

COMMITTEE: Finances and Resources

DATE: 28 January 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Stewart Carruth

TITLE OF REPORT: Applications for the Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme 2009-2010.

REPORT NUMBER: CG/10/018

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for funding requests from the Equality of Opportunity Grants Budget 2009/2010.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee approve the following Equality of Opportunity Grants:

- £2350 to Aberdeen Chinese Community Centre (Association) towards the costs of Chinese New Year celebration
- £1000 to Grampian Senior Citizens Forum towards the cost of organising outings (primarily transport costs)
- £1000 to Positive Mixture, a group by and for people living with HIV towards the cost of educational and networking activities

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The awards recommended will be met from the Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme budget for 2009/2010, which includes the minority grants budget of £19,500 and the crèche budget of £3,000. Should committee approve all of these grants, the revised balance for the remainder of the financial year is £9,124 in the minority grants budget and £2,061 in the grant budget. Please see Appendix 2.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The grants scheme supports the priorities of a Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking Aberdeen and the Council's City Regeneration Strategy to make 21st century Aberdeen a successful city for all its people. By creating a more inclusive city and by tackling the geography of inequality, the City Regeneration strategy seeks to lay firm foundations for the development of the City.

The scheme also contributes to the National Outcome 7 – We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society and the National Outcome 11 – We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. Meanwhile, it supports the aim of the Council's Strengthening of Local Democracy Strategy: Enable every citizen to be more active in his or her community regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, where they live or disability to ensure everyone can contribute to 'active citizenship'.

An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) is carried out annually on the Equality of Opportunity Grants Budget as a whole. The EHRIA carried out on the Equality of Opportunity Grants Budget 2008/2009 found that: The scheme delivers positive outcomes for all equality target groups in the City including women, people from ethnic minority communities, people with disabilities, people from LGBT Communities, people from faith groups, people from the regeneration areas, families and young people. Further promotional opportunities have been identified to encourage groups previously not applying for grant assistance to apply for grants in future.

The Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme is reviewed annually. It will also be necessary to review this grants scheme as part of a future review of the Council's Funding Pack.

The full EHRIA has been publicised on the ACC website:

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/Grants/SL\(Grants\)/gra_FundingGrantsAssistance_Home.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/Grants/SL(Grants)/gra_FundingGrantsAssistance_Home.asp)

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

6. REPORT

A folder containing the copies of the full original applications is available in the Elected Members' Library.

REF		Minority Grants (£)	Crèche cost (£)
	Remaining Balance of Budget available 2009/2010	13474	2061
1.	Towards the costs of organising celebrations for the Chinese New Year festival at the Beach Ballroom	2350	
2.	Towards the costs of organising events and outings for Grampian Senior Citizens Forum (primarily transport costs)	1000	
3	Towards the costs of organising activities for Positive Mixture	1000	
	Total amount remaining in budget if these awards are made	9124	2061

6.1 Aberdeen Chinese School

- Aberdeen Chinese Centre (Association) was established in 2002 as a focal point between the Chinese Community and other communities. This Association aims to raise awareness of Chinese culture and tradition, support Chinese people to access mainstream services and contribute to increasing social inclusion in Aberdeen. The celebration of the Chinese New Year is the annual large scale, high profile event for the Chinese Community.
- The Association is seeking funding of £2850 towards the costs of holding the Chinese New Year festival at the Beach Ballroom on Monday 22nd February. The event will bring together a minimum of 500 people from different cultures and so as well as introducing Chinese culture and tradition, it will promote community cohesion.
- The breakdown of the costs is as follows

Room hire for 5 hours at Beach Ballroom, £200 per hour	£1000
Facilities including one technician, laptop, mikes, screen, Hi-fi equipment and lighting	£450
The event publicity materials design and printing	£500
Postage and stationary	£150
Hiring vehicles to transport musical instruments for both pre-event rehearsals and the event performance	£150
Guest speakers' travel cost	£100
A quarter of the cultural performance cost by local communities and Chinese delegates from other cities in Scotland	£500
Total	£2850

- Income from the participants' ticket charges will meet the catering costs.
- The Association plan to raise a total of £2000 to cover the cultural performances by local communities and other Chinese delegates from the parts in Scotland, including their travel costs and accommodation. As earlier indicated, the Association is seeking £500, 25% of this from the grant, specifically towards these costs with the remaining £1500 coming from sponsorship from the Chinese Business Community and a raffle draw.
- The Committee is reminded that funding of £1930 to Aberdeen Chinese School was approved at the November Committee meeting for its New Year celebration event which is also targeting 500 participants. In aggregate, this amounts to £4780 allocation of funds to Chinese Community groups, which may be seen as a disproportionate allocation of funds to one community.
- As the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the committee award £2350 (£2850 - £500).

6.2. Grampian Senior Citizens Forum

- The forum, as a group for older people, tries to organise outings to provide new or additional information, knowledge and experience in current affairs, arts and education and to increase the participation of older people in society.
- The events planned for 2010 includes visits to the:
 - Scottish Parliament.
 - New BBC Headquarters at Pacific Quay, Glasgow
 - Portrait Gallery (Edinburgh)
- Funding of £1000 is requested to assist in the organisation of transport to and from events, for example, wheelchair and other aids and carers' expenses.
- The forum is an open, apolitical forum which encourages wide participation through promoting its activities using Station House Media Unit (SHMU) radio once a week, attending festivals and events with information stands and tables, regular press releases and participation in local meetings including one Disability Advisory Group, Age Concern and Help The Aged and in national networks.
- Of the 40 senior citizens who currently attend and would participate in these events, 37 are from Aberdeen City, 2 from Aberdeenshire and 1 from Moray.
- As the application meets the criteria of access costs to enable participation in civic life, it is recommended that the Committee awards the £1000 requested.

6.3 Positive Mixture

- Positive Mixture is a support group for people living with HIV, which is run by people living with HIV
- The aim is to relieve some of the isolation experience by people living with HIV and raise awareness of those outside the group, of the issue about living with HIV
- The group is requesting funding of £1000 towards the cost of
 - Visiting Body Positive Tayside, to meet with people living with HIV in other areas
 - Arranging visiting speakers from outside Aberdeen
 - Organising activities in the wider community, for example, Bowling and Hill climbing
 - Educational events for those lobbying in the issues surrounding HIV infection, to raise awareness of the wider population on the issues around living with HIV are to provide information on the rights of the people living with HIV and to provide information under the disability legislation
 - Organising a world record attempt for the world's largest Awareness Ribbon, planned for February 2010
- As the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the Committee award £1000.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8.BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Appendix 1

Grant Guidelines – Extracted from Aberdeen City Council’s Funding Pack

The Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme

Aberdeen City Council is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for everyone and values the diversity of all its citizens. There is a small grants budget to support community groups and other non-profit organisations contributing to this work.

Applications are considered by: The Council’s Finances and Resources Management Committee.

Funding available:

Most of the grants awarded are likely to be in the £250 - £500 range, although applications for larger amounts will be considered for longer-term projects. Applicants will be expected to contribute something in cash or in kind, or both, towards the costs of their project. These contributions should be in proportion to the size and income/expenditure of the group and the amount being requested.

The projects can be short term or long term but they must all demonstrate that they will contribute to promoting equality in the city and support the current equality work priorities.

Here are some ideas of the kinds of project likely to be funded:

Support to organise or attend conferences or meetings on equal opportunities issues.

Production of materials, training resources, etc to raise awareness of equalities issues and/or challenge discrimination and exclusion.

Publicity, travel expenses, speakers’ expenses, venue hire costs, etc for meetings arranged to give voice to those who face discrimination so that their views and voices are heard.

Initiatives to increase public awareness of equality issues or the needs of the equality target groups.

Projects which will influence policy and practice on equal opportunities matters at local, regional or national levels.

Projects building on the capacity of members of the equality target groups to get involved in and influence the democratic process.

Childcare, interpreting/translation and other access costs to enable people to participate in the above kinds of projects.

Funding is not available for:

Costs which have already been incurred or previously committed.

Food and drink costs.

Access costs (childcare, interpreting/translation, etc) for general events funded elsewhere.

Travel costs to equality events outwith the City will only be considered if there is no reasonable opportunity to attend a similar event within the city.

Who can apply?

Page 4 of the Aberdeen City Council Funding Pack includes the following:

Groups working to benefit one or more of the Equality Target Groups i.e. Women, Minority Ethnic People, People with Disabilities, Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexual and Transgender People, Travelers and Refugees.
Groups including people from the Equality Target Groups.

In particular, the Council is keen to support projects in line with its own current equal opportunities work priorities, which are:

Tackling violence against women.

Promoting access to employment and services for the equalities target groups.

Developing anti-racist policies and practices.

Developing a strong ethnic minority voluntary sector.

Participation/representation of equalities target groups in decision-making and ensuring they are represented in the democratic process.

Removing any barriers to equality – by tackling exclusion or discrimination resulting from social attitudes, environmental or institutional barriers.

Providing support for refugees.

Tackling racist incidents/violence.
