

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **3 September 2015**

DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Sports Grants**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/15/040**

CHECKLIST COMPLETED: **YES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings before Committee nine applications for financial assistance and makes recommendations accordingly.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- (a) considers the applications through **the Club Development Grant Programme** and approves the following recommendations:

Applicant	Funding Recommended
Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association	£10,000
Aberdeen Roller Derby	£1,371
Total Award	£11,371

- b) considers the applications through the **Significant Sporting Events Grant Programme** and approves the following recommendations:

Applicant	Event	Funding Recommended
Netball Scotland	Netball Europe Under 21 Championships	£8950.00
Dancesport Scotland	Northern Trophy Day	£850.00
Total Award		£9,800

- c) considers the applications through the **Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development Grant Programme** and approves the following recommendations:

Applicant	Sport	Funding Recommended
A Lawrie	Rowing	£135.00
A Kenny	Hockey	£120.00
Total Award		£255.00

- d) considers the applications through **the Talented Athletes Grants Programme** and approves the following recommendations:

Applicant	Sport	Funding Recommended
G Carter	Football	£132.00
M Maguire	Football	£132.00
M Duff	Hockey	£250.00
Total Award		£514.00

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The sports grants budget for 2015/16 is £90,000. Assuming that the recommendations contained within this report are agreed the budget remaining will be £55,800.

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 Programme 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 are 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 Schools Rowing Association

Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association (ASRA) provides a wide range of rowing opportunities for school-aged children and young people throughout the City. The association's objective is to create opportunities to become involved in rowing. This is achieved by providing a pathway which allows beginners to undertake taster sessions, before progressing to indoor clubs and eventually outdoor club rowing on the River Dee.

ASRA run two main programmes within the city Secondary schools. The indoor (Dry Start) programme provides a minimum 6 week extra-curricular training block within participating schools. The outdoor (Wet Start) Programme follows this up with the opportunity to participate in an eight to ten week training block on the River Dee.

ASRA's participation programs have been developed to enable them to continue the expansion of their participation base numbers. This is a continuous process with members moving on to university and work post their junior years. This development grant would help to support the program and meet their business plan expansion target of 200 members by the end of 2017.

The overall cost of running the Schools rowing projects is approximately £32,000. The recommendation is to provide £10,000 of funding towards this project which will be matched by £10,000 from sportscotland and £12,000 from the association. This covers a range of incurred costs including staff salaries, insurance and equipment maintenance. In order to meet this cost, ASRA have successfully received funding from external bodies.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£10,000	£10,000

5.1.2 Granite City Roller Girls

Granite City Roller Girls is an amateur sports club who are dedicated to playing and promoting women's flat track roller derby. The club continues to grow and has regular training sessions at the Beacon Centre and Aberdeen Lads Club and play all of there matches out of the Beach Leisure Centre.

The club is looking to expand and create one new team which will encourage females who may not traditionally participate in sport to take part. They are

also keen to ensure a pathway is in place for athletes from grassroots to elite level so that there is progression for individuals if desired.

The club were requesting financial support of £4,190 towards equipment, hall hire costs, promotional materials and event costs. Unfortunately the Granite City Roller Girls have not yet gained a recognized club accreditation scheme so at this stage are only entitled to apply for a grant of up to £2,000. It is hoped that they will achieve this over the next year so in subsequent years will be able to apply for level 2 funding.

It is recommended that the council provide a grant of £1,371 to the club to allow them to continue to develop and grow the membership. This funding will be used to support them to purchase equipment and provide specialist coaching sessions which were the eligible costs within the application.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£4,190.00	£1,371.00

5.2 Significant Sporting Events Grant 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 Netball Scotland

The Netball Europe under 21 Championships will be take place in Aberdeen at the Aberdeen Sports Village between the 2nd and 4th October 2015. This top level annual event welcomes the home nation countries and typically attracts over 90 competitors and officials with around 350 spectators attending per day. Netball Scotland will work with local partners to publicise the event locally, encouraging as many people as possible to come along and see the matches. They have also been working with Glasgow based QTV Sports who will provide a comprehensive live streaming service of the event to maximize the number of people who can watch it and will also include promotional footage of Aberdeen City into the daily plan.

Aberdeen City council and its sports ALEO's work in close partnership with Netball Scotland to develop Netball locally and a series of events are being organised by Netball Scotland to coincide with the event to encourage and grow participation and volunteering within the sport. A Netball network partnership group was also established a couple of years ago and this group is working towards a coordinated and joint up approach to delivery so we can increase the number participating in the sport.

Netball Scotland has requested £16,650 from the significant events grant towards supporting costs associated with this event. These include live streaming, promotional costs, photography and an announcer on the day.

It is recommended that the Council provides support of £8,950 towards live streaming, promotional material and volunteer t shirts and work with the governing body to ensure that terms and conditions of the grant are met in relation to branding.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£16,650.00	£8,950.00

5.2.2 Dancesport Scotland

Dancesport Scotland was established in 1945 and is the national Governing Body for Ballroom and Latin American Dancing in Scotland.

Since 2004 the governing body has been organising the Northern Cup at the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen and this event has now become one of the highlights of the dancing calendar for dancers from across the North of Scotland. In addition the competition which will take place on the 18th October this year will be a national event, attracting participants from as far afield as England and Wales. The event is nationally chart rated and the winners rely on their results in order to be rated in the UK charts. The event is also used for the Scottish chart rating system to decide who should represent Scotland at World and European events.

The governing body is looking for a grant of £850.00 towards the cost of the venue hire. The event is predominantly delivered by volunteers which ensures that the event costs are minimal. The overall budget for the event is £2290.00.

Should this grant be approved, officers will work with the governing body to ensure that opportunities to participate in ballroom and Latin American dancing are promoted across the city.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£850.00	£850.00

5.3 Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development Grant Programme

This fund aims to support coaches and volunteers to obtain a higher level of coaching award in their chosen sport.

5.3.1 Alan Lawrie

Alan has been actively involved with the Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association for several years and has recently applied for support through the coaching and volunteering grant to progress his coaching qualification to the next level.

He is committed to attending the next United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) level 2 which is being hosted in Aberdeen between the 5th and 13th September. Once he has completed this course Alan intends to support the club to deliver 6 hours of voluntary coaching to children and young people in

order to continue to grow the membership of the club and allow more people to participate in rowing..

The cost of the course is £450 and inline with the recommendation agreed at the Education and Children's service committee on the 2nd June 2015 it is recommended that he is awarded £135 which is 30% of the cost of the course.

Cost of Course	Funding Recommended
£450.00	£135.00

5.3.2 Alistair Kenny

Alistair is currently a member of the Aberdeen University Men's Hockey Club who compete in both national and regional leagues. He is keen to improve the standard of the coaching within the club and has therefore applied for financial support to attend the United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) Level 2 course. Once he has completed this qualification it is intended that he will carry out 4.5 hours of coaching within the club per week which will help to increase the number of people participating in hockey locally.

The cost of the course is £400 and inline with the recommendation agreed at the Education and Children's Services committee on the 2nd June 2015 it is recommended that he is awarded £120 which represents 30% of the course.

Cost of Course	Funding Recommended
£400.00	£120.00

5.4 Talented Athletes 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.

5.4.1 Georgia Carter

Georgia is an extremely talented footballer and is a pupil at the Scottish Football Association's Performance School at Hazlehead Academy. This is a programme for elite football players, with each player being identified and selected for the 4 year programme through and extensive scouting process followed by player and parent interviews.

Georgia is the only girls currently in the performance school programme and last year represented her country at under 15 and 17 age group level. Georgia has proven that she is a talented player in her own age group throughout Scotland and has also done very well to reach this level.

She has recently been selected for the Scotland Under 17 squad and will take part in the Four Nations Rose Bowl Tournament during Summer 2015.

Players taking part in this competition have been asked to contribute towards their own travel to Northern Ireland and accommodation. The total cost of this is £264 and it is recommended that a contribution of £132 is provided to support Georgia.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
No amount stated	£132.00

5.4.2 Molly Maguire

Molly is a pupil at Harlaw Academy and is a talented footballer who has been playing the sport from a very young age. She trains and plays matches for approximately 10 hours per week and is a regular player in the Aberdeen Ladies reserve team.

Molly has recently been selected for the Scotland Under 17 squad and will take part in the Four Nations Rose Bowl Tournament during Summer 2015.

Players taking part in this competition have been asked to contribute towards their own travel to Northern Ireland and accommodation. The total cost of this is £264 and it is recommended that a contribution of £132 is provided to support Molly to attend.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
£132.00	£132.00

5.4.3 Morven Duff

Morven is currently a student at North East Scotland College and juggles her studies with her commitment to the sport of hockey. Morven play hockey for a locally based team and has been involved in the Under 18 Women's squad since 2013. Throughout this time she has continued to develop her skills and knowledge and continues to demonstrate excellent leadership qualities both on and off the pitch with her fellow teammates.

She is very committed to her training and in addition to her seven hours of training per week makes regular trips to the central belt to attend national squad training. The head coach for the Scotland Under 18 team wrote in her supporting letter that Morven has a very promising future in hockey. It is therefore recommended that through the Talented Athletes grants that we support Morven with a financial contribution of £250 towards her ongoing national training and European Championships. This award is inline with other athletes competing at a similar level.

Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
	£250.00

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 required to agree to terms and conditions which mitigate any risk of exposure to the Council and require that all supported activity meets Council Policies, processes and the Following the Public Pound guidelines.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The application forms and business plans will be available in the members lounge prior to the Education and Children's Services committee.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix 1

Summary Table of Financial Assistance Sports Awards 2015/16

Organisation	Funding Awarded	Committee Approval
Development Grants		
Special Olympics Grampian Area (Snowsports)	£2,000	Education and Children's Services 02.06.15
Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association	£10,000	Education and Children's Services 03.09.15 (pending)
Granite City Roller Girls	£1,371	Education and Children's Services 03.09.15 (pending)
Significant Sporting Events Grants		
Scottish Athletics – Scottish National Senior Outdoor Track and Field Championships	£5,000	Education and Children's Services 02.06.15
Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club – The City of Aberdeen Track and Field Championships	£1,000	Education and Children's Services 02.06.15
Loirston Short Mat Bowls – British International and Individual Championships	£2,100	Education and Children's Services 02.06.15
Netball Scotland – Under 21 Netball Europe Championships	£8,950	Education and Children's Services 03.09.15 (pending)
Dancesport Scotland – Northern Trophy Day	£850	Education and Children's Services 03.09.15 (pending)
Coach and Volunteer Workforce Development Grant		
D Carson	£160	Education and Children's Services 02.06.15
A Lawrie	£135	Education and Children's Services 03.09.15 (pending)
A Kenny	£120	Education and Children's Services 03.09.15 (pending)
Talented Athletes Grants		

L McCue	£1,000	Education and Children's Services 02.06.15
G Duncan	£500	Education and Children's Services 02.06.15
A Hogg	£250	Education and Children's Services 02.06.15
A Morrison	£250	Education and Children's Services 02.06.15
M Duff	£250	Education and Children's Services 03.09.15 (Pending)
G Carter	£132	Education and Children's Services 03.09.15 (Pending)
M Maguire	£132	Education and Children's Services 03.09.15 (Pending)
Total Grant Funding Awarded if recommendations approved	£34,200	
Grant Funding Remaining	£55,800	

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.