

## REPORT TO GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE – 13 MARCH 2018

### AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2017/18

#### 1 Recommendations

**The Committee is recommended to consider the application received in relation to the Area Committee Budget and determine whether to award the funding requested:**

**Hatton of Fintray Community Association    £1,080.00**

#### 2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 Hatton of Fintray Community Association has applied for funding to enable the group to instruct a buildings condition survey on the Hatton of Fintray Schoolhouse. The Community Association is interested in a community asset transfer for the building and have projects in mind, however the first step is to obtain a buildings condition survey to determine the viability of the Schoolhouse.
- 2.2 The grant amount requested is £1,080.00. The balance of the Garioch Area Committee 2017/18 Budget stands at £779.12, therefore it is suggested the group is awarded a grant amount of £779.12. The application fits the criteria for Area Budget support and it is recommended that Committee agree this application.
- 2.3 Should the Area Committee be minded to accept the application to the Area Budget this will leave a zero balance for the 2017/18 allocation. The 2018/19 Garioch Area Committee Budget will be available from April 2018.
- 2.4 The Head of Finance and 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 and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.6.3 in Part 2A, List of Committee Powers in the Scheme of Governance, as it relates to the authorisation of expenditure from the Garioch Area Committee budget.

#### 4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommendation contained within this report does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no staffing implications as a result of this report. The financial implications are outlined in paragraph 2.3.

- 4.3 No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate or Directorate Level.
- 4.4 Aberdeenshire Council recognises that town centres have an important role to play in the sustainable development of local economies. Town centres are a common denominator within delivery of our services and they are the heart of our communities, forming a key component of the intensity of civic pride. They can act as a hub for various activities, offering spaces to meet and interact, with access to a range of facilities and services. They are still very much a base for many small businesses and jobs and offer a variety of visitor attractions. Should Members be minded to approve this application there will be a positive impact on Inverurie Town Centre.
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**Maria Walker**  
**Director of Education & Children's Services**

Report prepared by Margaret-Jane Cardno, Garioch Area Manager –21 February 2018

### **Garioch Area Committee Budget Criteria for 2016-17**

1. The budget should be used to enable the Garioch Area Committee to respond to local needs by adjusting the level of council services within the Area and supporting community based projects which respond to local needs. Projects should be in line with the aims of Aberdeenshire Council and the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership. Projects should promote social and economic development, and relate to
  - Improving towns and villages;
  - Community Action Plans;
  - A Town Centre First approach;
  - The Local Community Plan;
  - Promoting resilient communities, wellbeing, and tackling inequality;
  - The development of services for young people;
  - Projects which are supported by a community organisation for the benefit of the wider community
  - The Community Empowerment Act – in support of producing business plans; feasibility studies etc.
2. In normal circumstances the maximum payment to any group or towards any project will be £10,000 unless the Committee considers the application to be of strategic importance.
3. The Area Committee Budget should only be used as part of a wider funding package with a maximum contribution of 75% of the overall cost of the project. Voluntary/in kind contributions will be considered as part of the contribution to a project.
4. Area Committee Budget is open to applications from Council services and constituted groups that can demonstrate that a funding package is being put together, and that costs cannot be met from normal budgets.
5. The Area Committee Budget may not be used to directly fund a continuation of a service or a grant which has been stopped or reduced as a result of budget savings agreed by the Council. It can, however, be used to facilitate the transfer of service delivery or a council facility to the community or other third sector partner.
6. Applications for grants in excess of £3,000 should be accompanied by a copy of the Group's Constitution and the latest available audited accounts.