

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Finances and Resources

DATE: 11 March 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Stewart Carruth

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

REPORT NUMBER: CG/10/049

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:

- £1000 to Portal Community Centre Ethnic Minority Women's Group
- £560 to the Terrence Higgins Trust
- £500 to "Lets Get Working" at Sunnybank Community Centre
- £500 to LGBT Film Society

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 £6564 in the minority grants budget and £2061 in the creche budget, giving an underspend of £8625. 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	9124	2061
1.	Towards the cost of exercise classes for ethnic minority women	1000	
2.	Towards the cost of Diversity Challenge Programmes	560	
3.	Towards the cost of "Let's Get Working" project	500	
4.	Towards the cost of LGBT Film Society	500	
	Balance Remaining	6564	2061

6.1 Portal Community Centre

- A group of ethnic minority women in the local community have got together to organise a weekly exercise class, which is restricted to a female only environment at Portal Community Centre.
- The project is designed to give women from all religions access to exercise. Because it is a closed class for women only, it enables women who are usually restricted by cultural traditions to feel comfortable to express themselves and participate fully. It will also be open to other women, who may have low self esteem and confidence, and wish to exercise in an environment where they feel comfortable and relaxed.
- The class is more than simply providing an opportunity for regular exercise and improved fitness although this is important in areas such as Tillydrone, which experiences high poverty, deprivation and associated health inequalities. It is also an opportunity to
 - break down barriers between different nationalities
 - provide affordable leisure facilities without the added restriction of culture and traditions
 - integrate ethnic minority and local communities, thus improving community cohesion and reducing the risk of potential tension
 - provide a first step to empowerment, further learning and participation in local democracy.
- The group is seeking funding of £1000 to run two 10 week blocks of classes to help create a sense of routine, commitment and involvement in the community.
- The breakdown of the costs is as follows

Tutor costs at £30 per hour for 1.5 hour sessions

= £47.50 x 20 = £950

Costs of promoting and organising classes

= £50

Total costs = £1,000

- As the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the committee award £1000.

6.2 Terrence Higgins Trust

- Terrence Higgins Trust is a charity which provides information and advice, counselling and group support, guidance on managing health, HIV testing clinics and practical support services. Terrence Higgins Trust is the only organisation dealing with LGBT issues locally.
- The organisation is seeking a grant of £560 towards the cost of running 4 awareness raising programmes called "Diversity Challenge – Let's Get Better at Tackling Homophobia".
- This is to cover venue hire, administration and training packs for participants for 4 programmes at £140 per programme.
- The aims and objectives of the course are as follows

AIMS

- To increase knowledge and confidence in supporting people exploring their sexuality
- To increase skills in responding to and challenging homophobia with young people.

OBJECTIVES

- Explore and be aware of personal values and attitudes
- Discuss challenging issues and questions and gain confidence in dealing with them
- Dispel myths and misconceptions

- Consider different methodologies to effectively approach LGBT issues with young people
- Be familiar with resources and know where to go for help and support
- Although this programme has been designed for people working with young people, the format and contents can be tailored and adapted for different target audiences, for example, elected members and community planning partners, front-line staff, community councillors and the different communities of interest and community groups.
- As this application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the committee award £560.

6.3 “Let’s Get Working” at Sunnybank Community Centre

- This is a project being set up to help school leavers in the local community take the first steps into employability.
- This will involve engaging with and assisting young local people with applications and interview skills and educational resources.
- Pupils from other countries whose English is limited will receive additional, targeted help with the procedures of getting into employment and further education.
- The project will include visits to further education resources, training centres and Careers Scotland.
- Though the project is focused on getting young people into employment and / or training, other outcomes will include inclusion and integration within the community, sharing skills and information with others, confidence building and empowerment.

- The project is seeking funding of £500 to assist with

Tutor costs - 10 hours at £20 per hour	= £200
Mini bus hire for 4 trips at £50 per trip	= £200
Administration and publicity costs to include materials and paper	= £100

- As this application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the committee award £500.

6.4 LGBT Film Society

- This is a new group planning to hold a monthly meeting for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, their family and friends to meet at the Arts Centre, King Street, to watch a LGBT themed movie, followed by a discussion.
- The monthly event will give the LGBT community a social outlet that is not housed in an alcohol based setting or physical activity. It is hoped this group would be accessible as a network to participate in consultations, leading to the setting up of regular LGBT forum meetings.
- The £500 requested is to go towards
 - advertising leaflets and mailshots
 - venue hire (£25 per hour for 2 hours for 12 months)

Total cost = £650

- As the application meets the criteria to be awarded a grant, it is recommended that the committee award £500.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Name: Sandra Bruce
Job Title: Strategist
Email: sandrab@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Telephone: (52)3039

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

1. 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 outside 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.

2. APPENDIX 2

2009/2010 Equality of Opportunity Grants Scheme Budget

Committed Expenditure and Balance left to Date (£)

Appendix 2

£

£

Minority Grants

Creche Cost

Opening Balance

19,500

3,000

<u>Item</u>	<u>Committee Date</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Funding</u>
1	Resources Management 16/06/09	Aberdeen Muslim Women's Association		1286	357
2	Resources Management 16/06/09	Lets Get Together at the Sunnybank Community Centre		1100	300
3	Resources Management 12/11/09	Aberdeen Chinese School		1930	
4	Resources Management 12/11/09	Aberdeen Women's Alliance		710	282
5	Resources Management 12/11/09	Deafblind Scotland		500	
7	Resources Management 12/11/09	Aberdeen Inter-faith		500	
8	Resources Management 28/01/10	Aberdeen Chinese Centre (Association)		2350	
9	Resources Management 28/01/10	Grampian Senior Citizens Forum		1000	
10	Resources Management 28/01/10	Positive Mixture		1000	
To be considered					
	Finance and Resources 11/03/10	Portal Community Centre Ethnic Minority Women's Group	towards the costs of exercise class for ethnic minority women	1000	
	Finance and Resources 11/03/10	Terrence Higgins Trust	towards the cost of running "Diversity Challenge" programme	560	
	Finance and Resources 11/03/10	Let's Get Working At Sunnybank Community Centre	towards the cost of project	500	
	Finance and Resources 11/03/10	LGBT Film Society	towards the cost of meeting to watch LGBT themed movie and discussion afterwards	500	
Sub-total of committed expenditure				12936	939
Revised Balance				6564	2061