

APPENDIX B

ABERDEEN CITY ARCHIVES – BRIDGES FUND PROPOSAL

1. Aberdeen City Archive is currently engaged with the University of Aberdeen in a prestigious three year project (2016-2019) funded by the Leverhulme Trust to transcribe and make more widely accessible the late-medieval records of the burgh (see <https://aberdeenregisters.org>). These volumes, which are owned by Aberdeen City Council and reside in the Charter Room of the Town House, are recognised by UNESCO as being of outstanding historical importance to the UK because of their status as the oldest and most complete set of records of any Scottish town. Their inscription on the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register in 2013 established these records as one of Aberdeen's, and indeed Scotland's, primary cultural assets. They offer a unique window on medieval Scotland and its European context, and they are an unrivalled source for Scottish history.
2. The records themselves beginning in 1398 are handwritten in Latin and Middle Scots, and the transcription of the ancient writing is carried out by two post-doctoral Research Assistants with the necessary linguistic and palaeographical skills. This is both technical and time consuming. The timescale of the current project will see seven of the eight UNESCO-recognised volumes transcribed and made machine readable. This digital transcription is also enriched with annotations providing significant additional linguistic detail about the text.
3. The contracts of the Research Assistants will conclude at the end of 2017. A grant of £36,216 from the Bridges Fund would enable their employment to be extended by six months each. This would enable the 1200 pages of volume eight to also be included in the digital resource, with the same level of annotation.
4. These records have already been digitised and, by now transcribing them, the aim of the current project is to begin opening up these volumes to many new and different audiences. Academic and national media interest is already very strong. These records convey fascinating aspects of everyday life from 600 years ago and as such have the power to engage on many levels, from primary education to local cultural and heritage events, through to the tourist market. Volume eight is a particularly rich resource and has the potential to bring Aberdeen's past to life, allowing diverse audiences to immerse themselves in medieval Scotland.
5. The Council, as the trustees of the Bridge of Don Trust, are therefore requested to approve that the funds requested are granted to Aberdeen City Archives in order for the researchers' employment to be extended by six months. A breakdown of costs follows below. The funds granted to the City

Archives would enable a secondary contract to be arranged with the University of Aberdeen to ensure the necessary extensions in order to achieve the outcome proposed.

6. Breakdown of costs:

Salary cost	£14,166 (x2) =	£28,332
Pension cost	£2,550 (x2) =	£5,100
NI cost	£1,392 (x2) =	£2,784
TOTAL COST	£18,108 (x2) =	£36,216