

REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST SUB-COMMITTEE – 11th MARCH 2022

ABERDEENSHIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST (AET) – FINANCIAL UPDATE

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The report provides an update on the financial position of the Trust for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st January 2022.

1.2 The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Note the financial position of the Aberdeenshire Educational Trust at 31st January 2022.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 The purpose of this report is to give an update to Trustees on the grants disbursed from the Trust and the income received in the current financial year.

3 Discussion

3.1 At its meeting on 19th March 2021, the Sub-Committee agreed to receive regular updates on the Aberdeenshire Education Trust (AET) income and expenditure.

3.2 At the start of the current financial year the balance held within Aberdeenshire Educational Trust (AET) was £4,255,216.90. These monies are invested in a mixture of external investments and the Council's Loans Fund.

3.3 In the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st January 2022 there has been £70,277.22 paid out from the AET. The breakdown of the grants is shown below. For information the table includes the total amounts distributed in the previous two financial years.

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
	To 31 st January	To 31 st March	To 31 st March
Trust Scheme Section	£	£	£
20 – Post Graduate Scholarship	479.99	0.00	0.00
21 – Supplementary Bursary	716.23	0.00	0.00
22 – Apprenticeships	0.00	0.00	404.93
24 – Travel Grants	1,101.00	(46.80)	80,254.17
25 – Further Education	26,743.00	38,615.00	11,808.00
27 – Sports Facilities	24,000.00	0.00	0.00
28 – Special Equipment	15,960.00	100,000.00	9,000.00
30 – School Excursions	1,277.00	317.61	7,836.27
Preference Grants	0.00	3,728.75	3,728.75
School Prizes	0.00	614.63	614.63
	70,277.22	143,299.19	113,646.75

- 3.4 Expenditure on travel grants and school excursions is still low compared to previous years but there are a number of grant applications for ski trips due to take place in February and March 2022. If all these trips take place a further £17,500 will be paid out from the Trust.
- 3.5 Applications for further education grants continue to be received. It is anticipated that the total amount awarded will be similar to last year.
- 3.6 Under Section 28 of the scheme (Special Equipment) £42,000 has been awarded for projects which are unlikely to be complete this financial year, however, as the grants have been awarded, they will require to be reflected in the 2021/22 accounts.
- 3.7 Further applications have been received and are to be considered on this agenda, the total amount requested is £47,768.57.
- 3.8 Preference Grants and School Prizes are paid out annually at the financial year end. The amounts are currently set at £3,728.75 and £614.63 retrospectively.
- 3.9 In the period to 31st January 2022, £78,269.43 has been received in interest and dividends. The drop in interest received from the loans fund reflects the current low interest rates. The dividends from the external investments fluctuate according to market conditions.

Type of Income	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
	To 31 st January	To 31 st March	To 31 st March
	£	£	£
Interest received from Council's Loans Fund	1,049.43	4,840.74	10,393.48
Dividends Received	77,220.00	80,133.80	107,824.38
Donation from the Robb Trust		21,246.95	22,885.13
	78,269.43	106,221.49	141,136.90

- 3.10 Income for 2021/22 has not been finalised, but, if all applications on this agenda are approved, along with the known amounts already paid or committed, the total estimated expenditure of £181,889.17 disbursed from AET is likely to exceed the annual income received. Balances carried forward from previous years will be required to fund any expenditure above the annual income received.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 The work of the Sub-Committee has the potential to impact on all of the Council's priorities including Our People – Education and Health and Wellbeing, Our Environment – Resilient Communities and Our Economy – Economy and Enterprise.
- 4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation is agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		x	
Staffing			x
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty			x
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			x
Climate Change and Sustainability			x
Health and Wellbeing			x
Town Centre First			x

- 4.3 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment has not identified the requirements for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken. Section 193 of the 2010 Equality Act contains an exemption for charities which make positive discrimination to groups or individuals on the basis of their disadvantage. Insofar as the charity purposes discriminate positively in favour of individuals or groups on the basis of poverty, age, disability, or other disadvantage, and does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the [Scheme of Governance](#) and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Council is acting through powers granted to them by the Aberdeenshire Educational Trust Scheme 1955 as amended by the Aberdeenshire Educational Trust Amendment Scheme 1966 and not through the Scheme of Governance. The Sub-Committee has power to consider this report in terms of the Trust Scheme.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services

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Date 21st February 2022