

REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 23 JUNE 2015

AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET: AREA INITIATIVES FUND

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 **That the Committee agree to approve the allocation of the Area Initiatives Budget as recommended in Appendix A attached to this report.**

2. Background/Discussion

- 2.1 At the Buchan Area Committee of 17 March 2015, (Item 8), Councillors agreed to make available £34,000 of the Area Committee Budget to an Area Initiative Fund similar to that run for the previous fourteen years. Applications have been invited once more through the Buchan Development Partnership.
- 2.2 The fund attempts to achieve a good spread of schemes, with broad community benefit, across the Buchan Area and to focus on local priorities. Projects where the work had been identified and prioritised by the community through the Planning for Real© process and would help them deliver targets identified in their action plans or appears as a priority in the Buchan Community Plan, have been supported in the past.
- 2.3 The schedule of applications received, total costs and recommended awards are included as Appendix A to this report.
- 2.4 In assessing the schemes together with the Buchan Development Partnership it is clear that all the applications meet the criteria.
- 2.5 The total request is for £29,397.76 leaving an unallocated balance of £4,602.24 available for a further round of applications. The projects that have been funded for feasibility work may submit further applications at this stage. For the applications that have been unsuccessful, BDP will assist these groups identify alternative sources of funding.
- 2.6 The applications cover a variety of projects ranging from feasibility studies, footpath works, building improvements and training initiatives. There is considerable volunteer effort involved with all of the projects being supported.

- 2.7 The communities have prioritised their projects and it is suggested that they are all worthy of support. The recommended projects allow for a balanced geographical spend, are deliverable and reflect value for money. The grants recommended for award have the potential to lever in approximately £134,015.20 worth of match funding from other sources that are presently being explored.
- 2.8 The help and support of the Buchan Development Partnership has been fundamental in the development of this report.
- 2.9 It has been suggested that the awards should be made at the next Buchan Area Committee meeting.
- 2.10 The Head of Finance has been consulted and their comments have been incorporated in the report. The Monitoring Officer from Corporate Services has been consulted and the comments incorporated in the report.
- 2.11 The proposals are in direct conformity with the Buchan Community Plan 2013-2016.
- 2.12 In discussing the Area Committee Budget priority has been given to environmental improvements, community safety and capacity building projects.

3. Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 3.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the report does not propose any change to previous allocation arrangements and there will be no differential impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics.
- 3.2 Provisions outlined in this report will commit £29,397.76 of the Area Committee Budget leaving an uncommitted balance of £4,602.24.

- 3.3 A total budget of £52,500 is available for the Area Committee Budget in the current financial year (budget page 62, line 15). As agreed in April this was split £34,000 to Area Initiatives, £16,000 to Brighter Villages Scheme, £400 Buchan in Bloom prizes, and £2,100 for contingencies.

Ritchie Johnston
Director of Communities Service

Report by Maureen Stephen
2 June 2015

No	Group Name	Project Aim	Total Project Amt	Total Requested	Suggested award
1	DAB Plus Driver Training	Older Driver Training Feasibility Project	£ 3,500	£ 3,500.00	£600.00
2	Boddam & District Community Association	Upgrade of path on Stirlinghill and Sandfordhill Peterhead	£ 11,340.00	£ 4,000.00	£ 4,000.00
3	Apex Church Peterhead	Replacement of unstable windows	£ 65,000.00	£ 5,000.00	Nil
4	Peterhead OAP Club	New chairs for club	£ 1,078.20	£ 1,078.20	£ 862.56
5	St Johns Episcopal Church New Pitsligo	Improved disabled access	£ 6,564.00	£ 3,000.00	Nil
6	St Kanes Church New Deer	Slabs outside Church door which is a public right of way	£ 5,121.60	£ 5,121.60	£ 500.00
7	Peterhead & District Men Shed	Promotion of the project	£ 544.00	£ 544.00	£ 435.20
8	Stuartfield Public Hall	Cost of Planning Application, building warrant, plans and fees	£ 5,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00
9	MACBI	Replacement of entrance door	£ 8,806.40	£ 6,000.00	£ 3,000.00
10	Auchnagatt Village Hall	Floor coverings	£ 3,050.00	£ 2,500.00	£ 2,500.00
11	Bdi	Feasibility Study in preparation for Leader application	£ 3,660.00	£ 2,500.00	£ 2,500.00
12	Mormond Thistle Football Club	Outdoor storage shed at community sports hub	£ 27,815.00	£ 6,000.00	£ 6,000.00
13	Friends of Maud Railway Museum	Track for Prison Railway Carriage	£ 4,100.00	£ 3,500.00	£ 3,500.00
14	Hatton Playpark	Upgrade of play park - development plan	£ 60,000.00	£ 2,500.00	£ 2,500.00
					£ 29,397.76