

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy and Resources
DATE	9 June 2015
ACTING DIRECTOR	Angela Scott
TITLE OF REPORT	Small Financial Assistance Grants 2015/16
REPORT NUMBER	CG/15/74
CHECKLIST RECEIVED	Yes

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present applications for financial assistance which have recently been received allowing Elected Members to make a decision on providing funding from the financial assistance budget.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) consider the application received and agree to award grant funding based on the following recommendations:-
  - Men of All Ages 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally – a maximum of £500;
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Aberdeen Boys Brigade, purchase of a minibus – a maximum of £1,500.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The awarding and approval of grants and financial assistance is a significant element of council business and as such millions of pounds are paid to external organisations each year. Appropriate and suitable means of approval following the principles of 'Following the Public Pound' require to be maintained in order to ensure Best Value.

There is a sum of £45,000 included in the 2015/16 Council's Revenue Budget for small financial assistance grants.

If the above recommendations were approved the amount remaining would be £36,000.

There are no implications for approved PBB options arising from this report.

#### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The award of grants and financial assistance provide benefits to the City of Aberdeen and its citizens.

#### 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 At the meeting of 6 May 2014 the Committee approved a revised set of assessment criteria for the awarding of small financial assistance grants.

These were as follows:

<b>Small Financial Assistance Grants – Assessment Criteria</b>	
a)	Applications must be for a clear and specific purpose and include relevant background and financial information.
b)	Applications must <u>not</u> be for a purpose already being funded from another Council budget.
c)	Applications which fall within the assessment criteria of another established Council funding budget will be referred to that process.
d)	Applications must <u>not</u> be for a purpose which secured funding from this budget in the previous 12 months.
e)	Applications will only be considered whilst budget remains available.
f)	The award of funding will be limited to a maximum of £2,500.

<b>Small Financial Assistance Grants – Conditions of Award</b>	
a)	Following the committee, the applicant will be informed in writing of the committee decision including the amount awarded, the means of payment and the purpose for which the award was made.
b)	In exceptional circumstances where an award of funding in excess of £2,500 is approved, it will be on the basis that the arrangements in relation to the Local Code of Guidance on Funding External Organisations and Following the Public Pound will require to be put in place.

#### 5.2 Applications:-

- 5.2.1 Men of All Ages 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally – Further information at Appendix A

An application has been received from Men of All Ages to meet the hire cost of a 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary rally to be held at the Beach Ballroom on 31 October 2015.

It is considered appropriate for this event to be considered under the small financial assistance grants assessment criteria. As it meets the criteria, it is recommended that £500 of funding be awarded for the Beach Ballroom hire cost.

5.2.2 3<sup>rd</sup> Aberdeen Boys Brigade, purchase of a minibus – Further information at Appendix B

An application has been received from 3<sup>rd</sup> Aberdeen Boys Brigade for £1,500 to purchase a minibus. This would help alleviate transport issues and allow the group to extend their outdoor experience and assist with community projects. It is also hoped to offer the minibus to other youth and community groups with the area.

It is considered appropriate for this request to be considered under the small financial assistance grants assessment criteria. As it meets the criteria, it is recommended that a maximum of £1,500 of funding be awarded.

6. IMPACT

The Council will, within financial constraints, seek to support individuals, groups and organisations within the City. All applicants will be given equal consideration within the criteria for the award of grants and donations from Council budgets.

This report is likely to be of interest to the public as it demonstrates the use of public funds.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

There is a risk that funding provided will not be used for the purpose for which it was awarded.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Karen Black, Finance Officer  
[kblack@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:kblack@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
(52) 3567

(Received by letter from Andy Mackie, April 2015)



**MEN OF ALL AGES**  
*Christian Men's Fellowship*

07 April 2015

[REDACTED]  
Aberdeen City Council  
Broad Street  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1AB

Dear [REDACTED]

My name is Andy Mackie and I have, for the last 15 years, headed up an organisation within the City and the North East known as the Men of All Ages. Our main objective over these 15 years has been to encourage Christian men to meet and share in fellowship, praise and prayer as well as to be a collective force to raise funds for local charities within the City and the surrounding area. Our quarterly meetings regularly see between 60 and 70 men join together to make this happen.

The purpose of this letter relates to us celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary year by holding a Rally in the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen. We have this booked for Saturday 31 October and we are looking towards up to 200 men attending. We would appreciate your guidance on where we could possibly apply for a small grant to help offset the cost of the ticket. The booking fee for the venue for the morning is £500 and if this could be met from donations we would be able to restrict the cost of the ticket to £10. This would possibly allow some of the less financially able men to be with us.

Both Councillors John Reynolds and Barney Crockett are aware of and have supported Men of All Ages at our events in the past and they will be able to give you their opinion of the organisation.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I look forward to hearing from you once you have time to consider the contents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Mackie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andy Mackie  
Men of All Ages

## APPENDIX B

(Received by email from Robert Lamberton, Captain, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aberdeen Boys Brigade, 18 May 2015)

## COMMUNITY TRANSPORT VEHICLE

### Grant application

<b>£1500</b> <b>Ford Transit Minibus 15 seater ST55 CMX</b> <b>First registered 1/10/2005</b>	
Organisation name	3 <sup>rd</sup> Aberdeen Boys Brigade
Type of organisation	Voluntary Youth Organisation
Charity number	3rd Aberdeen BB SC 034680
Address	St Columbas Church Braehead Way Bridge of Don Aberdeen
Postcode	AB22 8RR
Number of staff	Nil, all volunteers
Number of volunteers	12
Number of people on the organisation's governing body	Boys Brigade - 4 senior officers
Name of contact person	Robert Lamberton, Captain, 3rd Aberdeen Boys Brigade
Contact address (if different from above)	64, Lochside Road Aberdeen AB23 8QW
Telephone	07795 833378
Email	bobbygill.lamberton@gmail.com
Amount of all public funding	Nil

## **2 Operational Information**

Section 19 permit obtained and current CTA membership.

Present volunteer drivers underwent assessment by First Bus, Aberdeen under the auspices of Aberdeen City Council.

We have a Health and Safety Officer within our group who will develop standard operating procedures for the vehicle, as well as complying with DVLA regulations, BB insurance indemnity and vehicle insurance policy with QBE insurers.

## **3 Purpose of Funding Request**

3<sup>rd</sup> Aberdeen BB have an active outdoor programme, linking with the DofE expedition programme

The minibus would help alleviate transport issues and offer more extensive outdoor experience for our group, including residential weekend.

We are involved in community projects from time to time, such as a recent beach clean up – minibus would be utilised to transport boys to these locations, where they engage in community service.

There is increasing concern amongst community leaders and residents of social isolation of the elderly in particular. We would hope to offer the minibus to other youth and community groups within the area. This would encompass improving access to local health facilities, for the elderly, church luncheon groups and senior citizens walking groups. We would engage with local voluntary drivers to deliver this vision.

The aim of this combined approach is to value and nurture citizenship across our community and we believe we have the capacity to deliver a new range of services, matching the communities' needs. This feedbacks most strongly to the ethos of the Boys Brigade and will extend the values of our community service work.