

REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 13th MARCH 2018

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUNDING 2018/2019

1 Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) the Committee approve the allocation of grant money to Community Councils described in this report and makes an Administration Grant payment of £425 per Community Council, on the proviso that the Community Council does not hold more than two years administration grant allocation,
- (ii) the Committee approve the payment of £35 per Community Council to meet the cost of registration under the Data Protection Act, and
- (iii) the Committee agree to make the remaining sum of £3,465 available for Project Grant applications

2 Background/Discussion

- 2.1 In the current financial year a budget of £62,000 has been agreed for Community Councils within Aberdeenshire. The total budget for the Buchan area is £7,605 (including the Data Protection element).
- 2.2 It is proposed to use the same method of disbursement as has been used now for a number of years. This was derived following consultation with the Community Council Forum.
- 2.3 Across Aberdeenshire all Community Councils receive £300, regardless of size. This equates to roughly two thirds of the overall sum available and the remaining third is then disbursed on the basis of the number of electorate. For Buchan, this results in all Community Councils receiving an Administration Grant of £425. Following discussions with the Area Committee, it has been agreed that in the event of Community Councils accumulating more than 2 years administration grant, ie £850, the Community Council will have to provide good reason as to why they have not spent their allocation and explain what they intend doing with it. Each Community Council has been contacted to ensure they are aware of this and to ascertain, if they have considerable reserves, what these will be used for.
- 2.4 In addition to the standard grant, it has also been agreed to meet the cost of £35 per Community Council in regard to registration under the Data Protection Act.
- 2.5 It is proposed to use the balance of the budget, £3,465, for Community Council project grants by contributing 80% towards the cost of the project, to a maximum of £1,000.

- 2.6 The example of Mintlaw Community Council applying for a project grant to assist with the resurfacing of the Mintlaw Pavilion car park is very good partnership working and maximises the available funding. By combining Developer Obligation funding and the Community Council project grant they have been able to deliver a long awaited project which has many benefits for the community.
- 2.7 The grants made to Community Councils will be in compliance with the provisions set down in the Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils.
- 2.8 The disbursement of Community Council grants is devolved to Area Committees to decide upon within the total sum agreed by the Council.
- 2.9 The proposals are in line with the Council policy and take account of past practice of the Buchan Area Committee as derived following consultation with Community Councils.
- 2.10 The Head of Finance has been consulted and the Monitoring Officer from Business Services has been consulted. Their comments are incorporated in the report.

3. Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance enable the Committee to consider applications for and approve the award of grants to Community Councils within the approved budget under 3.3 of Section B.

4. Implications and Risk

- 4.1 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. Due regard will be given to the equalities considerations in assessing the bids for grant funding.
- 4.2 There are no staffing implications arising from this report. Supporting the work of Community Councils helps to sustain communities within Buchan.
- 4.3 The following risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: Budget Pressures; Working with another organisation. No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic level.
- 4.4 The Community Council budget for the current financial year is £62,000. An element of this sum is set aside for centralised costs i.e. insurance at £6,000, Community Council elections £1,250 and Community Training Events £3,000.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services

Report by Maureen Stephen
Area Committee Officer
1st March 2018