

**REPORT TO GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE- 19 MARCH 2019**

**GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2019/20**

**1 Recommendations**

The Committee is recommended to:-

1. **allocate £15,000 of the Garioch Area Committee Budget 2019/20 to the Garioch Area Initiatives Fund, in line with the eligibly criteria outlined in Sections 2.3-2.11 of this report, to promote the development of community-based initiatives supporting the delivery of the following themes:**

<b>Theme</b>	
Improving the appearance and maintenance of towns and villages	£15,000
Healthy Communities	
Strong Communities	
Safe Communities	

2. **allocate £5,000 of the Garioch Area Committee Budget 2019/20 to the Garioch Rural Partnership Small Grant Initiative: and**
3. **utilise the remaining £60,000 of the Garioch Area Committee budget for projects which have a strategic impact across Garioch.**
4. **instruct Officers to report to Area Committee the outcome of investments made via the 2018/19 Area Committee Budget.**

**2 Background / Discussion**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the agreement of the Area Committee to the general allocation of the Area Committee Budget 2019/20 which has been set at £80,000.
- 2.2 The recommendations within this report are in line with (a) the criteria for the use of the funds as agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee on 19 April 2007 and (b) the Full Council budget announcement on 11 February 2016 that this fund should allow further support for community groups and organisations to deliver local initiatives designed to boost economic activity.

**Garioch Area Initiatives Fund**

- 2.3 The themes outlined in recommendation 1.1 of this report are aligned to Garioch Community Planning priorities and are designed to allow applicants to take an outcome focussed approach when planning projects and local interventions.
- 2.4 This enables the budget to be used responsively to address the needs of communities and maximises scarce resources. It also enables Aberdeenshire

Council, through the utilisation of all available resources to work more closely with individuals and communities to understand their needs, maximise talents and resources, support self-reliance and build resilience.

- 2.5 Eligibility is limited to properly constituted groups with an annual turnover of less than £250,000 per annum. Applications which are solely or substantially for individual benefit will not be considered.
- 2.6 Funding for core activity such as staff and overheads will not be eligible.
- 2.7 Applications will be limited to 50% towards the total cost of a project, to a maximum of £1,750.
- 2.8 To enable the money to be spent within the agreed timescale, the project must have the balance of funding in place or it will not be eligible for Garioch Area Initiative Funding.
- 2.9 Applicants will be required to provide information on related funding applications, whether they had been successful and, if so, how much funding they had received.
- 2.10 Following concerns raised by the internal auditor funding will only be offered to properly constituted groups. Applicants will be required to submit a copy of their constitution, or Memorandum and Articles, along with their most recent independently examined accounts.
- 2.11 Successful applicants will be required to provide a short outcome focussed report highlighting the achievements of the project.

### **Funding of Festive Lights within Garioch**

- 2.12 Funding applications for Festive Lights will be considered as part of the Garioch Area Initiatives Fund, but must meet the following eligibility criteria:
  - 2.12.1 Applications will be considered for new lights only. Repair, maintenance, installation and storage costs will **not** be supported.
  - 2.12.2 Funding from Garioch Area Committee Budget and/or local Common Good Funds can only be accessed once in any 3-year period.
  - 2.12.3 Support will only be given for displays, which use energy efficient technology and focus on town centres or the main village thoroughfares.

### **Garioch Rural Partnership Small Grants Initiative**

- 2.13 In financial year 2018/19 Area Committee agreed a grant of £5,000 to The Garioch Partnership to support the small grants initiative, which included some elements of participatory budgeting. Area Committee is asked to maintain this allocation for the 2019/20 financial year. It is worth noting that The Garioch Partnership will report to Area Committee on its activities, in line with the Service Level Agreement. This report will include a breakdown of the groups supported through the small grants initiative.

### **Funding for Strategic Projects**

- 2.14 It is recommended that £60,000 of the Area Committee Budget be retained for the delivery of strategic projects across Garioch. These will be identified via various avenues, including Ward Meetings and reported to the Area Committee for determination.
- 2.15 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 can consider 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 authorising of funding from the Garioch Area Committee Budget.

### **4 Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as the above recommendations do not directly impact on any of the protected characteristics. The spirit of the Area Initiatives Fund is in part to create healthier, stronger and safer communities a positive impact could be anticipated depending on the nature of future funding applications.
- 4.2 The above recommendations do not directly impact on Town Centres. The spirit of the Area Initiatives Fund is in part to improve the appearance and maintenance of towns and villages a positive impact could be anticipated depending on the nature of future funding applications.
- 4.3 There are no additional staffing or financial implications arising from this report. The management of the budget will be undertaken within existing area management resources.
- 4.4 No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate or Directorate Level.

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