

**REPORT TO KINCARDINE AND MEARNS AREA COMMITTEE 28 APRIL 2020**  
**AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2020-2021**

**1 Reason for Report / Summary**

- 1.1 An application has been submitted for funding from the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee Budget for £5,049.63. The application is from Mearns Community Radio.

**2 Recommendations**

**The Committee is recommended to -**

- 2.1 Consider and agree the application to the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee Budget from Mearns Community Radio.**

**3 Purpose and Decision Making Route**

- 3.1 The Council has allocated £80,000 to each Area Committee for the financial year 2020/21 for the Area Committee Budget. This is the first application to be submitted and if approved would leave a balance of £74,950.37.

**4 Discussion**

- 4.1 The Area Committee is asked to consider an application received from Mearns Community Radio for £5,049.63. This is to purchase 3 replacement transmitters for Stonehaven, Inverbervie and Laurencekirk along with a new transmitter for Portlethen.
- 4.2 Mearns Community Radio started in Stonehaven over 11 years ago to provide a radio service to share local information on events, news and traffic reports. They also provide a platform for charity groups to share their message along with prompting local talents and giving residents a voice. The transmitters in Stonehaven, Inverbervie and Laurencekirk all require to be replaced to improve coverage across the areas.
- 4.3 A new transmitter in Portlethen will improve local coverage and signal reception within the area and also enable Portlethen to have their own radio station independent of the Mearns FM station. This will provide an opportunity for individuals and groups to volunteer and participate in their own show. Discussions have taken place with Portlethen Academy regarding a weekday lunchtime show live from the school. Mearns Community Radio currently have over 30 volunteers but would expect this to increase with the addition of a new transmitter in Portlethen.

- 4.4 The group have secured Lottery Funding to enable the purchase of the new radio equipment. They have collected surplus office furniture from Viewmount Offices and been offered premises within Portlethen Church hall.
- 4.5 The total cost of this project is £10,412.89 and can be outlined below, matched funding has been achieved through various fundraising efforts and advertising. The applicant had previously applied to the Community Resilience Fund however it was felt the Area Committee Budget was more appropriate. Any award would be subject to the appropriate planning permission being granted.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Portlethen Transmitter & cable	£2,529.63
Stonehaven Transmitter	£2,520.00
Laurencekirk Transmitter	£2,520.00
Inverbervie Transmitter	£2,520.00
New Antenna for above.	£323.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,412.89</b>

- 4.6 The application fits the criteria for Area Committee Budget funding by providing a service to support and connect communities, linking them together and sharing information.

### **Priorities, Implications and Risk**

- 5.1 The applications within this is report help deliver the following Council Priorities 1 and 2.
- Support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy and
  - Have the best possible transport and digital links across our communities.
- 5.2. The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Financial	<b>x</b>		
Staffing		<b>x</b>	
Equalities			<b>x</b>
Fairer Scotland Duty			<b>x</b>



Town Centre First			<b>x</b>
Sustainability			<b>x</b>
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			<b>x</b>

5.3 No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level.

5.4 The decision whether or not to grant the application will not have a differential impact on persons sharing the same protected characteristics and so an Equalities Impact assessment is not required.

## **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, any comments are included and 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 in Part 2A, List of Committee Powers in the Scheme of Governance, as it relates to the authorisation of expenditure from the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee budget.

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

Report by Emma Storey, Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee Officer  
Report Date 14 April 2020