



REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 27 MARCH 2018

AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2017/18 AND 2018/19

1. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:-

- 1.1 agree the allocation of funding of £7,500 to Marr Area Partnership to run the Initiative Grants Scheme;
- 1.2 agree the allocation of £6,450 to rural partnerships;
- 1.3 agree that £35,000 is identified to deliver a revised large project grant scheme whereby community groups can apply for a grant up to £5,000 per project;
- 1.4 agree the remaining £31,050 provides an alternative grant scheme for community projects up to £2,000 per project; and
- 1.5 Consider the allocation of funding to rural partnerships in Marr and the proposal detailed in paragraph 6.3 which recommends a funding distribution as follows:

Marr Area Partnership	£31,816
Banchory and District Initiative	£2,750
Royal Deeside Partnership	£7,500

2. Background

- 2.1 **An Area Committee Budget allocation of £80,000 is available for 2018/19.** This budget is available to the Marr Area Committee to take account of local service delivery issues and work needing to be carried out to maintain and enhance the appearance of towns and villages. The budget should be used to enable Area Committees to respond to local needs.
- 2.2 Expenditure can include grants to community organisations. **Only properly constituted groups/organisations are eligible to apply for funding.** The themes for consideration for the Area Committee Budget are set out below:
 - (a) Explicit reference should be made to the Marr Community Plan with the requirement to consider priorities across the whole Area in determining the use of budget being made explicit. The themes are:
 - Empowered and Confident Communities
 - Economically Vibrant Communities
 - Healthy, Safe and Thriving Communities
 - Connected Communities
 - Natural Heritage and Environment
 - (b) Town and Village Enhancement

- (c) Christmas Lights, new and/or replacement.
- (d) Match funding is required and will usually be in the region of 50%.
- (e) All grants must be spent in the current financial year.
- (f) Members cannot commit funding beyond budget allocation i.e. requirement for future years.
- (g) Organisations can only apply once each financial year.
- (h) Where any proposal has Aberdeenshire Council employee implications then the approval of the Director of Business Services is required.
- (i) Any decisions on expenditure on Area Committee Budgets should be made by the Area Committee following recommendation from the Area Manager, with the exception of applications for funding below £250 which will be delegated to the Area Manager in consultation with the Chair and relevant Ward Members.

3. Use of the 2017/18 Budget

Small Grant Funding

- 3.1 The budget has been used to deal with problems, support partnership projects, provide small grants for community projects and particularly to undertake work in communities to meet local needs while working with community groups. **Appendix 1** lists the activities supported.
- 3.2 Projects completed in 2017/18 using all of the available budget include:
 - Contributions to the cost of a range of town and village enhancement projects
 - Contributions to equipment for training and activities
 - Community facility improvements
 - Village environmental improvements
 - Community projects
 - Support for rural partnerships

MAP Initiative Grant Scheme

- 3.3 The Initiative Grant Scheme, managed by Marr Area Partnership (MAP), has continued to be taken up reflecting a mix of community projects being undertaken. The demand for the Initiative Grants Scheme was very high in 2017/18 resulting in the fund being fully utilized. A summary of the scheme is included in **Appendix 2**.

Large Grant Scheme

- 3.4 The Large Grant scheme proved to be very successful in 2017/18. It was well over subscribed with 17 applications received totaling £147,599 for a grant fund of £40,000. Nine applications were successful following a scoring

exercise with Members agreeing to vire funds from the small grant scheme to increase the total sum awarded to £56,612. Grants awarded ranged from £3,250 with only three grants of £10,000 awarded. These included grants towards:

- Community facility improvements
- Playpark equipment
- Path network development

The unsuccessful applications were signposted to other funding sources with one application successfully applying for the ACT2 funds.

4. **Proposals for 2018/19**

4.1 The Area Committee is asked to **agree the allocation of £7,500 to Marr Area Partnership to run the Initiative Grants Scheme**. This is a very successful grants scheme, with grants available up to £1,000, which has used up all of its previous allocations through high demand from community groups.

4.2 **It is proposed that £6,450 be allocated to rural partnerships** to supplement the budgets available to Area Managers and Economic Development. In Marr the principal rural partnership is Marr Area Partnership which works across the whole area but in addition there are community partnerships: the Royal Deeside Partnership, Banchory and District Initiative, Huntly and District Development Trust and Birse Community Trust. These partnerships deliver important community resilience and support. The budget for rural partnerships in the Marr area totals £35,616. The addition of £6,450 from the Area Committee Budget would allow Marr Area Partnership, Banchory and District Initiative and the Royal Deeside Partnership to be funded.

4.3 Infrastructure Services Committee agreed on 25 January, 2018 to approve the funding for rural partnerships:

“to agree the distribution of funds as detailed in Appendix [£32,616 per area], subject to the splitting of Marr Area funding to its two rural partnership groups, as had been in 2017”.

4.4 As in previous years each of the partnerships would be expected to participate in community planning and community economic activity at a level which reflects the scale of funding provided and, where necessary, to enter into a Service Level Agreement in that respect.

4.5 On the basis of the above funding proposals, all partnerships will be encouraged to assist community groups within their locality who might be in a position to take on new responsibilities and it is intended that MAP will continue to be the principal organisation for providing advice and guidance in this respect.

4.6 Partnerships will also, as a requirement of funding, agree to promote equality of opportunity for all of their population. The Service Level Agreement or the letter of grant acceptance will require to take account of this responsibility.

This should pose little problem for these organisations because their ethos matches this responsibility.

- 4.7 **The remaining £66,050 is proposed for use to support community and service projects.**
- 4.8 It is proposed that £35,000 is identified to deliver a large project grant scheme whereby community groups can apply for a grant of up to £5,000 for projects that aim to help improve local communities. Applicants will need to identify match funding, normally 50% of the total project cost.
- 4.9 The remaining £31,050 provides an alternative small grant scheme to the Initiative Grant Scheme particularly for community projects requiring assistance including where the projects are joint ventures between the Council and a community body, the Council's contribution acts as a proportion of match funding for a project to help it go ahead. Grants up to a value of £2,000 will be considered. Projects identified in the Marr Community Plan or Community Action Plans will be encouraged to apply.
- 4.10 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer from Business Services have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the report and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

5. Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 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, listed in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance, as it relates to the authorisation of expenditure of the Area Committee budget.

6 Implications and Risk

- 6.1 The budget for 2017/18 was £104,500. Partnership funding of £10,000 was allocated to Marr Area Partnership for the Initiative Grant Scheme and £6,500 was allocated to rural partnerships with the remaining £88,000 allocated to support community and service projects. The following table outlines the financial position of this budget:

	Budget (as allocated on 27 March, 2018)	Committed	Awards still to be claimed
Area Committee Budget	£104,500	£104,500	£39,371
MAP Initiative Grant Scheme	£10,000	£10,000	
Rural partnership: Royal Deeside Partnership	£6,500	£6,500	

	Budget (as allocated on 27 March, 2018)	Committed	Awards still to be claimed
Banchory & District Initiative			
Large Grant Scheme	£40,000	£56,612	£24,815
Small Grants Scheme	£48,000	£30,399	£14,556
Balance remaining	£0	£0	

6.2 It is also worth noting that the grant allocation of £88,000 towards projects enabled estimated additional funds of £678,000 to be spent in the area.

6.3 The budget for 2018/19 is £80,000. The budget is proposed to be allocated as follows:

	Area Committee Budget	Rural Partnership Budget	Total Funding
Available Budget	£80,000	£35,616	
Marr Area Partnership		£31,816	£31,816
MAP Initiative Grant Scheme	£7,500		£7,500
Royal Deeside Partnership	£3,700	£3,800	£7,500
Banchory & District Initiative	£2,750		£2,750
Large Grant Scheme	£35,000		£35,000
Small Grants Scheme	£31,050		£31,050

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

6.5 There are no equalities impacts arising directly from this report. Rural partnerships will be tasked with promoting equality of opportunity for all of their population as a requirement of any service level agreement or letter of grant acceptance.

- 6.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: Budget Pressures; Working with Other Organisations (see [Corporate Risk Register](#)). No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level.
- 6.7 There are no direct impacts on the identified town centres arising from this report.

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Janelle Clark, Area Manager
2 March, 2018

MARR AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET - AWARDS GRANTED 2017-18

No:	Project Location	Recipient	Details:	Award
Small Grants				
1	Ballater	Ballater Royal Deeside	Installing Electric Supply at The Green, Ballater	£ 2,963.10
2	Towie	Towie Public Hall	Re-Varnish Hall Floor	£ 1,785.00
3	Torphins	Torphins Community Council	Noticeboard	£ 1,850.00
4	Huntly	Huntly and District Development Trust	Tackling Seagull Nesting In Huntly	£ 1,200.00
5	Aboyne	Aboyne and District Men's Shed	Planning and Building Warrant Fees for the Development of a Men's Shed for Aboyne and District	£ 2,261.41
6	Tarland	Tarland Curling Club	Electrical and Repair Works to the Club House	£ 1,069.00
7	Ballater	Ballater and Crathie Community Council (Resilience Sub-Group)	Household Emergency Plan Leaflet	£ 200.00
8	Torphins	Torphins Bowling Club	New Kitchen	£ 1,400.00
9	Huntly	Huntly Community Cycling	Bike Track System, Bikes, Helmets and Storage	£ 2,000.00
10	Banchory	Banchory and District Initiative	Developing Learning Spaces at Number One - Community Matters, Banchory	£ 1,000.00
11	Banchory	Deeside Bike Collective	Planning Application Fees for Bike Trails	£ 661.64
12	Tarland	Cromar Community Council	Power Supply for Christmas Lights	£ 750.00
13	Alford	Alford Christmas Lights Committee	Power Supply for Christmas Lights	£ 750.00
14	Tarland	Tarland Trails (Tarland Development Group)	Tarland Trails 2 (Planning Application Phase)	£ 2,110.80
15	Drumblade	Drumblade Parent Council	Fire Retardant Paint for "Play Barn"	£ 144.00
16	Upper Deeside and Donisde	Cromar Future Group	Stage a Science Festival in Rural Aberdeenshire	£ 4,000.00

No:	Project Location	Recipient	Details:	Award
17	Banchory	Banchory and District Men's Shed	Converting Undercroft of British Legion Building to create a Men's Shed	£ 2,282.00
18	Upper Donside	Donside Defibrillator Group	Flyers on Location of PADs in Upper Donside	£ 372.00
19	Inchmarlo	Inchmarlo Hall	Grit Bin and Electric Heaters	£ 400.00
20	Huntly	The Gordon Schools	Supporting Pupils at Risk of Exclusion or Missing Out on Education	£ 3,000.00
21	Deeside	Mar Orienteering Club	Young People's Participation in British Orienteering	£ 200.00
22	Huntly	Deveron Projects	Community Crockery for Huntly	£ 589.00
23	Upper Donside	Upper Donside Tourism Group	Website to Promote Tourism and Business	£ 400.00
Large Grants				
24	Lumphanan	Lumphanan Playpark Improvement Group	Lumphanan Playpark	£ 10,000.00
25	Braemar	St Margaret's Trust	Braemar Exhibition	£ 4,000.00
26	Tornaveen	Tornaveen Community Association	Tornaveen Community Hall Extension	£ 10,000.00
27	Torphins	Torphins Path Group	Torphins Path Network Feasibility Study	£ 5,000.00
28	Ballogie	The Seed Box	Kitchen Upgrade	£ 4,362.02
29	Aboyne	Aboyne Canoe Club	Canoe Storage Facility	£ 5,000.00
30	Ballater	Ballater & Crathie Community Council	Path Developments	£ 5,000.00
31	Banchory	Banchory Paths Association	Banchory Circular Route Upgrade	£ 3,250.00
32	Lumsden	Lumsden Community Association	"Lumsden Park, Community Green Space" - Regenerating Lumsden's Market Stance	£ 10,000.00
Total				£ 87,999.97

Marr Area Partnership Initiative Grant Scheme 2017/18

Summary of spend

To date 13 projects totalling £7,049 have been awarded: there is one further meeting in March to decide how the remaining £3,614 will be spent. There are already 4 applications requesting a total of £3,415 although it is likely that more applications will be received before the deadline.

Projects supported

A wide variety of projects have been supported this year. There are several local sports groups which have benefitted including Aboyne Bike Park, Upper Deeside Amateur Swimming Club and Gartly Youth Club. Health and well-being has also benefitted: Huntly Community Garden for its sensory garden and Networks of Wellbeing for its relaxation techniques sessions. Heritage: Alford Heritage Museum for renovation work and Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust for Ballater Station. Three recently established groups received funding: Braemar Care Initiative, Strathdon Development Trust and Tarland Community Housing. Wards 15 and 16 share most of the projects, fewer in ward 14.

The applications received so far for the last meeting include two new initiatives (Grampian Snowsports, volunteer counselling), a sports club and a community council.

We are in the process of asking for new Board members and hope to have at least 3 more in place for the next financial year.

The total amount awarded in 2016/17 was £12,730 and the leverage from those projects comes to £274,208.