

REPORT TO GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE – 27 AUGUST 2019

AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2019/20

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1. note the current position with the Garioch Area Committee Budget and agree to further promote the Area Initiatives Fund; and
2. approve the funding for projects of strategic significance as outlined in paragraph 2.5 of this report.

2 Background / Discussion

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Garioch Area Committee on the current Area Committee budgetary position and to seek the agreement of the Area Committee to allocate funding to specific projects.

2.2 On the 19 March 2019 the Garioch Area Committee agreed to:

1. allocate £15,000 of the Garioch Area Committee Budget 2019/20 to the Garioch Area Initiatives Fund, in line with the eligibly criteria outlined in Sections 2.3-2.11 of the report, to promote the development of community-based initiatives supporting the delivery of the following themes:

Theme	
Improving the appearance and maintenance of towns and villages	£15,000
Healthy Communities	
Strong Communities	
Safe Communities	

2. allocate £5,000 of the Garioch Area Committee Budget 2019/20 to the Garioch Rural Partnership Small Grant Initiative;
3. utilise the remaining £60,000 of the Garioch Area Committee budget for projects which have a strategic impact; and
4. instruct Officers to report to Area Committee the outcome of investments made via the 2018/19 Area Committee Budget.

2.3 To date a very small number of applications have been received against the £15,000 allocated toward the Area Initiatives Budget, with only £3,500 being approved to date. The balance therefore stands at £11,500. Although this fund has been advertised, it is important that Elected Members continue to promote the use of this fund in order to ensure it is fully drawn down before the end of the financial year.

- 2.4 With regard to the £60,000 allocated for projects of strategic impact. Advice has been received from the Head of Finance that he has taken a “consistent accounting approach across all services to accruals this year” (this being the financial year 2018/19). This was contrary to advice previously received and means that two projects approved by Garioch Area Committee within the financial year 2018/19:

Uryside Project (Marble for Entrance) = £18,566.28; and
Strathburn Primary (Garden Project) = £1,500.00

must now be allocated against the 2019/20 budget. Reducing the funds available to £39,933.52.

- 2.5 There are three further projects of strategic importance which the Committee may wish to consider for the remaining fund. The committee should note that it is imperative moving forward that these monies are spent, not simply committed within the financial year, to protect the use of the fund. These strategic projects are:

£11,250 - Garioch Sports Trust to progress the development of a regional centre of tennis excellence on the site of Strathburn Park. The funds would be used as follows: £10,750 to cover the cost of planning fees for the project and £500 to cover half the cost of professional fees to secure an independent evaluation of the value of the Strathburn site. This independent evaluation of market value is required in order to meet the eligibility criteria for a funding application to the Scottish Land Fund.

£20,000 – Kintore Railway Station Art Project. The funds would be used to extend the provision of public art at the new Kintore Railway station. This is an opportune moment to consider this project given the station is in the construction phase.

£8,683.52 – Ashdale Hall Heating. The funds would be used to upgrade the heating provision within the hall to greatly reduce overhead costs for the management committee. The Ashdale Hall Management committee have received quotes in the region of £8,000.

- 2.6 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and any comments have been incorporated in the report. They are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Garioch Area Committee can consider this item in terms of Section B.6.3 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the authorising of funds from the Garioch Area Committee Budget.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as the above recommendations do not directly impact on any of the protected

characteristics. The spirit of the Area Initiatives Fund is in part to create healthier, stronger and safer communities a positive impact could be anticipated depending on the nature of future funding applications.

- 4.2 The above recommendations do not directly impact on Town Centres. The spirit of the Area Initiatives Fund is in part to improve the appearance and maintenance of towns and villages a positive impact could be anticipated depending on the nature of future funding applications.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate or Directorate Level.

Laurence Findlay
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Report prepared by: Margaret-Jane Cardno, Area Manager (Garioch)
Date: 30 July 2019