

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy and Resources
DATE	15 September 2015
INTERIM DIRECTOR	Angela Scott
TITLE OF REPORT	Small Financial Assistance Grants 2015/16
REPORT NUMBER	CG/15/109
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 recommendation:-
  - The Discovery Award Scotland, over 50's workshops – a maximum of £200.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 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 recommendation is approved the amount remaining would be £36,150.

- 3.2 Elsewhere on this agenda, approval is sought to administer all future gala funding through the small financial assistance scheme. If approved, the £10,000 budget currently allocated to the City Events

team would be added to the existing small financial assistance grants budget to support the cost of all applications received for this purpose.

- 3.3 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 The Discovery Award Scotland, Workshops for Over 50's – Further information at Appendix A

An application has been received from the Discovery Award Coordinator to meet the cost of workshops to provide the over fifties with an opportunity to learn new skills and pick up new hobbies as well as encouraging them to volunteer in their local communities.

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 £200 of funding be awarded for the cost of running the workshops.

## 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

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APPENDIX A

(Received by letter from Ian Dow, Coordinator)



**The Discovery Award  
Scotland**

**North East  
sponsored 2013**



Dear Sir,

I am not sure to which service I address this request.

As you know, I am the Coordinator for the Discovery award and have 11 groups running in and around Aberdeen. An opportunity for the over fifties to learn new skills and pick up new hobbies, as well as encouraging them to volunteer in our local communities.

As a recruitment and training exercise, I am running some workshops for existing participants and hopefully new hopefuls that are looking for more information.

This will be held on Saturday 20th June, and another in the Autumn.

I am looking for some funding to help this event break even without the over fifties having to fund it all from their pocket.

I don't know who to apply to for financial help and am looking for about £200 to put on the events.

I would be grateful for your advice or direction as to whom I should apply.

Thanks you for your consideration