project, as well as to provide the appropriate support to value add to the project.

The proposed project and research concerns the use of 3D digital preservation and recording techniques (including high definition scanning and photogrammetry) to embed and support the cultural built heritage as a community asset and resource. The cross-discipline research will develop and validate new approaches to the documentation of built heritage information, including physical, spatial and social meta-data. The consortium, of which Stavanger, Norway is also a partner, is uniquely equipped to undertake and deliver the research, given its track record and expertise concerning architectural built heritage, virtual urban environments, computer modelling, urban design and planning, heritage interpretation and public engagement.

The work is extremely ambitious in a number of respects, and these reside in both technological and social settings.

- The research moves beyond state of the art with regards to the combined use of 3D data capture technologies.
- A key technical advance will be the development of protocols and methods to ensure that 3D data and materials collected are semantically linked to contextual social and cultural data. This becomes extremely important when mediating and categorising user submitted content.
- The development of methods through which the technology can be utilised to serve the needs to users in both formal and informal cultural built heritage settings.
- The participatory approach taken to the project in all stages (scenarios, studies, pilots and validation of the technology and interface) is innovative.

Aberdeen City Council can add value to the project through the Accelerate Aberdeen initiatives as well as current and on-going Culture projects such as the MAKLab. The Cultural Strategy for Aberdeen ends in 2014 and work is under way to develop a new 'Cultural Plan' for the city. It is recognised that heritage is an under represented or utilised in 'telling the story' of Aberdeen. This project could potentially offer ways to celebrate our heritage and make it more inclusive.

It is envisaged there will be four partner meetings throughout the project and the project would last 36 months. Funding rates are 100% (including staff time and travel costs) therefore there will be little or no cost to the Aberdeen City Council from participating in this project which also adds to the work ACC is currently undertaking.

## **5.2 Participation of Aberdeen City Council in Horizon 2020 'Making Scientific Careers and Subjects more attractive to young people' Funding Call**

Aberdeen City Council has been invited to participate in a Horizon 2020 project, under the call '*Making Scientific Careers and Subjects more attractive to young people*'. This is essentially aimed at making STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) subjects more interesting and appealing to young people to study at school and in further education. Leading the project is ASM Market Research & Consultation Analysis Centre Ltd based in Poland. They are a private, not-for-profit SME who specialise in Multi-site European research projects funded by the European Commission. Aberdeen City Council Education Department have agreed to the project in principle and ACC will have a minimal role in the project.

Given the forecasted skills shortage for STEM graduates and employees in Aberdeen in the future, steps to encourage young people to take these STEM subjects must be undertaken now.

This project will identify and analyse current approaches in methods encouraging young people to pursue careers in STEM in different regions of Europe, including the usage of ICT solutions. Barriers, missing gaps and effective motivational drivers will be examined and analysed on European level via available resources as well as interviews with partners involved. This will be done via a deep study of how the project solution can encourage young people to get into the sciences as well as the motivation of youth. Needs, attitudes, future career plans and opinions about different possible career paths in science, technology, engineering and mathematics will be gathered, what games young people are interested in, how do they perceive game development process.

During the course of the project a software tool called 'Gamestarter' will be developed which will monitor and measure

young people's skills, knowledge and awareness of STEM before, during and after the project and how it compares against European partners.

Aberdeen City Council will be a consortium partner to the project by working with local primary and secondary schools, as well as young peoples' groups and will also help by identifying further funding for continuation of the project and associated research if deemed successful. The role Aberdeen City Council will play is minimal and staff costs for Officers are included within the funding application so there are no financial implications. It is envisaged through the project a link will be established to SCIENTIX which is a community for science education within Europe which will provide further benefit to Aberdeen schools and young people.

The project will last 36 months and the funding grant, if successful, would be between 1 and 1.5 million Euros.

### **5.3 Assistance Provided Towards Europe for Citizens Town Twinning Funding Call**

The External Funding and Policy team recently provided support and assistance to the City Events and Twinning team to complete the Europe for Citizens Town Twinning funding call. The Europe for Citizens Town Twinning results were released in mid-November 2014 and Aberdeen City Council was successful in its application. This will allow the City Events and Twinning team to plan for a 'Cultural Connections' event with assistance from European monies.

This project will build on the Europe for Citizens Town Twinning funding received in September 2013. The External Funding & Policy team will provide the appropriate support and assistance to the City Events & Twinning team to ensure the project meets with the criteria and conditions set by the European Commission.

### **5.4 DAPHNE Funding Call Announcement**

The European Commission Directorate-General for Justice announced the new round of funding, 'DAPHNE' in November 2014 and has called for project proposals to be submitted by February 2015. The DAPHNE funding call is based on the annual work programme of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme and the Justice Programme. The programmes aim to co-fund transnational projects that support the victims of violence, to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, young people and women, as well as violence against other groups at

risk, in particular groups at risk of violence in close relationships, and to protect victims of such violence.

The Daphne funding strand covers specialised support services aimed at women, young people, child victims of violence and other domestic violence victims.

The priorities of the Daphne strand are:

- victims of gender-based violence: developing targeted and integrated support for victims of gender-based violence, including with specific needs, such as victims of sexual violence or victims of violence in close or intimate relationships;
- child victims of violence: support services for child victims of violence with a child-centred and child rights approach;
- other groups at risk of violence: support services for other groups at risk of violence in close or intimate relationships

Through the Violence Against Women Forum (Aberdeen) there is strong interest to submit an funding application under the Daphne funding strand. A working group has been set-up to discuss project proposals which will be taken forward. The working group involves Officers from different departments across the council, including Community Safety to ensure that the project proposal meets with local and national priorities. The working also involves external agencies such as Barnados, Cyrenians, Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust, Police Scotland, NHS Scotland, Drugs Action and Ethnic Minority Housing Project.

There are currently no financial commitments under this project proposal and any updates will be made to CHI Committee.

## **5.5. Associated Travel for Project Workshops and Meetings**

For any European project, there will be associated travel to attend meetings, conferences and workshops. Should the aforementioned projects be successful, it is recommended the appropriate ACC Officer(s) be able to attend these meetings to ensure ACC is represented and can make valuable contributions to the project, as well as ensure the best results can be achieved to benefit Aberdeen City. The projects can help place Aberdeen as a lead-by-example city and have a place in influencing policy-makers.

Travel budgets are built into the funding applications and therefore there should be no or little cost to Aberdeen City Council. The full travel process would be undertaken in line with corporate instructions.

A briefing paper will be written by Officers travelling on their return which will be reported to Corporate Management Team and CHI Committee.

## 6. IMPACT

Several of the challenges of the Community Plan identified in the Single Outcome Agreement are also supported, such as: Leading the City, Being Informed, Getting Involved, Land Use and the Environment and Clean City, Prosperity and Jobs, and Aberdeen's Image. The report also links to the Smart Aberdeen vision of achieving the goals of being a Smart, Sustainable & Inclusive city. Each of the projects outlined in the report are transnational and will involve working with European partners to share best practice and knowledge to achieve the Smart Aberdeen 2020 vision in line with the Europe 2020 ambitions. The report additionally links to the 5 Year Corporate Business Plan to be an 'ambitious, achieving smart city'.

## 7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

As far as possible, measures relevant to the destination will be taken to reduce any risks in line with Council Policy.

It is important that Aberdeen is fully represented in all European matters and that all opportunities for influencing policy and the development of transnational projects for the City's benefit are grasped in order that opportunities are maximised. If this is not done the Council could be at risk of not being able to draw down European grant monies.

## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Horizon 2020, [ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020)  
European Commission Directorate-General Justice,  
[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/just\\_2014\\_spob\\_ag\\_vict\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/just_2014_spob_ag_vict_en.htm)

## 9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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