

## REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 31 MARCH 2020

### AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2019/20 AND 2020/21

#### 1 Reason for Report/Summary

The Committee is being asked to consider and agree the allocation of funding for the Initiative Grants Scheme, to rural partnerships, for a large project grant scheme and a small project grant scheme for 2020/21.

#### 2 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 £6,000 to rural partnerships;**
- 1.3 **agree that £40,000 is identified to deliver a large project grant scheme whereby community groups can apply for a grant up to £5,000 per project;**
- 1.4 **agree the remaining £26,500 provides an alternative grant scheme for community projects up to £2,000 per project; and**
- 1.5 **that the Committee delegate authority to the Area Manager to approve small grant applications received during the summer recess, following consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair and Ward Members.**

#### 3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 An Area Committee Budget allocation of £80,000 is available for 2020/21. 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.
- 3.2 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.

#### **4. Discussion**

##### **4.1 Use of the 2019/20 Budget**

###### **Small Grant Funding**

4.2 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. A Grant Fund of £26,508 was available (and an underspend of £6,890 was transferred from the Large Grant Scheme in December 2019, which took the available sum to £33,398). At the time of writing this report a total of £23,984.31 was spent, with a number of claims anticipated in the next two weeks. A total of £33,125 was committed (which included £2,734 which was used to cover a number of projects which were carried over from 2018/19). An update will be given on the day. **Appendix 1** lists the activities supported.

4.3 Projects completed in 2019/20 include:

- Town and village enhancements
- Community facility improvements
- Opportunities for recreation and sport
- Activities for young people
- Community initiatives

###### **MAP Initiative Grant Scheme**

4.4 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 continued to be high

in 2019/20 with the scheme oversubscribed and the funds will be fully utilized by the end of the financial year. A summary of the scheme is included in **Appendix 2.**

### **Large Grant Scheme**

4.5 The Large Grant scheme proved to be very successful in 2019/20. It was oversubscribed with 11 applications received, totaling £67,985 for a grant fund of £39,992. Nine applications were successful following a scoring exercise. Grants awarded ranged from £4,432 to £4,445. These included grants towards:

- Community facility improvements
- Community Information Hub
- Disabled toilets for community organisation
- Path improvements
- Design works and feasibility studies

4.6 In December 2019, an underspend in the Large Grant budget was reported to Marr Area Committee, due to one project not proceeding and another having to reduce the amount they would be able to claim within the 2019/20 financial year. This resulted in the unused allocation (of £6,890) being transferred to the Small Grant budget, which allowed further applications to be considered for funding. The Large Grant Scheme therefore made awards of £33,102 after the adjustment for the two grants mentioned above, and all grants have been claimed.

### **Proposals for 2020/21**

4.7 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, and the scheme is consistently oversubscribed.

4.8 It is proposed that £6,000 be allocated to rural and community partnerships to fund Banchory and District Initiative and the Royal Deeside Partnership. These partnerships deliver important community resilience and support. It should be noted that the funding for Marr Area Partnership comes from the Economic Development budget page.

4.9 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.

4.10 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.

- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 **The remaining £66,500 is proposed for use to support community and service projects.**
- 4.13 It is proposed that £40,000 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. This is the same as the allocation for 2019/20 which is considered to be an adequate allocation to meet the demands of the scheme.
- 4.14 The remaining £26,500 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.

## 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver Council Priority 1 – support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy.

This report helps deliver Council Priority 5 – encourage active lifestyles and promote well-being with a focus.

This report helps deliver Council Priority 8 – work to reduce poverty and inequalities within our communities.

This report helps deliver Council Priority 10 – have the right people, in the right place, doing the right thing, at the right time.

- 5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	X		
Staffing		X	
Equalities		X	
Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Town Centre First			X
Sustainability			X
Children and Young People's Rights and			X

Wellbeing			
-----------	--	--	--

- 5.3 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommendations will not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 5.4 There are no direct staffing implications as a result of this report.
- 5.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to these matters on a Corporate Level: Budget Pressures; Working with Other Organisations (see [Corporate Risk Register](#)). No risks have been identified as relevant to these matters on a Strategic Level.
- 5.6 The budget for 2019/20 was £80,000. Partnership funding of £7,500 was allocated to Marr Area Partnership for the Initiative Grant Scheme and £6,000 was allocated to rural partnerships, with the remaining £66,500 allocated to support community and service projects. The following table outlines the financial position of this budget:

	Budget (as allocated on 16 April, 2019)	Spent to date
<b>Area Committee Budget (Total)</b>	£80,000	£68,386.31*
<b>MAP Initiative Grant Scheme</b>	£7,500	£5,300 (remainder anticipated to be awarded by end of financial year)
<b>Rural Partnerships (RDP and BDI)</b>	£6,000	£6,000
<b>Large Grant Scheme (adjusted 28/01/2020)</b>	£33,102	£33,102
<b>Small Grants Scheme (adjusted 28/01/2020)</b>	£33,398	£23,984.31
*Small Grant claims expected by end of financial year amount to £7,449.00 – an update will be provided at the meeting.		

- 5.7 It is also worth noting that the grant allocation of £66,500 towards projects enabled estimated additional funds of £336,000 to be spent in the area.
- 5.8 The budget available for 2020/21 is £80,000. This will be met from the Marr Area Manager's budget page. The Rural Partnership funding for Marr Area Partnership will be met from the Economic Development budget page. The budget is proposed to be allocated as follows:

	Area Committee Budget	Rural Partnership Budget	Total Funding
<b>Available Budget</b>	£80,000	To be confirmed	—

<b>Marr Area Partnership</b>		To be confirmed	To be confirmed
<b>MAP Initiative Grant Scheme</b>	£7,500		£7,500
<b>Royal Deeside Partnership</b>	£4,500		£4,500
<b>Banchory &amp; District Initiative</b>	£1,500		£1,500
<b>Large Grant Scheme</b>	£40,000		£40,000
<b>Small Grants Scheme</b>	£26,500		£26,500

## **6 Scheme of Governance**

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Their comments have been incorporated within the report and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 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.

**Stephen Archer**  
**Director of Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared by Janelle Clark, Area Manager  
27 February, 2020

### **List of Appendices**

**Appendix 1 Awards Granted 2019-20**

**Appendix 2 Marr Area Partnership Initiative Grant Scheme Awards 2019-20**

**Appendix 1**

<b>MARR AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET - AWARDS GRANTED 2019-20</b>				
	<b>Location</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Details:</b>	<b>Award</b>
<b>Small Grants</b>				
1	Alford/Huntly	Active Schools (Alford and Huntly)	Upskilling Pupil and Parent Volunteers	£2,000.00
2	Finzean	Finzean Community Association (Portrait of our Time)	Bee Kind Community Play	£1,000.00
3	Glenbuchat	Glenbuchat Hall Community Association	Improving Kitchen Facilities	£800.00
4	Rhynie	Rhynie Charitable Trust	Tap O Noth Footpath Improvements	£2,000.00
5	Aboyne	Aboyne Juvenile Football Club	Club Development	£2,000.00
6	Braemar	Braemar Men's Shed	Making the Workshop Weatherproof, Safety Equipment, and Tools	£1,500.00
7	Huntly	Huntly Violin Summer School	Venue Hire for Huntly Summer School	£235.00
8	Strathdon	The Strathdon Community Development Trust	Regenerate Strathdon Community Tennis Court	£2,000.00
9	Braemar	Victoria Hall Braemar Association (Braemar Village Hall)	Wall repairs & new fence	£1,000.00
10	Alford	Upper Donside Bowling Club	Lawnmower	£2,000.00
11	Alford	Alford & Donside Heritage Association	Viability Study	£2,000.00
12	Aboyne	Aboyne Breastfeeding Group	Welcome packs, information directory and peer support training	£400.00
13	Alford	Alford Primary Parent Council	Alford Mini Bull Run Event	£150.00
14	Aboyne	Aboyne Gymnastics and Trampoline Club	Purchase of 6 Beemat Safety Mats	£1,100.00
15	Banchory	Inchmarlo Village Hall	Christmas Decorations for Hall	£250.00
16	Huntly	Friends of Stewart's Hall (FOSH)	Redecoration of Main Hall	£1,950.00

17	Lumphanan	Lumphanan Paths Group	Repair and restore 5 metal benches	£2,000.00
18	Ballater	Ballater Lego Club	Oak Display Case	£150.00
19	Aboyne	Mid Deeside Community Trust	Dial A Bus and Community Transport Scheme	£5,000.00
20	Tarland	Logie Coldstone Trust	'Hearing Fine' Project	£2,742.00
21	Torphins	Torphins Community Council	Welcome Leaflet	£114.00
				£30,391.00
<b>Large Grants</b>				
18	Strachan	Strachan Village Hall	Hall Renovations	£4,445.00
19	Aboyne	Mid Deeside Community Council	Community Information Hub	£4,445.00
20	Alford	Donside Community Council	Alford Valley Railway - Feasibility Study	£4,445.00
21	Banchory	Banchory Paths Association	Corsee Woods Accessibility Project	£4,445.00
22	Alford	Alford & District Men's Shed	External Disabled Toilet	£4,445.00
23	Banchory	Banchory & District Men's Shed	Men's Shed Workshop Conversion	£4,445.00
24	Torphins	Torphins Paths Group	Path Improvements - Work in Association with Planning Application	£2,000.00
25	Huntly	Huntly & District Development Trust	30 The Square, Huntly - Design Work	£4,432.00
				£33,102 (£6,890 transferred to Small Grant Scheme)

## Appendix 2

### Marr Area Partnership – Initiative Grant Scheme

#### Awards 2019/20

Location	Recipient	Details	Award
Alford	Friends of Haughton Park	Haughton Park	£750
Strathdon	Strathdon Parent Council	School outdoor project	£600
Tarland	Tarland Development Group	Cromar Kitchen	£750
Finzean	Finzean Parent Council	Path extension	£750
Lumsden	Lumsden Community Association	Lumsden public conveniences	£500
Logie Coldstone	Logie Coldstone Curling Club	Composting Toilet	£600
Alford	Grampian Transport Museum	Young Engineers Merlin project	£500
Logie Coldstone	Logie Coldstone Hall	Newsletter	£350
Ballater	Victoria and Albert Halls	Reception for halls	£500
		<b>Total committee as at 18 March 2020</b>	<b>£5,300</b>
Remaining allocation of budget will be confirmed once MAP Board has considered outstanding applications for 2019/20.			