

REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 29 AUGUST, 2017

AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET APPLICATIONS

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1.1 Consider applications for Area Committee Budget funding from:-

- (a) **Huntly Community Cycling for up to £4,000 towards the cost of purchasing a bike track system, bikes, helmets, and a storage trailer;**
- (b) **Banchory and District Initiative for up to £2,000 towards the cost of developing the learning spaces at Number One – Community Matters, Banchory;**
- (c) **Deeside Bike Collective (Banchory and District Initiative) for up to £1,648.25 towards the cost of planning application fees and signage design costs for the creation of a bike trails area in Banchory; and**
- (d) **Cromar Community Council for up to £750 towards the cost of a new power supply for Christmas lights; and**

1.2 **Note an award of up to £250 to Aberdeenshire Council towards the cost of repairing the electrical pillar in Huntly Town Square, approved by the Area Manager following consultation with the Chair and Ward Members.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 The Area Committee, at its meeting on 28 March, 2017 (Item 7), approved priorities for expenditure of the Marr Area Committee Budget for 2017/18.
- 2.2 The Committee is requested to consider applications for funding from Huntly Community Cycling, Banchory and District Initiative, Deeside Bike Collective, and Cromar Community Council.
- 2.3 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Any comments are incorporated within the report and they 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 and take a decision on 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 authorisation of expenditure from the Area Committee Budget.

3.2 The Area Manager is able to approve, in consultation with the Chair and relevant local Members, expenditure from the Area Committee Budget up to £250 in terms of Section F.1.2 of the List of Officer Powers in Part 2B of the Scheme of Governance.

4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommendations will not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

4.2 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

4.3 The budget provision for the 2017/18 Area Committee Budget is £104,500 and is located on page 99, line 15 of the Council's budget.

4.4 To date £96,995.10 has been committed leaving a balance of £7,504.90. There are insufficient funds to fully support all applications to the level requested. The total amount requested is £8,398.25 which would leave a shortfall of £893.35

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by: Kirsty Macleod, Area Committee Officer (Marr)
Date: 14 August, 2017

APPENDIX

(A) Name of Organisation – Huntly Community Cycling

Details of Project – Funding is sought towards the cost of purchasing a bike track system, bikes, helmets and a storage trailer. The bike track system would be for use by members of the public at events organised by the group. The equipment will also be available for hire by other groups. The system consists of sections of track which can be connected together in a number of layouts to provide a track with various features such as corners, ramps, narrows, and rumble strips. The group would also like to acquire bikes and helmets which could be used by visitors to try out the track if they do not have their own. A trailer will also be obtained to store the track units and transport them to events.

Support for Project – The project is supported by Huntly Community Council, Networks of Wellbeing and Bike Shack, and Huntly and District Development Trust.

Maintenance Arrangements – The track would be maintained by members of the group and bike maintenance would be carried out in conjunction with Bike Shack at Networks of Wellbeing in Huntly.

Full Cost – £8,500

Amount Requested – £4,000

Funds Raised at Time of Application – £4,500. The project has received an award of £4,100 from the Clashindarroch Windfarm Trust and raised £400 through the group's own fundraising efforts. Any additional funding required would be obtained by further fundraising.

(B) Name of Organisation – Banchory and District Initiative

Details of Project – The project is to complete the development of the two learning spaces at Number One – Community Matters in Banchory. The intended outcomes are to reduce social isolation, increase confidence and self-esteem, and provide more opportunities and routes into employment.

Number One is a community hub which opened in January 2017 to provide a space for community groups and individuals. Within the first three months of opening, the facility provided courses and learning for over 130 people. Courses and activities have included first aid, food hygiene, a Walk to Health group, and Confidence to Cook courses run in partnership with the local foodbank. The facility is also used by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership and the Credit Union. Employment Services and the Mental Health team refer clients for volunteer placements. The building was previously used as offices and the existing furniture is borrowed from other groups. Funding of £25,000 allowed the café space to be created. Development of the two learning spaces would make the hub more accessible and allow the development of a learning programme for children, young people and adults.

Support for Project – The need for the project has been identified in the Banchory Community Action Plan. There is a demand from parents for more activities for children and young people, partner organisations have requested more social groups and skills courses for their clients, and there is also demand for accredited courses to support people into employment.

Full Cost – £4,340

Amount Requested – £2,000

Funds Raised at Time of Application – £300 from Scotmid.

Other Funding Applied For – Applications have been made to Tesco (up to £4,000 – decision September), Co-operative Society (up to £4,000 – decision October), and Awards for All (up to £10,000 – decision October). An application will also be made to the Robertson Trust.

(C) Name of Organisation – Deeside Bike Collective (Banchory and District Initiative)

Details of Project – Funding is sought towards the cost of planning application fees and site signage design costs for the creation of a bike trails area in Banchory. Deeside Bike Collective is a group of biking enthusiasts from Banchory and the surrounding area and is constituted under Banchory and District Initiative Limited. The group aims to create bike trails for mountain bikers and cyclists of all abilities, with trails suitable for children as well as advanced bikers of all ages. The area would allow development of skills and attract bikers from the North East and beyond. A professional trail building firm will be used to design and construct the trails and a Forestry Commission site to the west of Glen O’ Dee Hospital has been identified. The group aim to have the trails completed by early/mid 2018.

Support for Project – The project is supported by Banchory and District Initiative and included in Banchory Community Council's development plan. The group has surveyed the local community and found widespread support. The community's feedback and ideas have been developed into a detailed development plan.

Maintenance Arrangements – A budget has been planned to cover maintenance costs. A number of the group will attend a trail maintenance course and a rota will be developed for regular checks. Periodic trail maintenance days will be organised for more significant maintenance.

Full Cost – £139,968

Amount Requested – £1,648.25
(Planning Application Fees - £1,212; and
Site Signage Design - £436.25)

Funds Raised at Time of Application – £2,500

Other Funding Applied For – The group are in the initial stages of fundraising activities. A funding plan has been provided which includes applications to a number of grant bodies and online and local fundraising.

(D) Name of Organisation – Cromar Community Council

Details of Project – In preparation for a project to enhance Tarland's Christmas light display, the Council's Street Lighting Officer inspected the power supply and found that, although it was safe, it did not meet current requirements and could not be used in future. It was determined that a new lighting post would have to be installed by the Council before there could be any lighting including the existing Christmas tree lights.

Support for Project – As well as avoiding disappointment for the community at large if there are no Christmas lights, local business have indicated that the festive lighting provides an encouraging backdrop to their Christmas shopping events.

Maintenance Arrangements – No maintenance is required other than safety checks carried out by the council.

Full Cost – £1,500

Amount Requested – £750

Funds Raised at Time of Application – £0

Other Funding Applied For – No other funding had been applied for at the time of application. The remaining cost will be met from Community Council funds.