

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

COMMITTEE: **Education and Children's Services**

DATE: **29 January 2015**

DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/15/001**

CHECKLIST COMPLETED: **YES**

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before Committee, eleven 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>
Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club	£3,500.00
Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust	£10,000.00
Denis Law Legacy Trust - Streetsport	£4,612.50
RGU Sport – Volunteer for Sport	£8,000.00
<b>Total Award</b>	<b>£26,112.50</b>

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

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Funding Recommended</b>
Simon Sromberg	Cycling	£98.75
Michael Thorburn	Hockey	£200.00
<b>Total Award</b>		<b>£298.75</b>

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

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Funding Recommended</b>
Sofia Gabro	Hockey	£200.00
Millie Skidmore	Hockey	£0
Suzanne Brownie	Touch Rugby	£200.00
Scott McLeod	Curling	£0
Yasmin Perry	Swimming	£0
<b>Total Award</b>		<b>£400.00</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 £7,127 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 Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club**

Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club is a progressive community sports club who has over the past 3 years been one of 24 clubs in the country to implement the nationally recognised Club Together Programme. Through this programme the club works in partnership with the governing body and local authority to look at ways to develop the club and helps to embed significant change in the way in which it operates.

The overarching purpose of the club together programme is to increase participation in athletics, develop partnerships, grow the volunteer and coaching base and raise the profile of the sport through hosting local competitions. The club currently has a member base of 400 people however the clubs overall aim is to grow this to at least 475 by 2016.

The club is based at Aberdeen Sports Village however have recognised the need to continue to expand by establishing and developing satellite club structures at locations in the city. By expanding and providing opportunities in the local community the club believes a positive impact can be made in relation to increasing participation.

As part of the club's development plan they have plans to further develop local events such as open graded competitions as well as attracting high profile athletics events to Aberdeen. With expected growth they are conscious of dedicating and investing time into developing the workforce.

The club recently achieved Scottish Athletics Podium Award which is the highest quality accreditation award presented by the governing body which demonstrates that they are a strong well run club with appropriate systems and policies in place.

The club have requested £4,800 however following assessment and given that the purpose of the project is to become less reliant on funding and more sustainable it is felt that an award of £3,500 would be an appropriate award to allow the club to deliver on its key priority areas.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
<b>£4,800.00</b>	<b>£3,500.00</b>

### **5.1.2 Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust – School Football and Mentoring Programme**

The Scottish FA (SFA), Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust in the Community and the City Council are currently working in partnership to develop grassroots football in Aberdeen City.

Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust is looking for financial support to continue to support school football and the community club mentoring programme which are two key priority areas over the next year.

The continual development of a consistent approach to primary school football in Aberdeen will increase participation and sustain activity by promoting better play within the school football environment. The education of coaches and volunteers coupled with the implementation and monitoring of the Positive Coaching Scotland ethos will provide a suitable environment to

participate in the Aberdeen Football. Within the city there are currently three Primary Schools Football Leagues some of which currently lack governance and direction. In addition some of the leagues do not adhere to the recognized Scottish Football Association National Player Pathway. There are also incorrect registration procedures and there is significant work required in order to ensure that our children and young people get the best possible start in participating in football. The partners within the city recognize that by working towards a single league structure governed by Aberdeen Football Club, The Scottish FA and Aberdeen City Council that this would be a positive step forward for the city.

The second key priority area is the community club mentoring programme which will work with 4 clubs per calendar year, developing the quality of coaching. Coaches receive 1 to 1 support developing the understanding of the coaching process and their game knowledge. The development of a philosophy, curriculum and main club contact at the club ensures that this project is sustainable beyond the six month contact time. Over the past year this programme has been working with both Cove and Culter community football clubs.

The Scottish FA is continuing to part fund this project with £10,000.00 per annum until the summer of 2018. The AFC Community Trust as the deliverer of this project is applying for a development grant of £10,000.00. This funding will support the continued collaboration between identified partners as they continue to make a positive impact with football at a grassroots level in the city.

<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
£10,000.00	£10,000.00

### **5.1.3 Denis Law Legacy Trust - Streetsport project**

The Denis Law Legacy Trust Streetsport is an anti social diversionary project based at RGU: SPORT. Streetsport facilitates skills development by addressing some of the difficulties with engaging and educating 'hard to reach' young people. It facilitates interaction with a variety of key workers including: Streetsport Volunteers, Community Wardens, and Youth and Social workers. It aids the development of communication, interpersonal and soft skills including leadership; interaction; negotiation; team working and compromise and improves opportunities for education and employability whilst enabling members of the community to volunteer and gain valuable experience and qualifications that may lead to a positive destination.

This project is proactive in helping to reduce instances of youth crime and anti-social behaviour by using sport as a tool to provide an activity for young people to participate in at night. In some instances streetsport has been seen to reduce complaints of youth anti-social behaviour in the city by up to 66%. Since the project was first started in 2006 over 7,000 deployments have taken place in a number of communities across the city.

The Trust is applying for funding to support them to purchase an inflatable street football pitch and a panna cage. Both these items of equipment are

designed to support the streetsport project and given that the project has sufficient volunteers will allow the project to attend more than one location on an evening.

The total cost of purchasing this equipment is £9,225. The Denis Law Legacy Trust is requesting 50% of this as per the sports grant guidelines to support the purchase of this equipment.

<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
£4,612.50	£4,612.50

#### **5.1.4 RGU – Volunteer for Sport (VFS)**

The Volunteer for Sport (VFS) programme is a sports coaching programme developed and operated by the Robert Gordon's University (RGU) which benefits various communities throughout the City of Aberdeen. Through the programme the volunteers are provided with an opportunity to complete a progressive pathway that develops confidence and qualifications. These volunteers assist various sports clubs and activities and work with a number of partners to introduce new sporting programmes.

In 2014/15 there are 39 volunteers completing the programme providing 1,050 hours of sports coaching to the local community. With the inclusion of a new pathway and the influx of new volunteers onto year 1 of the existing pathways the target amount of volunteers for 2015/16 will be 70. Volunteers benefit by receiving the opportunity to progress through a sports coaching pathway and are mentored and supported to best develop their skills, confidence and qualifications over the duration of their involvement in the 3 year programme. This project encourages learning, training and volunteering in various pathways that could lead to employment through sport and physical activity.

This grant will be used to fund 50% of the appropriate courses for the VFS volunteers in order to provide a continuous supply of United Kingdom Coaching Certificate Level 2 coaches each year in a number of sports for Aberdeen City. This funding will also be used to train the coordinator and two other RGU colleagues to manage and mentor large amounts of volunteers to help maintain and motivate the volunteers throughout their entire 3 year pathway. This will also allow the programme not to depend heavily on 1 colleague and will help the sustainability of VFS.

This programme is making significant progress in becoming more sustainable and was awarded a four star award at the recent Scottish Student Sports Awards. Strong partnerships have been developed and good relationships have been developed with governing bodies who are seeing the benefit of the programme.

The total cost of delivering this project per annum £23,500. This application is requesting an award of £8,000 to support the delivery of the project which will include expenditure items such as coaching courses, equipment, staff training, marketing and volunteer travel costs.

Amount requested	Amount Recommended
£8,000.00	£8,000.00

## 5.2 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.

### 5.2.1 Simon Sromberg

Simon is a member of the Grampian Tigers Cycling club and currently coaches children aged 6 to 15 to develop their cycling skills for disciplines including mountain, road, cyclocross and BMX. These sessions currently take place in and around Aberdeen City. Simons aim is to gain the UKCC Level 2 qualification in Coaching Cycling so he can plan, deliver and evaluate a series of high quality cycling activity sessions which would include groups of beginner and intermediate level of children and adults.

Simon has gained £200.00 towards the course fee from his club and is requesting financial support towards gaining his qualification. The funding recommended is aligned with a previous applicant who was awarded £98.75 at the Culture and Sport Sub committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014 for attending the same course.

Amount requested	Amount Recommended
£420.00	£98.75

### 5.2.2 Michael Thorburn

Michael is a student at the University of Aberdeen and is lead coach at Aberdeen Universities Men's Hockey Club which consists of four teams competing at local, regional and national levels. He is also assistant coach for the North District Boys Under 18 Performance Squad. Both of these roles are on a voluntary basis and he wishes to gain his UKCC Level 2 coaching qualification. He believes the course will be hugely beneficial to him in developing his coaching skills for both roles and will help him to improve the general standard of coaching and support the development of the under 18 performance squad. This course will run in Aberdeen and Michael has received £200.00 from Scottish Hockey towards the course.

Michael's grant application is requesting support for the remaining 50% of the course which is £200.00 and complies with the coaching and volunteering grant criteria.

Amount requested	Amount Recommended
£400.00	£200.00

## 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 and Children's Services committee.

## **9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

Jo Hall  
Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and Partnerships Manager  
[johall@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:johall@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
(01224) 523798



## Appendix 1

### Summary Table of Financial Assistance Sports Awards 2014/15

Organisation	Funding Awarded	Committee Approval
<b>Development Grants</b>		
Granite City Guerillas	£725.00	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
North Region Girls Football League	£3,295.00	Education Culture and Sport Committee 16.06.14
Netball Scotland- Back to Netball	£2,000.00	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
Aberdeen Synchronised Ice Skating Club	£5,000.00	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
Transition Extreme	£20,040.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14
Granite City Flames Basketball Club	£1,961.92	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14
Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club	£3,500.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 29.01.15 (pending)
Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust	£10,000.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 29.01.15 (pending)
Denis Law Legacy Trust - Streetsport	£4,612.50	Education and Children's Services Committee 29.01.15 (pending)
RGU Sport – Volunteer for Sport	£8,000.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 29.01.15 (pending)

<b>Significant Sports Events Grants</b>		
Dance Sport Scotland-Northern Trophy Day	£850.00	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
Scottish Swimming	£15,000.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14
<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	£175.00	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
Sally Carns	£240.00	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
Claire Buckley	£75.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14
Mhairi Meston	£250.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14
Beacon Volleyball Club	£1,900.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 02.12.14
Simon Sromberg	£98.75	Education and Children's Services Committee 29.01.15 (pending)
Michael Thorburn	£200.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 29.01.15 (pending)
<b>Talented Athletes Grants</b>		
C Onyia	£1,000.00	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
D Vernon	£500.00	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014
C Leiper	£500.00	Culture and Sport Sub Committee 07.05.2014

G Carter	£135.00	Education Culture and Sport Committee 16.06.14
J Stronach	£200.00	Education Culture and Sport Committee 16.06.14
F Agnew	£218.75	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
J Cranna	£475.00	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
M Burgoyne	£750.00	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
A Zaremba	£475.00	Education Culture and Sport Committee 11.09.14
S Gambro	£200.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 29.01.15 (pending)
S Brownie	£200.00	Education and Children's Services Committee 29.01.15 (pending)
<b>Total Grant Funding Awarded if recommendations approved</b>	<b>£82,873.17</b>	
<b>Grant Funding Remaining</b>	<b>£7,126.83</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 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.