

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy and Resources
DATE	3 December 2015
INTERIM DIRECTOR	Richard Ellis
TITLE OF REPORT	Small Financial Assistance Grants and Gala Funding 2015/16
REPORT NUMBER	CG/15/140
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

---

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; and
- to advise Elected Members that following the decision to approve future gala funding through the small financial assistance scheme that Officers are currently working on a process for this, which will be presented at the next meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) consider the applications received and agree to award grant funding based on the following recommendations:-
  - Castlegate Arts, a production of the musical Cabaret to coincide with Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 – a maximum of £2,500;
  - Chernobyl Children Life Line, a contribution towards the cost of a visit by Chernobyl Children to Aberdeen – a maximum of £2,500;
  - Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust, a contribution towards the cost of the construction of a footpath linking the Ferryhill Engine Shed and Turntable to the Duthie Park – a maximum of £2,500 subject to the final cost of construction;

- Bucksburn & District Pipe Band, a request for financial assistance towards their annual concert – a maximum of £2,500;
- XV International Brigade Aberdeen Commemoration Committee, a donation towards the ongoing running costs of the Committee who will be arranging annual commemoration events and educational activities - £1,000;
- Somebody Cares, a request for financial assistance towards a Christmas event at AECC to distribute food and presents for poor, vulnerable and marginalised people of Aberdeen – a maximum of £2,500.

ii) note that a process for gala funding will be reported on at the next meeting.

### 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 recommendations are approved the amount remaining would be £18,420.

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 Castlegate Arts, a production of the musical Cabaret to coincide with Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 - Further information at Appendix A

An application has been received from the Artistic Director of Castlegate Arts for a contribution towards the cost of presenting a production of the musical Cabaret to coincide with Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 (27 January). Included in the production will be displays from groups representing victims of the Nazi holocaust, an art installation representing the experience of a concentration camp and an exhibition of the genocides that have happened since the end of World War Two.

The cast for the show will be made up of local amateur theatre-makers, who will work alongside West End professionals. This will give local talent a unique opportunity, invaluable if they want to pursue a career in theatre.

The show will open on Holocaust Memorial Day. The central vision of this day is to learn from the past in order to create a safer, better future.

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 a maximum of £2,500 of funding be awarded towards the cost of the Holocaust Memorial Day production.

### 5.2.2 Chernobyl Children Life Line, a contribution towards the cost of a visit to Aberdeen by Chernobyl Children – Further information at Appendix B

An application has been received from the Chairman of Chernobyl Children Life Line for a contribution to allow a visit from Chernobyl Children to Aberdeen to coincide with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear reactor, the cost of which is anticipated to be between £6,000 and £7,000.

It is considered appropriate for this visit to be considered under the small financial assistance grants assessment criteria. As it meets the criteria, it is recommended that a maximum of £2,500 of funding be awarded towards the cost of the visit.

#### 5.2.3 Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust, a contribution towards the cost of the construction of a footpath linking the Ferryhill Engine Shed and Turntable to the Duthie Park – Further information at Appendix C

An application has been received from the Chairman of the Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust for assistance towards the cost of the construction of a footpath to link the Ferryhill Engine Shed and Turntable with the Duthie Park.

It is estimated that the construction of the footpath will cost £12,500. This total includes a contingency of £670. An application has been made to Awards for All for £10,000, leaving a balance of £2,500.

The construction of the footpath would demonstrate greater public participation and financial support would demonstrate confidence in the success of the overall aim of operating a self-financing Heritage Centre, allowing the Trust to make other funding applications.

As the request meets the financial assistance grants assessment criteria it is recommended that up to £2,500 of funding be awarded towards the cost of construction of the footpath, dependent upon the actual final cost.

#### 5.2.4 Bucksburn & District Pipe Band, a request for financial assistance towards their annual concert – Further information at Appendix D

A request has been received from the Treasurer of Bucksburn & District Pipe Band for £3,000 - £3,500 of financial assistance towards the cost of their annual concert which is to be held at the Beach Ballroom. This event has been held at the Music Hall for the past 5 years. The move to the Beach Ballroom has been caused by the refurbishment of the Music Hall and has led to a higher cost.

The cost of holding the event at the Beach Ballroom has been quoted at £9,500, although this could be reduced to £7,500 and further dependant upon the takings on the day of the event.

As the request meets the small financial assessment criteria, it is recommended that a maximum of £2,500 be awarded towards the cost of the hire of the Beach Ballroom.

- 5.2.5 XV International Brigade Aberdeen Commemoration Committee, a donation towards the ongoing running costs – Further information at Appendix E

The XV International Brigade Aberdeen Commemoration Committee recently organised a programme of activities around the International Brigade Memorial Trust AGM which was held in Aberdeen on the 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> October. The Commemoration Committee have requested a general donation of £1,000 towards the ongoing running cost of the Committee.

The Committee will be arranging commemoration events and educational activities to keep alive the memory of the men who joined the International Brigades to fight against Fascism during the Spanish Civil War, particularly those men from Aberdeen.

As the request meets the small financial assessment criteria, it is recommended that £1,000 be awarded towards the running costs.

- 5.2.6 Somebody Cares, a contribution towards the cost of a Christmas event to be held at AECC – Further information at Appendix F

Last year Somebody Cares held a free event at the AECC to allow the city's poor, vulnerable and marginalised families to enjoy a Christmas event and to allow them to collect food and presents. As the organisation were the AECC's 'charity of the year' the venue was provided free.

Somebody Cares would like to repeat the event this year at an overall cost of £8,200 (£6,000 + VAT for the venue and £1,000 for refreshments).

As the request meets the small financial assessment criteria, it is recommended that £2,500 be awarded towards the cost of holding this event.

## 6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience – by granting financial assistance The Council supports individuals, groups and organisations within the City and broadens the experiences available to the citizens of Aberdeen.

Improving Staff Experience – staff will be involved in updating the process for gala funding and should therefore be engaged and committed to the process.

Improving Our Use of Resources – this report allows Elected Members so consider each applicant in an open and transparent way.

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

Letter received from Paula Gibson, Artistic Director

City Chamberlain  
Corporate Governance  
Aberdeen City Council  
Town House  
Broad Street  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1AH



10<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Dear City Chamberlain

We are presenting a production of the musical Cabaret to coincide with Holocaust Memorial Day 2016. Set in a glamorous nightclub in 1930s Germany as the Nazi party begins its rise to power, and acting as an allegory about the way people become bystanders and ignore the evil going on around them, the show explores how quickly, and with such little resistance, Berlin became unsafe for the Jewish and homosexual communities.

Our vision for this production is to create an immersive piece of theatre that defies convention and will blur the lines between performance and spectator. We hope to give the audience an experience that feels more like they are entering a real life cabaret in 1930's Germany, rather than an evening at the theatre. Included in the production will be displays from groups representing victims of the Nazi holocaust, an art installation representing the experience of a concentration camp and an exhibition of the genocides that have happened since the end of World War Two.

Working with a London based, award-winning production team; the cast for the show will be made up of local amateur theatre-makers, who will work alongside West End professionals in a presentation that will attain high production values. This will afford local talent the unique opportunity of gaining experience working with west end professionals, invaluable if they want to pursue a career in theatre. The director of this production started his theatrical career with ACT Aberdeen at the age of 15.

The show will open on Holocaust Memorial Day as this year's theme, set by The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, is "Don't Stand By". The central vision of Holocaust Memorial Day is to learn from the past in order to create a safer, better future. We will create a thought provoking evening of entertainment and education, by contrasting a lavish way of life against the horrors of the holocaust.

As part of this project some of our young people will be hearing a survivor speak, alongside visiting a concentration camp. Their experiences will be used to inform the exhibition, as well as enable them to produce resources that will be made available to schools and colleges for ensuing Holocaust Memorial Days.

We view this project as the first of regular collaborations, offering emerging talent the opportunity of performing alongside theatre professionals, and expect it to create significant interest from outside the city. It is part of our strategy to increase the diversity of our patrons, augmenting our regular audience for productions at ACT Aberdeen, boosting the membership of our friends' scheme and increasing the number of people engaging with theatrical events across the city.

The total cost of this production is budgeted at £97,550 and a bid to Creative Scotland for £35,000 towards the total cost has been submitted and accepted, and we are waiting on their decision. We are also approaching Aberdeen based businesses with sponsorship proposals, and are about to launch a publicity campaign that will be aimed at cities across Scotland, as well as Aberdeen. Any financial assistance you can give us towards creating this unique experience would be most appreciated.

Letter received from David Henderson, Chairman

## Chernobyl Children Life Line

*(To help children suffering from the after effects of the Chernobyl disaster and economic situation)*

12 August 2015

Lord Provost  
Town House  
Broad Street  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1LP

Dear Lord Provost

### **Chernobyl Children – Aberdeen City & Shire Link**

Thank you for meeting my group of children from Gomel District, Belarus and giving them a tour of the Town House. They thoroughly enjoyed the tour and were very interested to see inside such an historic building. The children have now returned home after having a very enjoyable break in the Aberdeen area.

Next year is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear reactor and I am hoping to be in a position to organise a visit next summer. These respite holidays to the UK are of immense benefit to the health and wellbeing of the children.

However, in order to allow me to bring another group of children to Aberdeen next year, I require to raise a sum of money (£6-7,000), which is a considerable amount for such a small group of people.

I am exploring the possibility of applying for funding through Aberdeen City Council given the city's close links with Gomel.

Yours faithfully

Letter received from Dr J Tyler

## **Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust**



Cllr Ross Thomson  
Aberdeen City Council  
Town House  
Broad Street  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1FY

9<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Cllr Thomson

### Ferryhill Engine Shed and Turntable

Further to our recent discussions, you will be aware that Historic Scotland has recently announced a building repair grant to the Trust of £298,158 being 40% of the eligible costs of repairs to the fabric of the Council's building and Network Rail's Turntable. However, this is in danger of being withdrawn unless match funding can be obtained for repairs to the Council's building. 40% match funding has already been successfully obtained from the Railway Heritage Trust for the Turntable together with a grant of £15,000 from the Architectural Heritage Fund to cover professional fees. 60% of the cost of the repairs to the Council's building remains to be secured - around £400,000.

We are keen to resubmit our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund but we need to demonstrate greater Public Participation and reduce potential financial risk. We believe that we can address the Public Participation aspect by ensuring that the Pedestrian Link Path to Duthie Park is constructed as already agreed with the Council. In terms of addressing the financial risk, we would ask that the Council consider contributing to the budget for the project, thereby demonstrating the confidence in the success of the project which has been so whole heartedly backed by the Community Council, Councillors, MSPs and MPs and the general public over the recent past.

Our Project Viability Study gives us confidence that the Trust can achieve its aim of operating a self-financing Heritage Centre which will have a substantial number of visitors every year.

On Tuesday we held an on-site meeting attended by the Council's Alan Findlay – Facilities Manager, Ian Esslemont – Design & Development manager and Louisa Ratana-Arporn - Estates Surveyor. The route of the proposed public footpath and its relationship with the current wall reconstruction were discussed. It was explained that the Trust has

applied for a grant towards the cost of materials for the footpath construction. It was considered that while this was helpful in progressing the construction, further funds would be required to be able to meet the standards required for the footpath surface and edging by the Council.

The Trust therefore formally requests that the Council consider making a small grant to the Trust which would go some way to meeting these standards.

The Trust would also formally request that the Council demonstrates its support for the Project by contributing some match funding to the Building Repair Grant awarded by Historic Scotland. This contribution would help to underline the fact that there is considerable local support for the project and enable the Trust to resubmit its application for the remaining funds to the Heritage Lottery Fund with some confidence of a successful outcome.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely

Jon Tyler (Dr)  
Chairman  
Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust

Extract of email received from Dr J Tyler

I can confirm that our request is for a contribution towards the footpath. We have an existing application to Awards for All for £10,000 to complete the project. I have attach plans and the estimates. Please let me know if you require any further information.

#### Estimates of Footpath Construction Cost

Length metres	cost per m	Item cost	Cash	In-Kind
180	£43.50	£7,830.00	£7,830.00	
Groundworks		£2,000.00		£2,000.00
Sub-base		£3,000.00	£3,000.00	
Edging		£1,000.00	£1,000.00	
Signage		£1,000.00		£1,000.00
Contingency		£670.00	£670.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£15,500.00</b>	<b>£12,500.00</b>	<b>£3,000.00</b>
Costings based on Paths for All Guidance				

## APPENDIX D

### Initial email from Fred McKay

My name is Fred McKay of Bucksburn & District Pipe band John Reynolds asked me to give you details of our costs from our annual concert which has been held in the Music hall for the past five years.

Obviously we have had to look elsewhere to keep this successful concert going we invite the top grade 1 bands to come here and promote piping and drumming in the North east, all have been successful

and the last two years have seen the visiting band go on and win the World championship held in Glasgow each year so we are bringing the very best to Aberdeen.

The Beach Ballroom is the only real option for us Theatre is booked up and the Exhibition Centre is unsuitable because of the sound issue caused by the metal roof, The costs associated with the beach at

the weekend is just too much for us to meet from ticket sales, hence my exploring avenues through John Reynolds who is always invited as a guest at the concert.

Some of the costs from the music hall which varies every year The hire of the venue is £1800 including Vat the supply of sound engineers £268.98 and the Box office charges are £36.00 now there was other

charges which will not be applicable or unavailable at the Beach Ballroom and I am aware that they might have some ancillary charges to add but by and large that is our costs previously.

I have seen your initial comment to John and am delighted to get such a positive response from the city council as we need to fill this venue void for the next two years until the music hall refurbishment is complete.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future

### Extract from further email

Attached is the proposed concert posters for your information. The cost of the ballroom is quoted at £9500.00 this figure apparently includes everything no additional charges

the music hall price is made up of many add on prices most of which we won't have at the Ballroom. I have sent Willie Young the list of charges that we would expect from the Music Hall and excluded the other extras that we don't want like a private bar for invited guests, we intend to use the bar and the eating facilities at the ballroom throughout the day and hope to spend between the band and the public a sum over £5000 pounds which we have been informed will reduce the costs.

Ray at the ballroom said it could be reduced to £7500 and further if we spent £5000 or more and yes the box office and sound engineer would be about the same but the

engineer already included in the quote, the Ballroom does not have the same sound problems as the Music hall where we had great difficulty getting the sound last year due to new personnel and took us all day to get it right.

From our perspective the quoted price does not work for us, we only have the ticket revenue to cover the costs we are promoting Pipe Bands of the highest standard annually in Aberdeen

The last two bands that were our guests went to win the world championships later the same year so you can see we are bringing top quality to Aberdeen.

We have to pay a fee to the visiting band also the transport and overnight accommodation at the Douglas Hotel we are a charity registered band and have limited resources hence our request to get some council support for the next two years while the Music Hall is unavailable to us.

The target we are looking for is £3000 –to £3500 which we feel is equal to what we would have from the music hall We have booked the venue and have printed tickets now available at the Box office



**Bucksburn & District  
Pipe Band**

&

**ScottishPower  
Pipe Band**

present

# REVOLUTION

**Aberdeen Beach Ballroom**



**SCOTTISHPOWER**  
*Pipe Band*

**14 May 2016**

**7:30pm**

**£19 & £17**

**Tickets available from the Aberdeen box office**

Union St Aberdeen, AB10 1QS

[www.boxofficeaberdeen.com](http://www.boxofficeaberdeen.com)

Tel: 01224 641122

[scottishpowerpipeband.com](http://scottishpowerpipeband.com)

[bucksburnpipeband.com](http://bucksburnpipeband.com)

Letter received from Tommy Campbell, Secretary

**XV International Brigade Aberdeen**

**Commemoration Committee c/o Unite the Union,**

**44 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5TJ**

Stephen Whyte  
 Small Grants Committee  
 Aberdeen City Council  
 Town House  
 Aberdeen  
 23rd September 2015  
 Dear Stephen

**Ref: International Brigade Memorial Trust AGM**

The AGM is being held this year in Aberdeen at the Town House from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October and we attach the AGM programme of activities organised by the Aberdeen Commemoration Committee.

We are now seeking financial support from Aberdeen City Council to cover some of these costs which are -----

Unveiling two new plaques to

Bob Cooney and John Londragan	£470
Publication of Bob Cooney booklet	£600
Transport costs of Anti-Fascistas Exhibition	£250
Grampian District Pipes and Drummers Band	£300
Invitation cards for the social evening approx..	£80
Postage costs approx.	£100
Musical entertainment approx.	£400
Commemorative T-shirts and badges approx.	£250
Sandwiches, tea/coffee & biscuits	£300
General donation towards ongoing running costs	£1000

Total ----- £3750

We are requesting the general donation towards the ongoing running costs of the XV International Brigade Aberdeen Commemoration Committee which will be arranging annual commemoration events and educational activities to keep the memory alive particularly the men from Aberdeen who joined the International Brigades to fight against Fascism during the Spanish Civil War.

I attach a copy of our constitution.

Any financial donation towards our costs , no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated.

Should the Small Grants Committee make a donation then a cheque should be made payable to the –

XV International Brigade Aberdeen Commemoration Committee

We wish to thank the City Council for its existing support for this important weekend of events when we in Aberdeen commemorate the honourable and brave anti-fascist fighters who fought as part of the International Brigades.

NO PASARAN !

Yours sincerely

*Antifascistas*



# BRITISH VOLUNTEERS IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

Aberdeen  
Central Library

1 September – 14 October 2015

Rosemount Viaduct  
Aberdeen AB25 1GW

Monday to Saturday  
9am – 5pm (8pm Mon & Weds)



International Brigade Memorial Trust  
[www.international-brigades.org.uk](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk)



Email received from Brian Taylor, Chief Executive, Somebody Cares

I was told to contact you by Steven White to see if we would qualify for a grant for an event we are doing on 13th December.

I am the Chief Executive of Aberdeen's biggest charity providing for the city's poor, vulnerable and marginalised people.

An indication of what we do is...

We furnished over 2,200 homes in the last year.

We gave out over 130 tonnes of food.

We gave huge quantities of clothes and school clothes out. (we don't count this. People arrive at our warehouse and we tell them to help themselves. We are happy if they take 1 or 2 black bags)

We gave out the equivalent of over £750,000 free support and diverted over 730 tonnes from landfill.

And much, much more!!

We are the only organisation that does everything for free and are working with over 80 city agencies.

Every year we run a huge Christmas appeal where we feed thousands of families and give every child a present

As part of that, we run a free Christmas event and bring as many of these families together.

This has 2 purposes...

1. To give them a great time at Christmas and...
2. To bring as many together to collect their food and presents, as trying to get out the volume of food and gifts is a logistical nightmare.

Last year we did this in the AECC, given free, as we were their charity of the year. Over 850 people attended with Stagecoach giving us 5 double deck buses free to help get them there.

The event was a huge success and we want to repeat it this year. We believe we will fill the venue this year.

Unfortunately, we are no longer the AECC charity of the year and would have to pay to get the venue.

The cost for this is £6000 + VAT

Teas coffees, juice, Christmas pies and shortbread £1000 giving us a total cost of £8,200.

We are applying to see if the Council would give us £3,500 towards the cost of this albeit we understand the amount given is normally less than this.

We would not be able to do this without help and hence this application.

Best regards