

KINCARDINE AND MEARN'S AREA COMMITTEE – 24 APRIL 2018

KINCARDINE AND MEARN'S COMMUNITY COUNCIL GRANTS 2018/2019

1 Recommendations:

- 1.1 The Committee is recommended to agree to the disbursement of Community Council grant funding for the 2018/2019 financial year as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report on submission of signed audited accounts from Community Councils.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 In the current financial year a budget of £62,001.00 has been agreed for Community Councils in Aberdeenshire. The allocation of the budget between Areas this year has been based on a lump sum of £300.00 per Community Council plus the balance based on the number of electors, this information was provided from the Assessor & Electoral Registration Office. The total budget for the 2018/19 Kincardine and Mearns Area is £8,675.00, a slight decrease from the 2017/18 figure of £8,709.00.
- 2.2 There was a review of the system to disburse the Community Council grant in Kincardine and Mearns in 2011. The method used to assemble the figures, at Appendix 1, was the method agreed by the Kincardine and Mearns Committee in 2011 and was derived following consultation with the Community Council Forum some years ago. It allows for a lump sum of £475.00 for each Community Council regardless of size. The remainder is then disbursed to the larger Community Councils on the basis of the number of electorate, above the figure equating to 5% of the Kincardine and Mearns total. This results in Community Councils with an electorate over 1772 receiving a further average of 15.58 pence per person. This is set out in a table appended to the report, Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Included in the budget of £62,001 are commitments of £6,000 for insurance; £1,250 for Community Council elections; data protection fees of £2,415 and £3,000 for community events.
- 2.4 The Community Council in St Cyrus is still not functioning but the annual grant available for this financial year is set aside as efforts are being made to encourage some of the individuals involved with the Place Standard event to consider setting up a Community Council. That said, the proposal after this year would be to release the funds allocated for St Cyrus so that it might be used by other Community Councils.
- 2.5 Two boundary changes are included in the figures for this year they are between Catterline, Kinneff and Dunnottar and Stonehaven and District, and also the Royal Burgh of Inverbervie and Gourdon. This change makes no difference to the Community Councils in Inverbervie and Gourdon but there are some slight financial changes for Stonehaven and District, and Catterline, Kinneff and Dunnottar. When the Councils online mapping system was

updated to reflect the Area Committee's initial agreement to boundary changes this changed the figures for the Community Councils involved.

- 2.6 Much of the support given to Community Councils was around engagement. This information will be used for the next iteration of the Local Development Plan; the Local Community Plan and also settlement/community actions plans. With budgetary constraints it is ever more important to understand the needs of the communities we serve and for this to be articulated well through strategies and plans.
- 2.7 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the 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.3.3 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the authorisation of awarding grants to Community Councils within the approved budget.

4 Implications and Risks

- 4.1 There are no additional staffing implications arising from this report. Supporting the work of Community Councils will enable them to respond to local needs and priorities and therefore will assist with the Council's aims to help sustain communities and community projects within the area. Much of the support in the coming year will be around the transition to the new Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils and in that regard we have a number of Community Councils advancing in the assembly of their new constitutions and one Community Councillor from Kincardine and Mearns assisting with the online Community Council training package.
- 4.2 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommended actions will not have a differential impact on people with protected characteristics.
- 4.3 The proposals outlined in this report are in line with the allocation of financial resources as contained in the 2018/19 Revenue Budget for Area Managers.
- 4.4 The following risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: Budget Pressures; Working with other organisations. No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level.

4.5 The content of this report has been considered against the Town Centre First Principle and whilst Stonehaven and Portlethen have active Community Councils there would be very limited, if any, impact upon the identified town centres arising from this funding, therefore a Town Centre First Impact Assessment is not required.

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by
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Appendix 1

Community Council	No of Electorate 2018	No of Electorate 2017	Fixed Grant	Top up based on Electorate over 1,772	Total 2017	Total 2018/19
Arbuthnott	272	276	£475	£0	£475	£475
Benholm and Johnshaven	678	676	£475	£0	£475	£475
Catterline, Kinneff and Dunnottar	971	967	£475	£0	£475	£475
Crathes, Drumoak and Durris	2,149	2,150	£475	£59	£521	£534
Gourdon	678	686	£475	£0	£475	£475
Mearns	6,324	6,327	£475	£708	£1,188	£1,183
Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore	2,902	2,944	£475	£176	£660	£651
North Kincardine Rural	1,897	1,871	£475	£19	£475	£494
Portlethen	7,437	7,579	£475	£881	£1,372	£1,356
Royal Burgh of Inverbervie	1,841	1,864	£475	£11	£489	£486
St Cyrus	1,306	1,308	£475	£0	£475	£475
Stonehaven	8,897	9,175	£475	£1,121	£1,621	£1,596
	35,439	35,823	£5,700	£2,975	£8,701	£8,675