

The Highland Council

Education, Children and Adult Services Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Duncraig Trust Scheme Sub-Committee** held in the Convener's Hospitality Room, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Wednesday 3 September 2014 at 12.00 noon.

Present:

Dr D Alston
Mrs I Campbell
Dr I Cockburn
Mr R Greene

Ms G Ross
Dr A Sinclair
Ms M Smith

Officials in attendance:

Mrs J Graham, External Funding Manager, Care and Learning Service
Miss M Murray, Committee Administrator, Corporate Development Service

Dr I Cockburn in the Chair

Business

Preliminaries

Prior to the commencement of formal business, the Chair informed the Sub-Committee of the following successes at the Commonwealth Games by athletes funded by the Duncraig Trust:-

- Jamie Bowie was a member of the 4 x 400m relay team that came 5th in the final;
- Kenta Gallagher came 10th in an overall field of 33 in the Mountain Bike Cross Country event;
- Stephanie Inglis won a Silver Medal in the Judo Under 57kgs event; and
- Greg Lobban reached Round 16 in the Squash Men's Singles and the Quarter Finals in the Men's Doubles with his partner, Stuart Crawford.

The Sub-Committee welcomed the feedback and congratulated the athletes on their success.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr A Christie.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Exclusion of the Public**

The Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Applications for Financial Assistance

There had been circulated Report No DTS/01/14 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport which provided information about applications for assistance under the Duncraig Educational Trust Scheme. Background information had also been circulated to Members.

It was explained that the balance of funds in the Trust at the end of financial year 2013/14 was £810,395 comprising £17,047 in the revenue fund and £793,349 in the capital fund. Awards from the Trust were funded from the revenue balance.

Turning to the determination of awards, Members were reminded that there were two categories, namely Arts, Language, Heritage, Science and Environment; and Sport. In total, 28 applications had been received, 1 of which had subsequently been withdrawn. The total value of the applications assessed was approximately £25k. However, the overall financial position of the Trust had been taken into account in the recommendations for funding which totalled £8,400.

Each application had been assessed by officers with advice, where appropriate, from specialist staff within the Council, High Life Highland and organisations such as Creative Scotland, **sportscotland** and relevant governing bodies of sport. Based on these assessments, 15 applications had been recommended for approval and 9 for refusal, with three requiring further debate.

In response to a question regarding the Income and Expenditure accounts, the External Funding Manager explained that "Compensation for loss of office" related to a former employee at Duncraig Castle. Members requested that clarification be sought as to whether this was an ongoing expense.

During further discussion, concern was expressed regarding the financial performance of the Trust. However, this had been raised on a number of previous occasions and it was acknowledged that the Council was obliged to take a risk-averse approach.

The External Funding Manager explained that discussions had taken place with the Finance Service with a view to improving the financial position. The Trust was currently held in a 95 day notice account with an interest rate of 0.62% and tying up the capital for a longer period of up to a year might deliver a higher rate of return.

It was confirmed that, in terms of the Trust, it was not possible to award grants from the capital fund. However, Members commented that utilising a small amount of the capital fund and reinvesting when interest rates improved might be a short term solution and it was suggested that the possibility of amending the terms of the Trust be explored.

Thereafter, having considered the applications for assistance, the Sub-Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the financial position of the Trust;
- ii. **AGREED** to award grants in the sum of £10,310 as follows:-

Arts, Language, Heritage, Science and Environment

Application

Award

DETS/A/14/01	£700
DETS/A/14/04	£700
DETS/A/14/06	£700
DETS/A/14/07	£700
DETS/A/14/03	£700
DETS/A/14/05	£510
DETS/A/14/02	£700

Sport

<u>Application</u>	<u>Award</u>
DETS/S/14/13	£700
DETS/S/14/06	£700
DETS/S/14/04	£700
DETS/S/14/15	£700
DETS/S/14/02	£700
DETS/S/14/03	£350
DETS/S/14/08	£350
DETS/S/14/01	£350
DETS/S/14/10	£350
DETS/S/14/12	£350
DETS/S/14/16	£350

Total Awards £10,310

- iii. **AGREED**, in relation to the Income and Expenditure Accounts, that clarification be sought as to whether “Compensation for loss of office” was an ongoing expense; and
- iv. **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that officers explore the possibility of amending the terms of the Duncraig Educational Trust to allow grants to be awarded from the capital fund.

The meeting concluded at 12.25 pm.