

**BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – TUESDAY 20 AUGUST 2019****COMMUNITY COUNCIL PROJECT GRANT ALLOCATION (SECOND TRANCHE)****1 Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Area Committee:

- 1.1 considers an application received from Invercairn Community Council for funding from the Community Council Project Grant 2019/2020 and determines whether to award funding.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 The aim of the Banff and Buchan Community Council Project Grant is to support and empower Community Councils to raise funds for schemes, projects and other purposes within their stated objectives.
- 2.2 The Banff and Buchan Area Committee, at its meeting on 12 March 2019, agreed that a sum of £3,174 be set aside for Community Council Project Grants. The criteria for applications allow Community Councils to apply for a contribution of up to 80% towards the cost of a project, to a maximum of £1,000.
- 2.3 On 18 June 2019, the Area Committee allocated a total of £2,856 to various projects which left a balance of £318 still to be allocated.
- 2.4 All of the Banff and Buchan Community Councils were invited to apply for this second round of funding and applications were sought by 26 July 2019. One application was received from Invercairn Community Council.
- 2.5 As required by Aberdeenshire Council's internal auditor, the Community Council has submitted a copy of its constitution and recently independently examined accounts.
- 2.6 The purpose of the application from Invercairn Community Council is to commission a land search to find out who owns a piece of ground. The cost of this research is approximately £400-£500 but the actual cost will depend on how much research needs to be done and how long it will take to do it.

The reason for the Community Council wishing to find out this information is to enable it to progress with the formation of a walking/cycle path between Cairnbulg and Fraserburgh, utilising an old railway line but this cannot be considered until the ownership of the land is established.

The Community Council believes that the communities of Cairnbulg, Inverallochy, St Combs and Fraserburgh will be the main beneficiaries of the walking/cycle path but it will also have an impact on the rural communities around the area and will promote healthy exercise and encourage tourism in the area.

- 2.7 On 21 August 2017, the Community Council agreed that an attempt should be made to improve the path along the old railway line from Cairnbulg towards Fraserburgh. This is evidenced in the Community Council minute of that date.
- 2.8 The creation of a cycle path is also one of the aspirations of the community which is mentioned in the most recent Cairnbulg Community Action Plan dated March 2017.
- 2.9 There are several difficulties relating to this application:
- No exact figure can be established for the cost of the research.
 - It is possible that the research may not be able to establish the identity of the landowner.
 - Even if the landowner is identified, he/she may not be willing to give permission for the path to be constructed and so the money allocated to the research may have been of no benefit.
- 2.10 No other applications have been received and, if the Committee is minded to contribute to the Invercairn Community Council project, it is recommended that the balance of £318 remaining in the fund be allocated to Invercairn Community Council.
- 2.11 If the Committee is minded *not* to support this application, it is recommended that the balance of £318 be offered again to Banff and Buchan Community Councils as a third tranche with applications being invited by Friday 11th October, and applications received reported to Committee on 5th November 2019.
- 2.12 The Head of Finance and the Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3. Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B.3.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the approval of award of grants to Community Councils within an approved budget.

4. Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required in this instance as the fund is designed to support Community Councils. All Community Councils, as per the Community Council Handbook, are required by legislation to be proactive in the promotion of equality and the awarding of grants may assist them to deliver projects that could result in a positive impact for persons with protected characteristics within the local communities.
- 4.2 There are no additional staffing or financial implications arising from this report. The management of the budget will be undertaken within existing area management resources.
- 4.3 The following risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: Budget Pressures; Working with other organisations. No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level.
- 4.4 A Town Centre First Impact Assessment is not required because the application does not relate to any of the key towns.

LAURENCE FINDLAY
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Report prepared by: Liz Farquhar, Area Committee Officer (Banff and Buchan)
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