

REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 9 MARCH 2021

ABERDEENSHIRE CHARITIES TRUST (ACT2) APPLICATIONS

1 Reason for Report / Summary

1.1 This report presents applications for funding to ACT2 (Aberdeenshire Charities Trust) from (1) Huntly Business Association for £2,000 to develop an app/website for Huntly and district; and (2) Grace Church Family (Deeside Compassion) for £2,000 to assist families living on low incomes through the provision of support with weekly groceries and to provide a service to individuals to gain skills to survive on low incomes.

2 Recommendations

2.1 **The Committee is recommended to consider the following application for ACT2 funding and determine whether to approve or reject the applications:**

Ward	Trust Purpose	Applicant
14	The advancement of citizenship and community development	Huntly Business Association
15	The prevention or relief of poverty	Grace Church Family
16	The prevention or relief of poverty	Grace Church Family

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

3.1 Aberdeenshire Council is responsible for administering a number of individual charitable trusts which are now amalgamated into ACT2 (Aberdeenshire Charities Trust). The Trust is divided according to Ward Area and subdivided according to various purposes outlined within the trust deed and in keeping with its original purpose. The routine administration of the Trust has been delegated to Area Committees.

3.2 At its meeting on 19 February, 2019 (Item 5), the Marr Area Committee agreed that no award be granted for less than £100 or more than £500 to individuals, £1,000 to groups in Wards 15 and 16, and £2,000 to groups in Ward 14.

4 Discussion

4.1 The Area Committee is asked to consider two applications for funding as detailed in **Appendix 1** to the report.

4.2 The applicants have been invited to attend the meeting and both have confirmed that they do not wish to address the meeting, and if any further information is required they are happy to provide it.

4.3 The applications have been assessed by officers from Legal and Governance and Finance and have been validated as competent and compliant with the trust purposes within the relevant trust areas.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

5.1 The report helps deliver:
Council Priority 1 – Our People - Education, Health & Wellbeing;
Council Priority 2 – Our Environment - Infrastructure, Resilient Communities; and
Council Priority 3 – Our Economy – Economy & Enterprise, Estate Modernisation.

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

5.3 The funding available for the relevant wards and trust purposes:

Ward and purpose	Revenue	Capital
Huntly, Strathbogie & Howe of Alford (Marr Area) Ward 14 - prevention/relief of poverty and those in need	£19,369.26	£24,419.78
Huntly, Strathbogie & Howe of Alford (Marr Area) Ward 14 - any of the purposes of ACT2	£49,615.75	£17,663.02
Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside (Marr Area) Ward 15 – the prevention or relief of poverty	£3,685.00	£0.00
Banchory & Mid Deeside (Marr Area) Ward 16 – the prevention or relief of poverty	£2,785.93	£0.00

5.4 An equality impact assessment is not required because Section 193 of the 2010 Act contains an exemption for charities which make positive discrimination to groups or individuals on the basis of their disadvantage. Insofar as the charity purposes discriminate positively in favour of individuals or groups on the

basis of poverty, age, disability, or other disadvantage, there is no discrimination on the basis of any other protected characteristic (such as gender or religion). No negative impact on any individual or group as a result of this report has been identified.

- 5.5 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.
- 5.6 There is no financial risk of the Committee decision, however the financial implication will be that a greater proportion of Area Committee funds will transfer to education, health and science within Marr.
- 5.7 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: ACORP001 - Budget Pressures; ACORP005 - Working with Other Organisations (see Corporate Risk Register). No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level.

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 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.2.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the administration of trusts controlled by the Council for the benefit of their Area.

Alan Wood
Interim Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Alison McLeod, Area Committee Officer (Marr)
Date: 16 February, 2021

Appendix 1 – Project Outline and Costs

APPENDIX 1

Applicant 1: Huntly Business Association

Trust Ward and Purpose: Ward 14 - The advancement of citizenship and community development

Amount Applied for: £2,000

Why the Funding is required: Huntly Business Association is working with a Steering Group to build an app/website for Huntly and district. A Marketing Manager has been recruited to market the app and the town. The funds would be used to promote the town with the aim of increasing footfall and to promote the Huntly app through online advertising via Facebook and promotional literature and local advertising. There is currently no up to date website for the town and the app will play an important role in providing a much needed platform for all the businesses in the town and district to showcase their services and products and for the community and visitors to see at a glance what Huntly has to offer.

Who will the Funding help: The funding will help Huntly and district community and businesses. The funding will be used for on and offline marketing and advertising to promote 'Experience Huntly' and the town. The funding will also allow for work with shop local schemes, such as 'Scotland Loves Local – Aberdeenshire' and the 'Fiver Fest', which are aimed at raising the profile and increasing revenue for independent businesses on the high street and beyond.

Other Funding Applied for: Funding of £10,000 has already been awarded by Scotland's Towns Partnership Fund, which was used to build, host and license the app. Also £10,000 from Aberdeenshire Council's Phoenix Fund, which will be used for brand design and for the services of a Marketing Manager.

Applicant 2: Grace Church Family (registered charity)

Trust Ward and Purpose:

Ward 15 – the prevention or relief of poverty

Ward 16 – the prevention or relief of poverty

Amount Applied for: £1,000 from Ward 15 and £1,000 from Ward 16

Why the Funding is required: Grace Church Family has recently launched Restart Social Supermarket, which is an online supermarket which provides individuals and families on low incomes living in Royal Deeside area (including Wards 15 and 16) with access to fresh and non-perishable food, toiletries and household goods worth around £10 per person for a £2 weekly membership fee. Operations were commenced at the end of September 2020 and already 120 members have signed up across Wards 15 and 16. In addition, a partnership has been formed with CAP (Christians Against

Poverty) to run Life Skills, which is a service providing individuals with skills to help them survive on a low income, and Fresh Start services, which supports individuals to break life controlling addictions contributing to financial difficulties. The funds would be applied to core costs – namely rental, fit out and utility costs for the warehouse.

Who will the Funding help: The funding will help families living on low incomes in Wards 15 and 16, through the provision of support with weekly groceries, whilst those families are encouraged to participate in the CAP services operated by the charity, in order to tackle underlying issues which may be contributing to the financial problems they are facing.

Other Funding Applied for:

£10,000 has been awarded from the National Lottery.

£10,580 has been awarded from the Communities Recovery Fund.

£1,000 from the Henry Duncan Micro Grants Scheme.

£500 from the Church Revitalisation Trust.

£2,000 from Aberdeenshire Council's Community Resilience Fund.

Further information provided: The Restart Social Supermarket and CAP are run and operated through the Deeside Compassion ministry, which aims to support families who are struggling to become more financially independent. This is done by providing families with support with their weekly groceries costs while they are encouraged to engage with the CAP services, so that they can address budgeting issues and other underlying problems which may be contributing to their financial problems. These funds will be used to support the costs involved in the running of those services, including the costs associated with staffing and with the renting and fitting out of new premises which the group took entry to at the end of 2020 to scale up the initiatives.