

REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 23rd February 2021

AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2020/2021 – AREA COMMITTEE GRANT SCHEME DECOMMITTED FUNDS

1. Reasons for Report/Summary

- 1.1 To approve the reallocation of funding from the Area Committee Grant Scheme from decommitted projects amounting to £2,420.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve the allocation of the uncommitted project funds of the Area Committee Grant Scheme to Maud Village Trust.

3. Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 At the Buchan Area Committee on 21st April, 2020, (Item 11) Councillors agreed to make available £62,500 of the Area Committee Budget to an Area Committee Grant Scheme, similar to that run in previous years. Subsequently, at the Buchan Area Committee on 23rd June 2020, (Item 7) Councillors agreed to award £38,170 to 13 projects, leaving a balance of £24,330 to be awarded later in the year. At the Buchan Area Committee on 6th October, 2020 (Item 6) Councillors agreed the allocation of the remaining balance of £24,330.
- 3.2 At the Buchan Area Committee on 6th October, 2020, Maud Village Trust was awarded £1,871 towards their project to deliver, in partnership with Dial-a-Community Bus, two electric charging points at the Maud Resource Centre.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 At the Buchan Area Committee on 23rd June, 2020, Stuartfield Community Association was awarded £1,000 towards their project to convert the redundant red telephone kiosk into a community resource. Unfortunately, due to the onset of Covid-19 restrictions, the volunteers involved with the project have been unable to deliver the project as planned and do not expect to be able to do so before 31st March. The representative for the group has agreed to forgo the funding at this time but will reapply once the group is able to deliver the project.
- 4.2 At the Buchan Area Committee on 6th October 2020, Shirley's Space was awarded £1,420 to cover training costs for volunteers to deliver perinatal support to new mums. It was intended to start the delivery of the training in January, however, due to the Covid-19 restrictions tightening in late December, this has

not been possible. Due to the unknown length of time the restrictions may last the representative from the group decided to relinquish the grant.

- 4.3 A total of £2,420 is now available to allocate to another project. The funding must be used by 31st March, and therefore, it did not seem achievable for a new project to be delivered in such a short timescale. In consultation with Buchan Development Partnership, the schedule of projects that had been awarded grants in the previous two rounds was revisited.
- 4.4 Maud Village Trust applied for £6,000 towards their £12,000 project, for reconfiguring and resurfacing their carpark. Although the project was considered to be a strong one, pressure on the grant fund resulted in it being awarded £1,871. This project is being delivered in partnership with Dial a Community Bus who have raised funds to install the two charging points for electric buses and cars. There are no charging points in Maud at present. Dial-a-Community Bus has recently purchased an electric vehicle to deliver the Be-Link'D transport project, which is being led by several Community Planning Partners, to deliver free transport to rural dwellers.
- 4.5 To allow the project to proceed, the car parking area needs to be reconfigured and surfaced. Maud Village Trust has been raising funds to complete the project, however this has taken longer than intended because they have lost revenue from the Maud Café, which has had to close due to the Covid-19 restrictions, and is one of the key elements of Maud Village Trust. It is hoped that the surfacing will be completed as soon as weather permits, and Maud Village Trust had agreed to take the balance of funds required from their own funds.
- 4.6 The majority of the other projects that received grants have either completed or are very near completion.
- 4.7 The additional award of £2,420 will assist Maud Village Trust to complete the project whilst reducing some of the financial pressure they are presently experiencing. It has been confirmed that they will be able to draw down the additional funding before 31st March 2021.
- 4.8 Buchan Development Partnership has been consulted in the development and is supportive of this report.

5. Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

5.1 This report helps deliver on the three pillars of Aberdeenshire Council's Strategic Priorities:-

Our People: Health & Wellbeing
 Our Environment: Resilient Communities
 Our Economy: Economy & Enterprise

5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(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 Wellbeing		X	

5.3 An equality impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as Appendix 1 and has a positive impact by improving community facilities and activities offering greater opportunities for people with protected characteristics. This project supports a free community transport service which will be delivered using an environmentally friendly electric vehicle.

5.4 There are no staffing implications arising from this report. The management of this budget will be undertaken within existing area management resources.

5.5 The proposals outlined in this report are in line with the allocation of financial resources approved as part of the approval of the Council's Revenue Budget on 18 March 2020. However, during this period of financial uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, all officers are being advised that only essential spend should be undertaken and that this approach should be borne in mind when discussing any financial commitment, now or during the remainder of the financial year.

5.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: ACORP001 – Budget Pressures and ACORP005 – Working with other organisations. (Corporate Risk Register [Corporate Risk Register](#)).

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 and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Committee can consider and take a decision on 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 authorisation of expenditure from the Area Committee Budget.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services

Report by Maureen Stephen
Area Committee Officer
2nd February 2021



EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EIA Version	Date	Author	Changes
1.0	2 nd February 2021	Maureen Stephen Area Committee Officer (Buchan)	

Stage 1: Title and aims of the activity (“activity” is an umbrella term covering policies, procedures, guidance and decisions including those that affect services the council delivers).

Service	Business Services
Section	Area Manager
Title of the activity etc.	Area Committee Grant Scheme
Aims and desired outcomes of the activity	To approve the allocation of decommitted funds from the Area Committee Grant Scheme
Author(s) & Title(s)	Maureen Stephen Area Committee Officer (Buchan)

Stage 2: List the evidence that has been used in this assessment and explain what it means in relation to the activity you are assessing.

Evidence	What does it say?	What does it mean?
Internal data (customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).	N/A	
Internal consultation with staff and other services affected.	The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of the report	

External consultation (partner organisations, community groups, and councils).	Buchan Development Partnership, Community Groups	
External data (census, available statistics).		
Other (general information as appropriate).	Aberdeenshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, Council Plan 2017-2022, Buchan Community Plan, Community Impact Assessment	Priorities for the CPP, Council and more locally

Stage 3: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the information you currently hold?	No
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Stage 4: Measures to fill the evidence gaps.

What measures will be taken to fill the information gaps before the activity is implemented? These should be included in the action plan at the back of this form.	Measures:	Timescale:
	n/a	

Stage 5: What steps can be taken to promote good relations between various groups/areas?

These should be included in the action plan.	The project aims to improve accessibility for people with protected characteristics within existing community facilities which will promote good relations between people with and without there protected characteristics and increase volunteering opportunities.
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Stage 6: How does the policy/activity create opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity?

This project would be difficult to fund and has therefore been supported as this will improve its sustainability. The project supports volunteering activities and offers opportunities for people with protected characteristics to advance their equality of opportunity. It also supports the provision of free transport. (Both increased volunteering opportunities and affordable, accessible transport were both highlighted in the Community Impact Assessment)

Stage 7a:

Are there potential impacts on protected groups?

The protected groups covered by the equality duty are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Who is affected by the activity or who is intended to benefit from the proposed activity and how? Complete the table below for each protected group by inserting "yes" in the applicable box/boxes below.

	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
Age – Younger	Yes			
Age - Older	Yes			
Disability	Yes			
Race – (includes Gypsy Travellers)			Yes	
Religion or Belief			Yes	
Sex			Yes	
Pregnancy and maternity			Yes	
Sexual orientation – (includes Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual)			Yes	
Gender reassignment – (includes Transgender)			Yes	
Marriage and Civil Partnership			Yes	

Stage 7b: Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy, activity etc. will or may impact on socio-economic inequalities?

This is about trying to be fair to everyone. Part of that is realising that not everyone may be starting at the same place. Some individuals and families may have low income, may have very little or no savings which means they are living from month to month therefore changes to council policies/services may have a greater adverse impact on them.

On this basis you should consider potential impacts on individuals/families by:

- Place: on specific vulnerable areas or communities (SIMD, regeneration, rural) e.g. housing, transport.
- Pockets: household resources, (Income, benefits, outgoings) ability to access a service
- Prospects: peoples life chances e.g.access to, or ability to access: employment, training, services (such as council or health) or support.

Groups of people who may be impacted include, but not limited to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed • Single parents and vulnerable families • People on benefits • Those involved in the criminal justice system • People in the most deprived communities • People who live in rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pensioners • Looked after children • Carers including young carers • Veterans • Students • Single adult households • People who have experienced the asylum system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those leaving the care setting including children and young people and those with illness • Homeless people • People with low literacy/numeracy • People with lower educational qualifications • People in low paid work • People with one or more protected characteristic
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Please complete by inserting "yes" in the applicable box/boxes below.

Socio-economic disadvantage	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
Pockets: Low income/income poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing			Yes	

Pockets: Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future	Yes			
Pockets: Material deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies			Yes	
Place: Area deprivation – where you live, where you work	Yes			
Prospects: Socioeconomic background – social class i.e. parents education, employment and income , educational achievement.	Yes			

Stage 8: What are the positive and negative impacts?		
Impacts.	Positive	Negative
Please detail the potential positive and/or negative impacts you have highlighted above. Detail the impacts and describe those affected.	Improving community facilities and activities will offer greater opportunities for people with protected characteristics. This project supports a free community transport service which will be delivered using an environmentally friendly electric vehicle as well as providing volunteering opportunities	

Stage 9: Have any of the affected groups/areas been involved, engaged with or consulted?

If yes, please give details of how this was done and what the results were. If no, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating steps?

Community engagement related work has been undertaken by the group to identify the need for this project, which is being delivered in partnership with Buchan Dial a Community Bus. The project also supports local community priorities.

Stage 10: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce negative impacts?

	Mitigating Steps	Timescale
These should be included in any action plan at the back of this form.	n/a	

Stage 11: What monitoring arrangements will be put in place? How the EIA will be used to monitor the proposal

These should be included in any action plan (for example customer satisfaction questionnaires).

If successful, applicant will be expected to provide an outcomes-focused report on their project within 3 months of completion.

Stage 12: What is the outcome of the Assessment?

Please complete the appropriate box/boxes	1	No negative impacts have been identified –please explain.
	No negative impact identified as there are no differential impacts to people with Protected Characteristics.	
	2	Negative Impacts have been identified, these can be mitigated - please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen.

	3	The activity will have negative impacts which cannot be mitigated fully – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen

* Stage 13: Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.

No negative impact identified as there are no differential impacts to people with Protected Characteristics.

Stage 14: Sign off and authorisation.

Sign off and authorisation.	1) Service and Team	Business Services Area Manager	
	2) Title of Policy/Activity	To approve the allocation of the Area Committee Grant Scheme	
	3) Authors: I/We have completed the equality impact assessment for this policy/activity.	Name: Maureen Stephen Position: Area Committee Officer Date: 2 nd February 2021 Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:
		Name: Position: Date: Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:
	4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name: Date:	
	5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Amanda Roe Position: Area Manager (Buchan) Date: 2 nd February 2021	Name: Position: Date:

	6) If the EIA relates to a matter that has to go before a Committee, Committee report author sends the Committee Report and this form, and any supporting assessment documents, to the Officers responsible for monitoring and the Committee Officer of the relevant Committee.	Date:
	7) EIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: equalities@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Date:

