

REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 11 MARCH 2021

CROWN ESTATE SCOTLAND FUNDING

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to establish a framework for the future use of Crown Estate Scotland funding allocated to Aberdeenshire Council.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider and endorse the proposed framework for the use of Crown Estate Scotland Funding set out at Appendix 4 to this Report;
- 2.2 Allocate 50% of future Crown Estate Scotland allocations to the Council's four coastal Area Committees, divided equally between them;
- 2.3 Allocate 50% of future Crown Estate Scotland allocations to an Aberdeenshire Coastal Communities Challenge Fund; and
- 2.4 Extend the deadline to commit and spend any unspent funds from the second Crown Estate Scotland allocation to 31 March 2022.

3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 Crown Estate Scotland generates income from a range of marine assets (aquaculture, offshore renewables, moorings and other coastal income). Aberdeenshire Council receives a proportion of this income annually to be used for coastal community benefit such as support for local projects or initiatives.
- 3.2 Aberdeenshire Council has received a total of £770,916.15 to date through two separate annual allocations. These funds have been awarded to a wide range of projects/initiatives as set out in **Appendix 3** to this Report.
- 3.3 It has proved challenging for funding to be awarded and spent within a single financial year which has required decisions to be made at short notice. Given that future allocations of Crown Estate Scotland funding are anticipated, this Report sets out a longer-term framework to govern how this resource is managed in future.
- 3.4 At its meeting on 20 August 2020, [Item 11](#), Infrastructure Services Committee agreed to:

- “(1) Note the Coastal Communities Scottish Crown Estate (Marine) funding that has been awarded to Aberdeenshire Council in 2019-20 and 2020-21;
- (2) Approve the proposed changes to existing commitments (made at Infrastructure Services Committee on 23rd January 2020) as set out in paragraph 4.5 to the Report;
- (3) Approve the commitment of some of the remaining Scottish Crown Estate (Marine) funding as set out in paragraphs 4.9, 4.10, and 4.13 to the Report;
- (4) Approve the establishment and launch of a Coastal Communities Challenge Fund with immediate effect, to be managed through existing arrangements as set out in paragraph 4.12 to the Report and in accordance with the criteria and guidance as described at Appendix 3.
- (5) Agree that Area Committees should be asked to consider, in advance of the 2021/22 funding allocation (in April/May 2021) to identify community opportunities there were for community groups to bid for coastal project funding.”
- 3.5 Area Committee consultation was undertaken throughout December 2020, with input from the four coastal Area Committees set out at **Appendices 5 to 8** of this Report. A series of stakeholder engagement sessions have also been undertaken online and an online survey was conducted. A summary of the results of this engagement activity is set out at **Appendix 9** to this Report.
- 3.6 At its meeting on 21 January 2021, [Item 20](#), Infrastructure Services Committee considered a Report on Crown Estate Scotland Funding and agreed to:
- (1) Delete recommendation 2.1.
- (2) Amend recommendation 2.2 to read Approve the reallocation of funding from decommitted projects to the future programme.
- (3) Recommendation 2.4 will now be 2.3; and
- (4) Insert a new recommendation 2.4 to read Approve the recommitment of £120,000 of Crown Estate Funding to the St Cyrus National Reserve Car Park and Newburgh Links Car Park initiatives.
- 3.7 Due to current pandemic restrictions, a number of projects are having difficulty in meeting the current deadline of spending by 31 March 2021. The Scottish Government has advised by letter on 2 September 2020 that ‘...allocations already provided to local authorities to date can be carried over into 2021/22, with requisite monitoring and accountability to demonstrate delivery of benefits to coastal communities’. It is recommended that this flexibility is extended to current committed activity and projects.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 The proposed framework for the future use of Crown Estate Scotland funding aims to support a proactive, longer term and strategic focus for the use of funding received and is set out at **Appendix 4** to this Report.
- 4.2 The Council has relative flexibility in the use of Crown Estate Scotland funding provided that it is used to deliver benefit to coastal communities. The use of funding must also be fully documented in a transparent and accountable way, with annual returns submitted to the Scottish Government and published online.
- 4.3 There are a number of different options available to effectively manage and deliver this funding. Whilst the majority of Crown Estate funding received to date has been allocated through grants, this is not the only option and other mechanisms such as the commissioning of activity from within or outside of the Council can complement grants to external bodies. As such, it is proposed that future allocations of Crown Estate Scotland funding are delivered through the following two mechanisms:
- 4.3.1 **Commissioning by Area Committees:** This would involve an annual allocation to each coastal Area Committee. Each Area would develop a plan or commissioning strategy to identify specific projects or initiatives which they would like to see taken forward, with each Area Committee determining how this funding is used. Commissioning may involve delivery through Council Services and/or the procurement of goods, works or services in line with the Council's procurement procedures. Areas may also wish to work collaboratively and jointly commission activity which crosses Area boundaries.
- 4.3.2 **Challenge Fund Grants:** This would involve the operation of a grant scheme through the existing structure and processes of the North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group (NESFLAG). The NESFLAG partnership would make recommendations for project approvals to the Council, with a Chief Officer approving awards following appropriate consultation with Elected Members. In the event that NESFLAG declined to participate, their role would be replaced by an internal Member Officer Working Group. Council Services would not be permitted to apply directly through this route, with any Council-led initiatives delivered through the commissioning route.

4.4 Eligible Area

- 4.4.1 There were mixed stakeholder views as to whether the funding should be limited to one mile from the coast or extended to five miles from the coast. Area Committees generally favoured a tighter definition, noting that the purpose of the funding is for the benefit of coastal communities. Proposals included using the defined [coastal zone from the Local Development Plan](#) and any settlement which borders this; an area one mile from the coast; and an area one mile of the coast with flexibility up to two miles in certain circumstances.

4.4.2 The proposal in the framework is that there should be a prioritised eligible area based on the coastal zone and any settlements bordering it, with a degree of flexibility to support initiatives up to two miles outside of this area provided that the activity can demonstrate a strong and tangible link to the coast or sea.

4.5 **Priorities**

4.5.1 The following key themes were identified from the stakeholder engagement and generally supported by the Area Committees:

- o Active Travel/Paths
- o Tourism
- o Economic Development
- o Community Facilities
- o Recreational Activities
- o The Environment

4.5.2 The framework aims to group the identified themes into the following four priorities:

- 1) Supporting the development of active travel routes along, to and from the coastline
- 2) Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism
- 3) Creating or enhancing community, leisure and recreational facilities
- 4) Safeguarding, restoring or enhancing the coastal environment

4.6 **Criteria**

4.6.1 A consistent theme throughout the engagement process has been an ask for clear criteria to be available at an early opportunity. This is to ensure that it is clear what the funding can and cannot be used for and therefore whether or not it is a suitable option for a particular project or organisation.

4.6.2 The framework proposes assessing awards against set criteria including Strategic Fit; Cross-Cutting Themes (Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty, Town Centre First Principle, Sustainability, Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing); Project Need and Demand; Need for Grant; and Capacity to Deliver.

4.7 **Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting**

4.7.1 In order to monitor the effectiveness of the framework, it is proposed that projects aim to meet specific programme outputs and outcomes, namely the:

- Number of new facilities created
- Number of existing facilities enhanced
- Number of jobs created (in Full Time Equivalent @ 37 hours)
- Number of new products/services created
- Number of volunteer opportunities created
- Length of active travel routes enhanced or created
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Increase in biodiversity
- Increase in revenue to sustain and grow the organisation

4.7.2 Progress towards these targets would be captured through grant claim reports and a final report upon completion of the project. An annual report on the implementation of the fund would be presented to Infrastructure Services Committee and to the relevant Area Committees to note. This would be around September of each year to tie in with reporting to the Scottish Government. In the event that allocated funds are not committed in time to meet spending deadlines, ISC would be notified and asked to consider options for reallocation. A formal review of the framework would take place after the first three years and subsequently every five years.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

5.1 All of the following Council priorities are of relevance to this report, as well as the underlying principle of responsible financial planning:

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Education Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Infrastructure Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy & Enterprise Estate Modernisation

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 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 there is a positive impact for disability and age-related protected characteristics.

- 5.4 A Town Centre Impact Assessment has been carried out and is set out at **Appendix 2** to this Report.
- 5.5 The financial implications of this Report are that there would be an element of financial risk to the Council in allocating grants to external organisations. This would be mitigated by the use of a streamlined, single grants process managed by Economic Development staff following the Council's Financial Regulations and Following the Public Pound checks would form part of this process. The amount of funding received by the Council per annum is not fixed but has been on average £335,000 to date. It is proposed that 50% of future Crown Estate allocations would be allocated to commissioning by the four coastal Administrative Areas, divided equally amongst them. The remaining 50% would be allocated to the Aberdeenshire Coastal Communities Challenge Fund.
- 5.6 The staffing implications of this Report are that Economic Development staff would be required to support project applicants, manage the application process; process grant claims; and monitor, evaluate and report the funding for the challenge fund. It is estimated that this would be approximately 2.5 days per week of Co-ordinator time and 1.5 days per week of Claims Officer time. The estimated cost at 2020/21 prices would be £38,534.30 per annum. It is recommended that this cost be funded through a portion of the Crown Estate Scotland fund money.
- 5.7 The sustainability implications of this Report would be the funding of projects which may themselves have sustainability implications. It is proposed that this is mitigated by assessing the sustainability of each project through the application process and building this into the evaluation criteria for awards.
- 5.8 The Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing implications of this report are that Crown Estate Scotland could be used to improve the availability of recreational and leisure facilities for children and young people. It is also proposed that project applications are assessed against this criteria.
- 5.9 The following Risk has been identified as relevant to this matter on a [Corporate Level](#):
ACORP001 – Budget Pressures

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a [Strategic Level](#):

BSSR001	-	Balancing the Books
BSSR004	-	Community Empowerment
ECSSR004	-	Support Inclusive, Vibrant & Healthy Communities
ISSR001	-	Active Travel
ISSR002	-	Regeneration
ISSR008	-	Economic Development

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 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 F.1.1b of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to support for Economic Development and Protective Services.

Alan Wood

Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Martin Brebner, Team Manager Economic Strategy & Policy
4 February 2021

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment
- Appendix 2 – Town Centre Impact Assessment
- Appendix 3 – Current Awards
- Appendix 4 – Proposed Framework for Future Awards for Infrastructure Services Committee Approval
- Appendix 5 – Banff & Buchan Area Committee Input
- Appendix 6 – Buchan Area Committee Input
- Appendix 7 – Formartine Area Committee Input
- Appendix 8 – Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee Input
- Appendix 9 – Stakeholder Consultation Report

APPENDIX 1 – EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT



EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EIA Version	Date	Author	Changes
1	15/12/20	Martin Brebner	

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	Infrastructure Services
Section	Economic Development & Protective Services
Title of the activity etc.	Crown Estate Scotland Funding
Aims and desired outcomes of the activity	To provide a framework for the use of Crown Estate Scotland Funding for the benefit of coastal communities
Author(s) & Title(s)	Martin Brebner, Team Manager – Economic Strategy & Policy

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	N/A

Internal consultation with staff and other services affected.	Consultation was undertaken with Area Committees. No specific equalities issues were identified through this input.	The proposed priorities for the funding is not anticipated to have a negative effect on any of the protected characteristics.
External consultation (partner organisations, community groups, and councils).	A stakeholder survey and online workshops were undertaken. From an equalities perspective, both age (younger and older) and disability were highlighted in the input.	There is potential to advance equality of opportunity through the funding for protected characteristics related to age and disability. Specifically, this would be to ensure that the funding can be used to support projects which benefit different age groups and improve the safety and accessibility of coastal facilities including active travel routes.
External data (census, available statistics).	N/A	N/A
Other (general information as appropriate).	N/A	N/A

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	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.

Empowerment of coastal communities through the provision of an open challenge fund approach to allocate funding. Involvement of partner organisations (including community/private sector) in the assessment and approval of applications.

Stage 6: How does the policy/activity create opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity?

The Crown Estate funding provides an opportunity to provide direct resourcing to projects which support people with protected characteristics. It also offers an opportunity to mainstream equalities within the process by requiring project sponsors to consider equalities in their funding applications and building this into the scoring criteria.

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	X			
Age - Older	X			
Disability	X			
Race – (includes Gypsy Travellers)			X	
Religion or Belief			X	
Sex			X	

Pregnancy and maternity			X	
Sexual orientation – (includes Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual)			X	
Gender reassignment – (includes Transgender)			X	
Marriage and Civil Partnership			X	

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 incomes, 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
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Pockets: Low income/income poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing			X	
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			X	
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			X	
Place: Area deprivation – where you live, where you work	X			
Prospects: Socioeconomic background – social class i.e. parents education, employment and income, educational achievement.	X			

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.	Increased social and recreational facilities in coastal communities (including deprived areas), many of which would be free to use	
	Increased accessibility of facilities (existing and new) in coastal areas	
	Increased employment opportunities in coastal communities	

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?	Stakeholder consultation was carried out through an online survey and Area-based workshops
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Stage 10: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce negative impacts?

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

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

<p>These should be included in any action plan (for example customer satisfaction questionnaires).</p>	<p>Monitoring and evaluation of the framework will take place against agreed indicators regularly and reported to Committee annually.</p>
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Stage 12: What is the outcome of the Assessment?		
<p>Please complete the appropriate box/boxes</p>	1	No negative impacts have been identified –please explain.
	<p>The proposal is anticipated to have a neutral impact for most protected characteristics and a positive one for disability and age-related protected characteristics.</p>	
	2	<p>Negative Impacts have been identified, these can be mitigated - please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen.</p>
	N/A	
	3	<p>The activity will have negative impacts which cannot be mitigated fully – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen</p>
	N/A	

<p>* Stage 13: Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.</p>		
<p>N/A</p>		

Stage 14: Sign off and authorisation.		
<p>Sign Off</p>	<p>1) Service and Team</p>	<p>Infrastructure Services – Economic Development & Protective Services</p>

2) Title of Policy/Activity	Crown Estate Scotland Funding		
3) Authors: I/We have completed the equality impact assessment for this policy/activity.	Name: Martin Brebner Position: Team Manager – Economic Development & Protective Services Date: 15/12/20 Signature: 	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	
	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	
4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name: Matt Lockley Date: 21/12/20		
5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Belinda Miller Position: Head of Economic Development & Protective Services Date: 21/12/20	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:

Action Plan					
Action	Start	Complete	Lead Officer	Expected Outcome	Resource Implications
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

APPENDIX 2 – TOWN CENTRE FIRST IMPACT ASSESSMENT (TCFIA)

Aberdeenshire Council recognises that town centres have an important role to play in the sustainable development of local economies.

The Town Centre First Impact Assessment (TCFIA) allows Officers in all Services to identify the detrimental and beneficial effects that decisions we take may have on our town centres. It will allow Officers to consider any implications that Council decisions may have on Aberdeenshire’s key town centres. Examples of this include changes to the provision of civic and community facilities, employment land, retail, residential buildings, cultural assets, transportation, leisure and tourism.

A Town Centre Ambassador has been nominated within your Service; you can locate your Town Centre First Ambassador through the Town Centre First Principle Arcadia pages.

Project Information	
Title of Committee Paper	Crown Estate Scotland Funding
Service	Infrastructure Services
Department	Economic Development & Protective Services
Author	Martin Brebner
Have you consulted your Town Centre First Ambassador?	No

1. If approved would your project cause an impact (either positive or negative) with regards to any of these town centres? – Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Inverurie, Westhill, Stonehaven, Ellon, Portlethen, Banchory, Turriff, Huntly, Banff, Macduff.	
Yes - Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Portlethen, Stonehaven, Banff, Macduff	No - Inverurie, Westhill, Ellon, Banchory, Turriff, Huntly

2. If approved would your project cause an impact (either positive or negative) with regards to the footfall of any of these town centres?	
Yes - Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Portlethen, Stonehaven, Banff, Macduff	No - Inverurie, Westhill, Ellon, Banchory, Turriff, Huntly

3)	
Please describe the aims of the committee paper?	To establish a framework for the future use of Crown Estate Scotland funding allocated to Aberdeenshire Council; to review previous awards of funding; and reallocate any underspends or uncommitted funding.

4. What are the positive and negative impacts?		
Impact	Describe the positive impact?	Describe the negative impact?

Please detail any potential positive and negative impact the project may have on Aberdeenshire's Key Town Centres.	Additional investment in coastal town, creating additional economic and recreational opportunities for locals and visitors	
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5. What mitigating steps will be taken to reduce or remove negative impacts? If none see Q6	
Mitigating Steps	Timescale
N/A	N/A

6. Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.
N/A

Question 7: Sign off and Authorisation

	3) Author: I have completed the TCIA impact assessment for this policy/activity.	Name: Martin Brebner Position: Team Manager – Economic Strategy & Policy Date: 15/12/20 Signature: 
	4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name: Matt Lockley Position: Service Manager – Economic Development Date: 21/12/20
	5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Belinda Miller Position: Head of Economic Development & Protective Services Date: 21/12/20
	6) Have you consulted with your Town Centre First Ambassador?	No

	7)TCFIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: tcfia@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Date Sent:
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APPENDIX 3 – CURRENT AWARDS

Allocation	Programme	Area	Project Title	Project Sponsor	Approved Award
1 (19/20)	Area Allocation 1	Kincardine & Mearns	Training Dinghies	Aberdeen and Stonehaven Yacht Club	£3,475.00
1 (19/20)	Area Allocation 1	Buchan	'Light the North' lighthouse trail	Aberdeenshire Council	£2,498.50
1 (19/20)	Area Allocation 1	Banff & Buchan	Coastal Industries Diversification Study	Aberdeenshire Council	£10,000.00
1 (19/20)	Area Allocation 1	Formartine	Balmedie Country Park Football Pitch Improvements	Aberdeenshire Council	£9,700.00
1 (19/20)	Area Allocation 1	Buchan	New Dinghy	Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust	£2,963.70
1 (19/20)	Area Allocation 1	Formartine	Balmedie Leisure Centre – Outdoor Security Improvement Work	Balmedie Leisure Centre Management Committee	£2,800.00
1 (19/20)	Area Allocation 1	Buchan	Picnic Tables & Benches	Boddam Harbour Trust	£3,591.00
1 (19/20)	Area Allocation 1	Buchan	Repairs, Equipment and Davit	Buchanhaven Harbour SCIO	£2,327.00
1 (19/20)	Area Allocation 1	Kincardine & Mearns	Boat Building	Catterline Rowing Club	£987.00
1 (19/20)	Area Allocation 1	Kincardine & Mearns	Mearns Coastal Heritage Trail	MERCHAT	£5,488.00
1 (19/20)	Area Allocation 1	Kincardine & Mearns	Tolbooth Museum Booklet	Tolbooth Museum Stonehaven	£2,550.00

Allocation	Programme	Area	Project Title	Project Sponsor	Approved Award
1 (19/20)	ISC Award	Cross-Area	Coast Aberdeenshire	Aberdeenshire Council	£50,000.00
1 (19/20)	ISC Award	Formartine	Changing Places Toilet at Balmedie Country Park	Aberdeenshire Council	£0.00
1 (19/20)	ISC Award	Banff & Buchan	Fraserburgh Beach Initiatives	Aberdeenshire Council	£31,050.00
1 (19/20)	ISC Award	Buchan	Peterhead Town Trail	Aberdeenshire Council	£10,000.00
1 (19/20)	ISC Award	Kincardine & Mearns	Stonehaven Boardwalk	Aberdeenshire Council	£30,000.00
1 (19/20)	ISC Award	Cross-Area	Turning the Plastic Tide	East Grampian Coastal Partnership	£13,000.00
1 (19/20)	ISC Award	Kincardine & Mearns	St. Cyrus National Nature Reserve Car Park	Scottish Natural Heritage	£20,000.00
1 (19/20)	ISC Award	Formartine	Newburgh Links Car Park	Ythan Community Trust	£100,000.00
2 (20/21)	Area Allocation 2	Buchan	Extend Exhibition Spaces	Admiralty Gateway Charitable Trust	£9,294.00
2 (20/21)	Area Allocation 2	Buchan	Foundations for Sea Wall	Boddam Harbour Trust	£8,000.00
2 (20/21)	Area Allocation 2	Buchan	Shelter on Existing Building	Peterhead Sailing Club	£3,979.00
2 (20/21)	Area Allocation 2	Buchan	Displays, Outdoor Seating, Alarm	Buchanhaven Heritage Society	£1,507.00
2 (20/21)	Area Allocation 2	Buchan	Mural	ArtVenture	£5,838.00
2 (20/21)	Area Allocation 2	Kincardine & Mearns	Mearns Writers	Mearns Writers	£6,000.00
2 (20/21)	Area Allocation 2	Kincardine & Mearns	Benholm & Johnshaven Heritage Society	Benholm & Johnshaven Heritage Society	£4,560.00

Allocation	Programme	Area	Project Title	Project Sponsor	Approved Award
2 (20/21)	Area Allocation 2	Kincardine & Mearns	Stonehaven Folk Club	Stonehaven Folk Club	£14,440.00
2 (20/21)	Challenge Fund	Kincardine & Mearns	Safety/ Coaching Boat Enhancement	Aberdeen & Stonehaven Yacht Club	£10,640.00
2 (20/21)	Challenge Fund	Banff & Buchan	Banffshire Harbours Ladders & Access	Aberdeenshire Council	£19,530.00
2 (20/21)	Challenge Fund	Banff & Buchan	Macduff Marine Aquarium Interpretation Project	Aberdeenshire Council	£35,882.48
2 (20/21)	Challenge Fund	Buchan	Sailing For All	Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust	£10,552.00
2 (20/21)	Challenge Fund	Formartine	Collieston Coastal Partnership: in-the-swim	Collieston & Slains Community Council	£15,857.49
2 (20/21)	Challenge Fund	Banff & Buchan	Basket Plough Dredge for removal of waste and debris from Harbour	Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners	£17,250.00
2 (20/21)	Challenge Fund	Banff & Buchan	Factory Development: Gourmets Choice Limited Portsoy	Gourmets Choice Limited	£19,155.00
2 (20/21)	Challenge Fund	Banff & Buchan	The Lighthouse Training Restaurant and Café	Museum of Scottish Lighthouses	£17,982.45
2 (20/21)	Challenge Fund	Buchan	Marketing Peterhead Town Centre	Rediscover Peterhead Ltd	£4,245.75
2 (20/21)	Challenge Fund	Kincardine & Mearns	Seafood Bothy on the Sea	Seafood Bothy	£43,500.00

Allocation	Programme	Area	Project Title	Project Sponsor	Approved Award
2 (20/21)	Phoenix Fund	Banff & Buchan	Joint Banff & Macduff Phoenix Fund	Banff & Macduff Community Council	£20,000.00
2 (20/21)	Phoenix Fund	Banff & Buchan	Fraserburgh Together	Fraserburgh Community Council	£10,000.00
2 (20/21)	Phoenix Fund	Kincardine & Mearns	Porty Info	Porthlethen Town Association	£10,000.00
2 (20/21)	Phoenix Fund	Banff & Buchan	Funding for Festivals	Portsoy & District Community Council	£5,000.00
2 (20/21)	Phoenix Fund	Buchan	Keeping Peterhead Safe	Rediscover Peterhead Ltd	£10,000.00
2 (20/21)	Phoenix Fund	Banff & Buchan	Outdoor Digital Display Unit	Rosehearty Harbour Inshore Fishermen's Association	£5,000.00
2 (20/21)	Phoenix Fund	Kincardine & Mearns	Phoenix Garden	Stonehaven Business Association	£10,000.00
2 (20/21)	BRASS	Cross-Area	Business Resilience and Sustainability Scheme	Various	£92,500
				Total	£711,143.37

APPENDIX 4 – PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE AWARDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Introduction

Crown Estate Scotland generates income from a range of marine assets (aquaculture, offshore renewables, moorings and other coastal income). Aberdeenshire Council receives a proportion of this income annually to be used for coastal community benefit such as support for local projects or initiatives. This framework aims to set out principles and outline processes for the use of this funding from the 2021-22 financial year onwards.

Eligible Area

The eligible area will be Aberdeenshire's Coastal Zone, as defined in the Local Development Plan, and any settlement which borders this. Projects taking place outside of this area and up to two miles from the coastline may be considered where they can demonstrate a strong and tangible link with the coast or sea.

Priorities

Funding will be targeted towards activities or infrastructure which support the following priorities:

- 1) Supporting the development of active travel routes along, to and from the coastline
- 2) Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism
- 3) Creating or enhancing community, leisure and recreational facilities
- 4) Safeguarding, restoring or enhancing the coastal environment

Projects must demonstrate a tangible link to the coast (either by location or theme).

Criteria

The following criteria will be taken into account when determining funding awards:

- 1) **Strategic Fit** – To what extent does the project align with the priorities of the framework, Aberdeenshire Council, Locality Plans and Community Action Plans?
- 2) **Cross-Cutting Themes** – Can the project demonstrate a neutral or positive contribution to the following themes?:
 - a. Equalities
 - b. Fairer Scotland Duty
 - c. Town Centre First Principle
 - d. Sustainability
 - e. Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing
- 3) **Legacy and Sustainability** – Will the project deliver a lasting legacy beyond its lifetime and be sustainable once grant funding has ended?
- 4) **Project Need and Demand** – Is there sufficient evidence that the project will meet an unmet demand?

In addition, the following criteria will also be considered for challenge fund grant applications:

- 5) **Need for Grant** – Is the grant requested the minimum amount required for the project to proceed and have other sources of match funding been adequately explored?
- 6) **Capacity to Deliver** – Does the delivery organisation have sufficient capacity (financial and people) to complete the project as set out and on time?

The following thresholds for grant will apply to challenge fund applications:

- Minimum grant - £2,500
- Maximum grant - £25,000
- A minimum contribution of 10% match funding for community, voluntary sector and public sector projects with wider community benefit.
- A minimum contribution of 50% match funding for commercial projects.

All match funding secured from other sources for the project activity must be transparently declared in grant applications and any changes to this funding package notified to the Council. The level of match funding provided will be taken into account in the evaluation of bids, with projects demonstrating greater leverage of match funding viewed favourably.

Both capital and revenue projects may be supported. All costs must be:

- 1) **Essential** – All project costs must be essential for the project to be successfully delivered
- 2) **Additional** – All project costs must be additional to core organisational costs which would be incurred even if the project did not go ahead
- 3) **Best Value** – Applicants must demonstrate that project costs are value for money and provide evidence to support this
- 4) **Actual** – Costs will be paid out on the actual amount incurred by the organisation up to the maximum contractually agreed amount

The following costs are ineligible for support:

- 1) Costs formally committed to or spent prior to the project start date
- 2) Costs incurred or invoiced after the project end date
- 3) Costs involved in winding up a company or organisation
- 4) Bad debts, fines, financial penalties and expenses of litigation
- 5) Payments not supported by invoices and/or documents proving expenditure
- 6) Recoverable VAT
- 7) Alcohol

Any assets funded by the project grant must be maintained in good condition, adequately insured and used for the purposes set out in the grant agreement for a minimum of 5 years after the project end date.

Commissioning

An annual allocation will be made to each coastal Administrative Area. Each Area will develop a plan or commissioning strategy to identify specific projects or initiatives which they would like to see taken forward, with Area Committees approving this. Commissioning may involve delivery through Council Services and/or the procurement of goods or services in line with the Council's procurement procedures. Areas may also jointly commission activity which crosses Area boundaries.

Challenge Fund Grants

A proportion of funding will be awarded on a competitive 'challenge fund' basis known as the Aberdeenshire Coastal Communities Challenge Fund (ACCCF). There will be a single application process, co-ordinated by the Council's Economic Development Service. This will involve:

- 1) Publication of a call for applications with a deadline and application form
- 2) Submission of an application form and supporting documentation
- 3) Assessment of the technical eligibility of each application by Economic Development Staff
- 4) Qualitative assessment and ranking of applications by the North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group (NESFLAG) or an internal Member Officer Working Group
- 5) Formal decision on awards recommended for approval by a Chief Officer of the Council following appropriate consultation with Elected Members

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

The following outputs and outcomes will be monitored:

- Number of new facilities created
- Number of existing facilities enhanced
- Number of jobs created (in Full Time Equivalent @ 37 hours)
- Number of new products/services created
- Number of volunteer opportunities created
- Length of active travel routes enhanced or created
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Increase in biodiversity
- Increase in revenue to sustain and grow the organisation

Administrative Areas will produce annual reports on their use of their allocation. Project sponsors will be required to provide regular progress reports towards agreed targets and a final report at the end of the project setting out what was achieved. Information from both Administrative Areas and external project sponsors will be collated and used to produce annual reports for Infrastructure Services Committee and the Scottish Government.

APPENDIX 5 – BANFF & BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE INPUT

Comment	Observations by Officers	Changes or Recommendations to Policy Committee
<p>Recommendations for ISC:</p> <p>a) All decision-making should take place locally through the Area Committee,</p> <p>b) Partnership working is very important when bringing forward relevant projects</p> <p>c) Projects should support economic development and regeneration</p> <p>d) Funding should be used to finish projects which had already started</p> <p>e) Health and wellbeing projects should be encouraged</p>	<p>The framework proposes final decision-making at Area level except for where project cross Area boundaries</p> <p>The framework proposes including the NESFLAG partnership in the assessment/selection process to bring in community, private and public partners</p> <p>A specific priority on developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism has been included in the framework</p> <p>The funding could potentially be used for later phases of projects underway as long as there was clear additionality and added value to what was already committed to or ongoing</p> <p>There is scope within priorities for active travel and community, leisure and recreational facilities priorities</p>	

Comment	Observations by Officers	Changes or Recommendations to Policy Committee
f) Coastal pathways should be improved g) Local industries should be supported including fish catching and processing h) All projects must be sustainable	A specific priority for supporting the development of active travel routes along, to and from the coastline has been included in the framework Support would be available for commercial projects and a specific priority for economic development is included in the framework One of the proposed assessment criteria is sustainability	

APPENDIX 6 – BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE INPUT

Buchan Area Committee, 1/12/20

Comment	Observations by Officers	Changes or Recommendations to Policy Committee
<p>Having noted that further allocations of funding from Crown Estate Scotland to the Council for the benefit of coastal communities are anticipated for future years and the input gathered to date through community engagement on the future use of the funding by Aberdeenshire Council, the Buchan Area Committee agreed to provide the following comments to Infrastructure Services Committee –</p> <p>(1) in respect of priorities for the use of the funding, to endorse the priorities as outlined in the report, in particular Active Travel and Path Networks,</p> <p>(2) in respect of the geographical coverage to support the development of a framework for the future use of the funding, to propose that the funding be targeted on communities physically located within one mile of the coast, and</p> <p>(3) having noted their concern that often a limited amount of time is given for dealing with applications, and that this can be a particular disadvantage to those groups who are</p>	<p>This is noted with the proposed priorities grouped together but all included in the framework</p> <p>A core area and a wider area up to two miles has been proposed in the framework</p> <p>Noted – Officers will write to the Scottish Government to request greater notice of</p>	<p>Amalgamation of proposals from Area Committees; core area based on Coastal Zone as defined in Local Development Plan and bordering settlements; flexibility for activity up to two miles from the coast</p>

Comment	Observations by Officers	Changes or Recommendations to Policy Committee
<p>unable to have projects at the ready, (a) to request that Officers make a plea to the Scottish Government for a longer timescale in terms of putting together an application, and (b) to note that by having a longer-term framework Officers hope to be able to raise awareness amongst groups</p> <p>The Committee further agreed –</p> <p>(1) to request further detail on the grant award titled 'Keeping Peterhead Safe' (Appendix 1) and that this be shared with BAC Members, and</p> <p>(2) to request that Officers consider the development of path networks in the Cruden Bay area as a potential future project under this grant scheme</p>	<p>allocations and/or further time to allocate and spend funding</p> <p>Further information on the award was sent by email on 1/12/20</p> <p>This activity is potentially eligible for support under the proposed framework</p>	

APPENDIX 7 – FORMARTINE AREA COMMITTEE INPUT

Formartine Area Committee, 8/12/20

Comment	Observations by Officers	Changes or Recommendations to Policy Committee
<p>Priorities for use of the funding</p> <p>a) The fund should follow a model similar to that used for the Town Centre funding which uses set criteria,</p> <p>b) The criteria / priorities should be in line with that suggested by the stakeholder engagement, which should also fit Council priorities, and</p> <p>c) Governance should be as local as possible – perhaps a panel made up of Area representatives as well as Economic Development and any other relevant services.</p> <p>Geographical coverage:</p> <p>a) The coastal zone within the Planning Local Development Plan should be used, with the addition of any connected settlements.</p>	<p>Set criteria are proposed in the framework, with a governance structure involving assessment against these criteria</p> <p>This is noted with the proposed priorities grouped together but all included in the framework</p> <p>The framework provides for direct Area involvement in the commissioning of activity. The challenge fund process would involve a panel including a range of community and private partners</p> <p>The main eligible area would be defined as the formal coastal zone and settlements which border it</p>	<p>Amalgamation of proposals from Area Committees; core area based on Coastal Zone as defined in Local Development Plan and bordering settlements; flexibility for activity up to two miles from the coast</p>

APPENDIX 8 – KINCARDINE & MEARNIS AREA COMMITTEE INPUT

Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee, 8/12/20

Comment	Observations by Officers	Changes or Recommendations to Policy Committee
<p>a) The Committee suggested linking future Coastal awards to Locality Plans, to ensure we include and support Communities,</p> <p>b) The Committee suggested the distance from the coast for projects should be one mile however would consider two miles as an exception if the project met the criteria,</p> <p>c) The Committee suggested the fund could be used to support the capital element of public toilets and provide funding to support the transition for a specific period of time,</p> <p>d) Committed supported the fund being used to support Active travel and Coastal paths,</p>	<p>Fit with Locality Plans and Community Action Plans has been built into the assessment criteria</p> <p>A core area and a wider area up to two miles has been proposed in the framework</p> <p>This activity would potentially be eligible for support under the proposed framework</p> <p>A specific priority for supporting the development of active travel routes along, to and from the coastline has been included in the framework</p>	<p>Amalgamation of proposals from Area Committees; core area based on Coastal Zone as defined in Local Development Plan and bordering settlements; flexibility for activity up to two miles from the coast</p>

e) The Committee is supportive of the headings under point 4.4 in the report,	This is noted with the proposed priorities grouped together but all included in the framework	
f) The Committee suggested a strategy approach to connecting coastal communities through coastal paths,	The aforementioned priority would support a strategic approach to the development of routes, with 'strategic fit' proposed as one of the assessment criteria for awards	
g) Members suggested the fund could also be used to support Harbours,	Harbours would be eligible for support through the programme	
h) The Committee suggested the Fund should be used to support the sustainability of the communities along the coast, through Tourism and Economic Development,	A specific priority on developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism has been included in the framework	
i) The Committee is supportive of match funding in principle, and	A minimum match funding contribution of 10% match funding (community benefit projects) and 50% for commercial projects is proposed	
j) Suggest the fund could be used towards the parking issues at Crawton Fowlsheugh, perhaps the purchase of additional land.	This activity would potentially be eligible for support under the proposed framework	

APPENDIX 9 – STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION REPORT

Crown Estate Scotland Funding Stakeholder Consultation Report

Introduction

Crown Estate Scotland (CES) manages land and property owned by the Monarch in right of the Crown, including approximately half of the foreshore around Scotland and virtually all seabed out to 12 nautical miles. Income is generated from these assets through licencing and leasing. A portion of this income is allocated to Local Authorities for the purpose of delivering benefit to coastal communities. Local Authorities are expected to manage this funding in an accountable and transparent way and report spend annually to the Scottish Government.

Aberdeenshire Council has received two allocations of funding from CES to date, with decisions on the use of this resource made by the Council's Infrastructure Services Committee. Further allocations of CES funding are expected in future financial years. In order to ensure that this resource is effectively targeted and can be disbursed efficiently, work is being undertaken to develop a longer-term framework for the use of CES funding in Aberdeenshire. In order to shape and provide evidence to support this framework, stakeholder consultation has been undertaken through an online survey and the following online events:

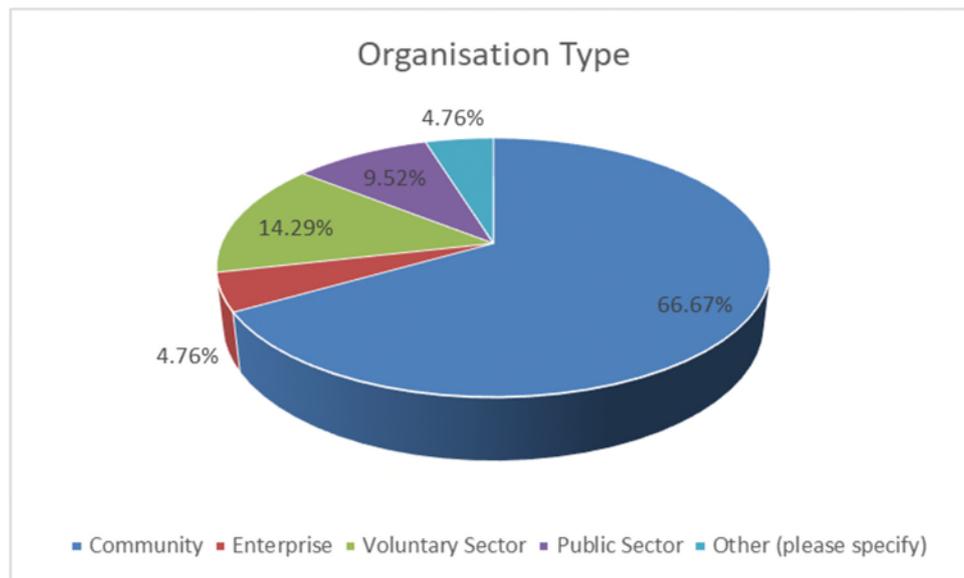
- 5 October 2020 – Buchan Community Engagement Session
- 6 October 2020 – Kincardine & Mearns Community Engagement Session
- 7 October 2020 – Formartine Community Engagement Session
- 8 October 2020 – Banff & Buchan Community Engagement Session

Further discussion took place at the Banff & Buchan Community Council Forum on 4 December 2020. This report aims to summarise input received through the consultation and engagement sessions.

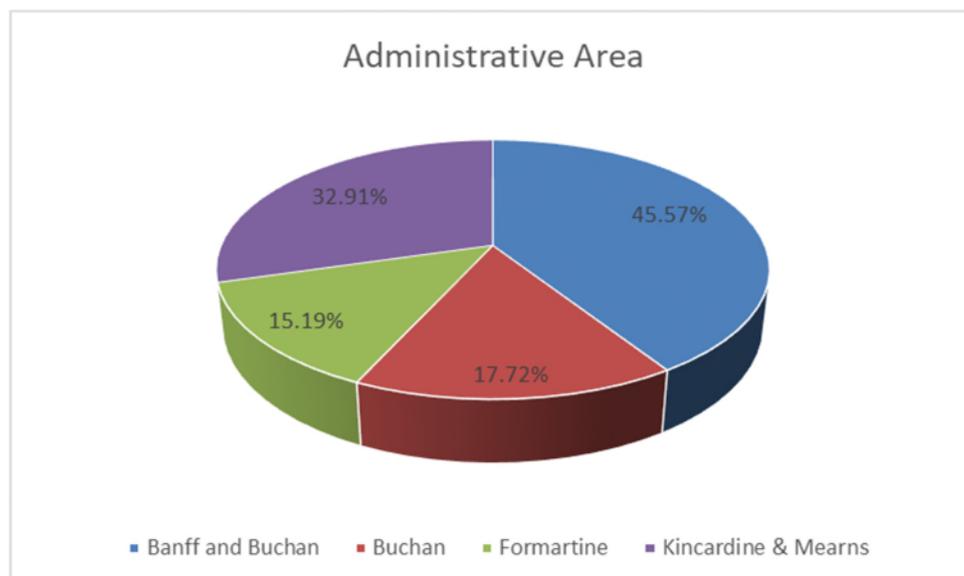
Online Survey

The survey was launched through a [press release](#) on 28 September 2020 and closed on 16 October 2020. 112 responses were received, with approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of submissions on behalf of an individual and $\frac{1}{4}$ on behalf of an organisation. Respondent organisations included Community Councils, Social Enterprises, charities and sports associations.

The majority of organisations identified themselves as being community or voluntary sector organisations, although submissions were also received from private and public sector contributors.



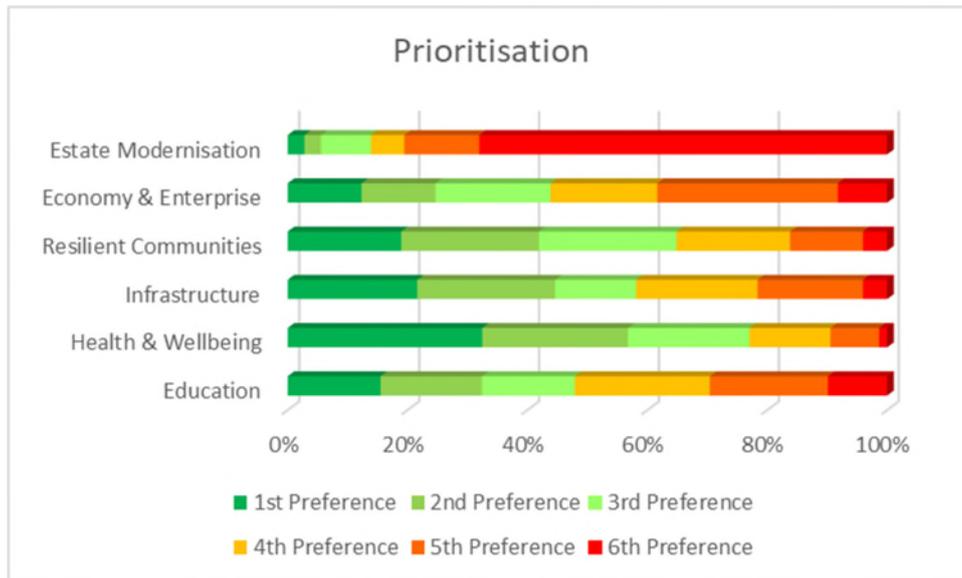
The majority (79) of respondents identified the Administrative Area in which they operate as follows:



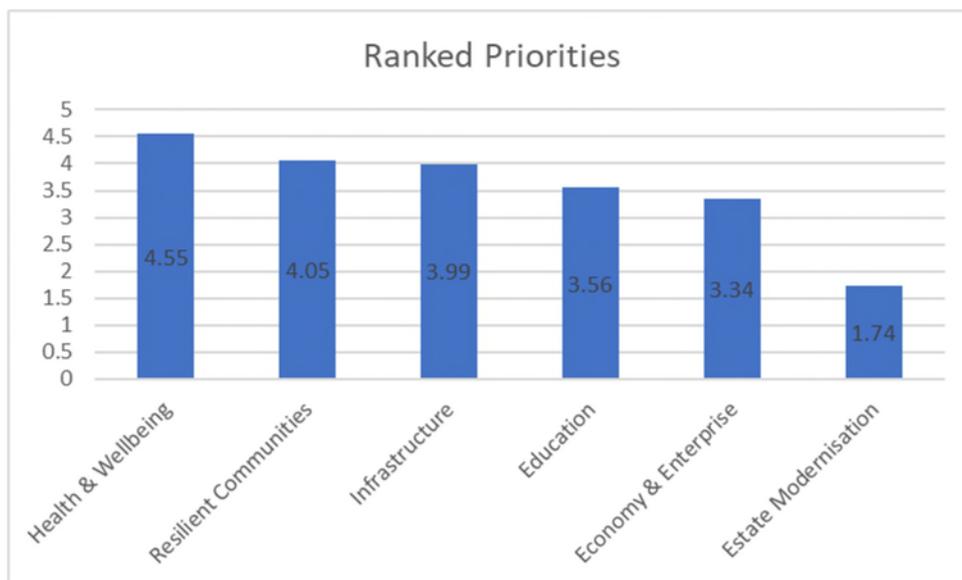
Respondees were asked 4 main questions regarding the prioritisation and targeting of the CES funding.

1) Which of the following priorities should the funding support? Please state order of preference, with 1 being the most important

78 respondees answered the question, with the following preferences:



In terms of 1st preference votes, 'Health and Wellbeing' was the most popular, but not majority, option (32.43%). Estate modernisation received a majority (68.06%) of last preference votes. An average score was also calculated for each priority, with the results as follows:



An option to suggest alternative priorities was provided, with the following proposals received:

- Walk/cycle paths
- Paths and stiles etc and their maintenance
- Active travel provision between communities in the area.
- Safety
- Charitable Enterprises

- Local conservation projects aimed at improving the health and stage of the marine environment for wildlife and community
- Conservation of our natural heritage and environmental sustainability
- Heritage and culture
- Community/sports facilities
- Art projects
- Environmental protection
- Projects that reduce our environmental impact/greenhouse gas emissions.
- Social Enterprises / Not for Profit companies

Some of the above themes appear to cross over a number of Council priorities:

	Health & Wellbeing	Resilient Communities	Infrastructure	Education	Economy and Enterprise	Estate Modernisation
Walk/Cycle/Active Travel Routes	X		X		X	
Safety	X	X				
Charitable/Social Enterprises		X			X	
Conservation of environment/wildlife/natural heritage			X		X	
Community/sports facilities	X	X	X			
Art	X				X	

One respondent also highlighted that the "Infrastructure" and "Economy & Enterprise" priorities should be equally weighted, with both their equal second-preference.

General comments received include a request for more detailed information on the Council priorities themselves (which were not formally agreed at the time of publication of the survey). A number of specific initiatives were also proposed, which have been grouped under Question 3 of this report. Specific comments received included:

“Ordinarily I would put education above all else, however, given the effects of Covid 19 on the economy and people’s health I have chosen these areas for priority.”

“The health of our ecosystems is increasingly important for human wellbeing, climate change resilience, and for the protection of our biodiversity.”

“All are a priority but without jobs and a strong economy we are only damping out the fire”

“As more and more people access the seas and coasts for health and well-being their interaction should be underpinned by an assumption of a safe clean landscape.”

“Our organisation is focused on practical activities which enable the public to benefit by interaction with the wonderful natural land and heritage that surrounds them. By restoring or reinstating the infrastructure of the coastal path, many benefits to communities will ensue, not least to the economy but also the resilience, health and wellbeing of those who live and visit there.”

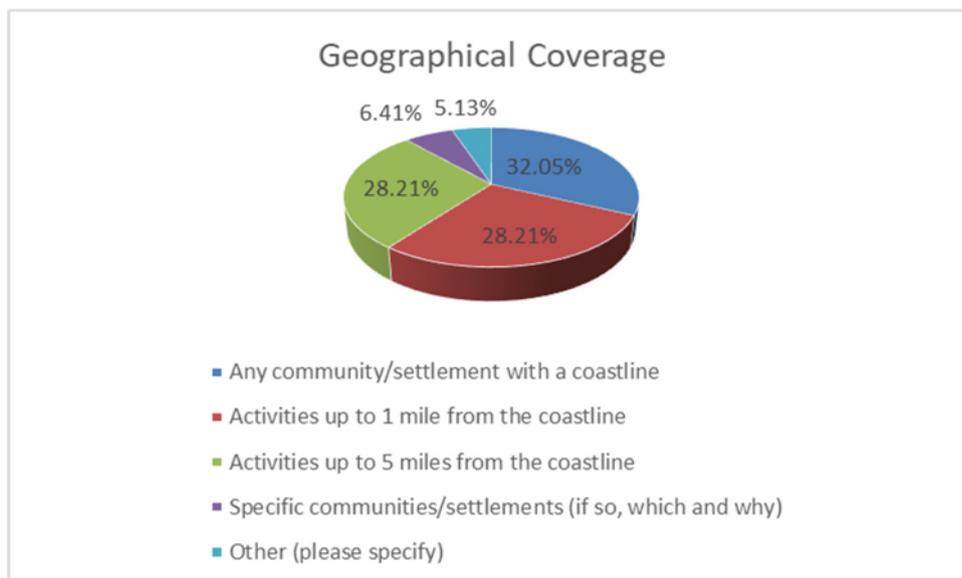
“We need to make sure that the coast is not increasingly urbanised or exploited so that we can support increasing biodiversity and supporting our natural environment.”

“I think all your other priorities are ok, but in today’s situation it is absolutely essential that reducing our impact on climate change must be included. These very same communities are the ones that are going to be impacted by flooding and more severe weather events. Making climate change & the environment must therefore be a priority.”

“Special focus should be on not-for-profit organisations that add a huge amount of value to our communities.”

“If people are not in the best of health either physically or mentally at work or home, then no one works to the best of their ability and everything suffers.”

2) Given the need to demonstrate coastal benefit, what should be the geographic area covered by the funding?



There was no clear preference regarding geographical coverage, with a fairly even split between any community with a coastline; activities within 1 mile of the coastline; and activities within 5 miles of the coastline. Specific comments received on this topic included:

“Due to the effects of Covid 19 I think each community/settlement must be viewed on its own requirements to take that community forward post Covid.”

“Our coastline is also affected by activities that take place inland. For example: recently it was highlighted in the media that sewage from farm run offs has a huge negative impact on our beaches.”

“The communities and coastline from Stonehaven to St. Cyrus need a lot more attention to keep them alive and functioning well. This Southern part of Aberdeenshire seems always to have received less funding, resources and facilities, than the rest of Aberdeenshire.”

“All settlements with treatment plants that output to sea.”

“The impact of CES activities goes beyond the foreshore and coastal communities”

“Communities upstream will impact coasts”

“Stonehaven harbour and the Tolbooth building needs attention it’s been neglected over the years.”

“The funding should target not only settlements or communities, but the coastline in between. This wonderful resource is at high risk from global warming, erosion and neglect, and needs our protection. This will benefit not only the residents but visitors who can be expected to contribute to the economic growth of the region.”

“Provide sensible parking for visitors. At present, residents of harbour area are often unable to access their homes due to parked vehicles.”

“Coastal towns have their own particular problems - beaches which need maintenance, coastal erosion and rapid decay caused by salt air and storms. Poorly maintained street lighting is also a problem, especially during dark nights. The strong winds seem to fuse the lights quite frequently. The dreaded potholes are also affected.”

3) Specific projects/initiatives: A wide range of proposals were made which can be grouped as follows:

Economic Development

- Job retention and creation
- Support to key sectors (e.g. hospitality and tourism)
- Encourage entrepreneurship
- Support to social enterprises
- New industrial units
- Support for inshore fishing

Tourism

- Caravan/Campervan/Camping facilities
- Adventure park
- Signage
- Heritage centres

Recreational Activities

- Outdoor education
- Outdoor activities
- Community education
- Art and cultural projects
- Encouraging physical activity

Active Travel/Paths

- Creating new routes for walking and cycling
- Linking existing paths
- Resurfacing, repairs and maintenance
- Increasing accessibility for those with disabilities
- Increasing access to beaches
- Increasing access to the coast for inland communities
- Improving parking
- Interpretation boards (history, ecology)
- Nature trails

Community Facilities

- Community centres
- Village hall restoration
- Parking
- Toilets
- Sports/exercise equipment
- Park equipment/benches
- Supermarkets in Stonehaven

Environment

- Tackling sewage run off
- Tackling litter
- Environmental education
- Conservation
- Protecting wildlife
- Habitat restoration/revegetation
- Land management
- Carbon reduction/sequestration
- Waste reduction/recycling

Infrastructure

- Bridges
- Coastal/flood defences
- Electric vehicle charging points
- Repairs/enhancement/improvement to harbours and piers
- Restoration/maintenance/repurposing of historic buildings
- Converting unoccupied buildings to residential
- Property maintenance
- Street lighting
- Road resurfacing



4) Please provide any further comments below on future use of the Crown Estate Scotland funding

An opportunity to provide general comments was provided, with the following responses received:

- **Train links inc signs to stations** from paths etc.
- **Local history** associated with local people. Who was famous in the villages?
- Encouraging **physical activity** is such a money saver on other services, mental health, NHS through healthier bodies.
- The funds must be used to **maximise the economy and not superficial projects that have limited wider benefit**
- Many of our fine beaches are located near to outflow pipes and/or close to currents that return the outflow to the beach. Hundreds or Thousands of **bathers have no idea their health is at risk.**
- **Community ownership** should be encouraged.
- **Provision of parking for motorhomes** in Stonehaven. In Germany there are stellplatze, in France has Aire's these are parking places specially for motorhomes, they have electric points, fresh water and waste water disposal places. These are well used and bring in money for the local economy.
- It would be good to see if any of the funding could be used to support **digital initiatives in coastal areas** as these are often peripheral to mainstream investment in digital infrastructure and innovation.
- The funds should be used for **activities and projects that enhance the coastline and the land, and those who live by it or use it.** There should be **independent review of the way that the funds are spent**, so that they are not misused for work that is not in the public interest, or not for public benefit. The materials and methods used should be as far as possible **sustainable, local in origin, and compatible with doing no harm to the land**, while preserving, restoring, enhancing and developing the land and its communities **using eco-friendly methods.**
- **Local landowners** should be involved in and rewarded or recompensed for enabling some of their land to be used for these purposes.
- The **benefits of walking and cycling routes** for the health and well-being of all age groups in local communities, the tourist infrastructure and development of local economies would be huge. Lockdown has shown that there is a **huge and increasing demand for accessible, well-signed walking routes** in the area for locals and visitors alike.
- The Crown Estates funding seems **an ideal opportunity for such a development**, and one that should not be missed.
- Please fund **heritage projects**, such as the **preservation of the buildings and infrastructure** of coastal communities such as Sandend.
- Invest to give **positive economic and health benefits** to the local people.
- **Maintain** what we already have

- Keeping our **town centres looking well kept**. Up to date signage, town fronts clean and well maintained. Picnic tables for visitors, easily found and signage, and at viewpoints
- Using it to **decentralise facilities, work opportunities**.
- With the decline in bird life in Scotland and so many animals under threat of extinction it would be good if **natural projects could be prioritised** to protect and support the natural environment. **Sustainable tourism projects** related to this would also be good.
- Thanks for allowing us to comment.
- There should be **very little restriction the use of the funds**. Not every project in a coastal community will be linked to the coast and that should not be a barrier to applications.
- **Better signage** - point the way to the town centre from all approaches. Information for visitors on foot. Have some **market stalls at the beach** during the summer months.
- Focus on the **coastal communities within 1 mile of the coast**.
- There are many areas of land in Buchan where the **land registry in Edinburgh cannot trace an owner**. Land and water sources are therefore **not being maintained**. these areas of land and water by law revert to the crown estate. Funds should be set aside for residents who are affected by these issues to apply for.
- I have a holiday let in Whitehills which has been almost fully booked in the last 2 years. The guests all leave reviews which state that this is the nicest stretch of the coast. They **love the scenery, food and the locals but usually mark us down on local facilities** so any improvements would be welcome. Most to come for **walking and cycling**.
- Elderly, disabled increasing to keep at home longer **Bring back' home helps** 'it is pointless carers going in to wash /dress people if they are unable to keep their surroundings clean. It would also help older and home carers looking after relatives after work some relief.

Buchan, 5 October 2020

A community engagement session was held on Monday 5 October 2020 to consult stakeholders from Buchan on future use of Crown Estate Net Revenue funding managed by Aberdeenshire Council. Following a welcome and introductions, a short presentation on Crown Estate Net Revenue funding was given. A discussion was then held on the following questions:

Which priorities should the funding support?

Participants highlighted strong potential links with Aberdeenshire Council's strategic priorities; notably related to the economy; community resilience; education; health and wellbeing. They suggested that priorities should be broad and open to support a wide range of projects and activities. However, it was noted that a balance would need to be struck between an all-encompassing programme and a more targeted approach taking account of the limited funding available. If the programme is too broad in scope, then there is a risk that a lot of community organisations invest time in developing projects which could not be resourced. It was suggested that scoping and mapping of funding streams would be helpful to identify the niche/gap where Crown Estate funding could fit and provide additional funding opportunities to communities.

What should be the geographic area covered by the funding?

Participants felt that while it was generally appropriate to target the funding on communities located within 1 mile of the coastline, it was equally important to include the whole settlement (i.e. not just activity physically within 1 mile of the coast). It was highlighted that demonstrating a tangible link to the coast or sea could be a challenge for some communities. Some communities are located within 1 mile of the sea but are not physically connected to it and don't necessarily consider themselves coastal. It was noted that there are different ways of demonstrating a link to the coast or sea – either physical proximity or an activity further afield which is linked to the sea or coastline.

Are there any types of projects or ideas which you think could benefit from Crown Estate Scotland funding?

Capitalising on the potential of Cruden Bay as a tourism hotspot was suggested. Furthermore, it was highlighted that a number of groups (horticulture, sports, village halls) are always looking for grant support.

Are there any further comments on use of the Crown Estate Scotland funding?

It was proposed that criteria should be clear on what cannot be supported by the funding rather than a limited list of what could be supported.

Kincardine & Mearns, 6 October 2020

A community engagement session was held on Tuesday 6 October 2020 to consult stakeholders from Kincardine & Mearns on future use of Crown Estate Net Revenue funding managed by Aberdeenshire Council. Following a welcome and introductions, a short presentation on Crown Estate Net Revenue funding was given. A discussion was then held on the following questions:

Which priorities should the funding support?

Participants suggested that physical links between communities and the coast and between coastal communities should be prioritised. By providing good quality and safe physical links, active travel and community wellbeing could be enhanced. Cultural and natural heritage were also put forward as priorities, as was responding to climate change. It was noted that there are a number of larger grant schemes which can support path infrastructure, such as the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme and Sustrans and that it was important to align different funding streams. Links to other funding streams and initiatives were also highlighted, including the Phoenix Fund activity in Newtonhill.

What should be the geographic area covered by the funding?

There was general support for funding to focus on an area within 1 mile of the coast. However, rather than funding being limited to settlements within this area, participants highlighted the importance of links between communities. They also suggested that as the Crown Estate funding is generated by maritime activities, it would be appropriate to focus on links between the land and the sea. It was highlighted that the previous Area allocation of Crown Estate Funding (which used the 1-mile limit) had encouraged a number of communities who had not previously sought support to apply for funding.

Are there any types of projects or ideas which you think could benefit from Crown Estate Scotland funding?

A number of project concepts were suggested, particularly focussed on coastal paths. These included physical improvements to the paths and marketing (e.g. through signage, websites, apps, social media etc.). Linking paths to coastal heritage, history and tourism was also highlighted as a potential opportunity.

Are there any further comments on use of the Crown Estate Scotland funding?

Participants suggested that it was important to preserve the cultural heritage we have now and educate and engage young people. The need for a transparent assessment process with a broad range of stakeholders when considering funding applications was also highlighted.

Formartine, 7 October 2020

A community engagement session was held on Wednesday 7 October 2020 to consult stakeholders from Formartine on future use of Crown Estate Net Revenue funding managed by Aberdeenshire Council. Following a welcome and introductions, a short presentation on Crown Estate Net Revenue funding was given. A discussion was then held on the following questions:

Which priorities should the funding support?

A broad range of priorities were put forward by participants, including support for community and leisure facilities. In particular, support for building capacity within communities, undertaking feasibility work/options appraisals and community asset transfers was noted. A further priority highlighted was sustainable travel and connections between communities; either between coastal communities or linking other communities to the coast. It was suggested that funding be utilised to help implement community action plans. As a high-level priority, encouraging behavioural change to reach net zero was suggested.

What should be the geographic area covered by the funding?

There was support for a broader geographic area being covered than the current focus on 1 mile from the coast. This reflects the geography of Formartine where there are a number of communities close to the coast, but not directly located on it. It was suggested that community council areas or parishes could be a useful in defining the eligible area.

Are there any types of projects or ideas which you think could benefit from Crown Estate Scotland funding?

A wide range of project ideas were put forward, both related to specific communities or the broader coastal area. Examples included improving the existing community centre and pier in Collieston. In particular, an opportunity to develop an income-generating community asset was foreseen through enhancing these facilities and linking to tourism opportunities such as beach huts or accommodation on boats. From both a tourism and leisure and recreation perspective, an opportunity to develop camping facilities or campervan sites (e.g. at Balmedie) was identified. Projects which enhance or the natural environment were suggested including tackling invasive non-native species and dune restoration. Participants also supported the development of long-distance walking and cycling routes, with the latter encompassing adventure biking trails and more accessible facilities such as e-bikes.

Are there any further comments on use of the Crown Estate Scotland funding?

No further comments were made.

Banff & Buchan, 8 October 2020

A community engagement session was held on Thursday 8 October 2020 to consult stakeholders from Banff & Buchan on future use of Crown Estate Net Revenue funding managed by Aberdeenshire Council. Following a welcome and introductions, a short presentation on Crown Estate Net Revenue funding was given. A discussion was then held on the following questions:

Which priorities should the funding support?

It was noted that the Council's strategic priorities would be a good basis to identify Crown Estate Funding priorities. In particular, there was support for infrastructure projects such as the development of footpaths and active travel routes. Participants highlighted the potential to link this infrastructure to cultural heritage in coastal areas. This could potentially support tourism, leisure, health and wellbeing.

What should be the geographic area covered by the funding?

Participants were supportive of a broad geographical area being covered. It was suggested that linking communities together, including linking more inland communities physically to the coast and sea could be beneficial. It was highlighted that many facilities attract visitors from and offer benefits to a wider geographical area.

Are there any types of projects or ideas which you think could benefit from Crown Estate Scotland funding?

Whilst no specific projects were proposed, a clear idea of developing active travel routes and linking these to cultural heritage emerged from the earlier discussion on priorities.

Are there any further comments on use of the Crown Estate Scotland funding?

It was agreed that in order to capture a wide range of ideas, it would be useful to continue the discussion in the upcoming Banff and Buchan Community Council Forum. Participants also requested further information on initiatives previously funded or proposed from other Areas to help generate ideas.

Banff & Buchan Community Council Forum, 4 November 2020

Coastal Communities – Priorities and Funding (Martin Brebner and Jamie Wilkinson)

Martin shared the Crown Estate Funding presentation. This fund has been allocated to Aberdeenshire Council and comes from marine assets and offshore windfarm licenses. The use of the fund is flexible provided it is allocated to coastal communities. Allocation of the fund is received on an annual basis. Two allocations have been received so far - £328K in tranche 1 and £443k in tranche 2. These allocations were shared between various programs with £25k given to each of the 4 Area Committees with coastlines.

Future allocations are expected but the amounts are unconfirmed. As part of the process to develop a framework, stakeholders and Area Committees will be consulted. Once the consultation process is complete, options will be presented to the Council's Infrastructure Services and a formal Council framework and policy will be initiated from 2021. Examples of projects previously supported by the fund are beach cleaning initiative; interpretations boards, development of coastal paths and cycling trails.

Q. A representative from Rosehearty CC asked if this fund could be used for a project they are looking at - to develop a cycle and footpath between Rosehearty and Pitullie.

A. The amount of funding available through the Crown Estates Fund may not be enough for such a large project but it could potentially cover elements at the start of the project e.g. engineering advice. The Community Council could then go on to seek national funding (e.g. 'Active Travel Fund'). This is the type of project which the Coast Aberdeenshire Project would like to hear about.

Q. A representative from Portsoy Community Council asked if the fund could be used to upgrade existing pathways. Portsoy CC are currently working with a group in Moray on the path which runs between Portsoy and Cullen.

A. This would sit well with the Coast Aberdeenshire Project and would link with the wider path network. Funding could only support work within the Aberdeenshire boundary. Once the Stakeholder groups are up and running, they will share the plans and maps she has, with the Council.

Q. A representative from Portsoy CC asked - Could the Crown Estate fund be used to upgrade the caravan site toilets?

A. A wide range of activities can be supported, and this is the type of activity that could be included. Tourism/infrastructure is coming in as a strong theme.

Q. A representative from Alvah & Forglen CC asked how far inland the fund is available.

A This is something that will be considered in the engagement sessions. In previous funding allocations a boundary of 1 mile from the coastline has been used. However, other Crown Estate Funds have used on a 5 miles basis. A suggestion has been made that even if part of a community is within the coastal area the funding should be available to the wider settlement.

Q. A representative from Whitehills CC. There is a popular coastal path from Whitehills Marina to Caravan Park at Banff Links. The picnic tables, compass rose, information boards and sculpture at the Marina side, which get many visitors, are suffering badly from erosion. There is a danger that some of that infrastructure will be lost. Would a project to preserve existing infrastructure be considered?

A. External funders tend to support something new rather than existing. Crown Estate Scotland don't have this restriction so it would be up to members if they want to use the fund in this way.

Q A representative from Whitehills CC - Is the man who is speaking to people about Coastal Paths, KM?

A. Yes, KM has been speaking to various people to gather a stakeholder list. He is doing this independently and is not employed by Aberdeenshire Council.

Q. Councillor Cox advised IM is doing something similar to the paths project. He stated there is a need to facilitate mobile vans. Suggestions would be town centre environment improvement to encourage people to come to our towns. A Theme Park for activities. Something to encourage economic growth to support development.

A. IM works part time on an Opportunity North East, Visit Aberdeenshire initiative. They are looking at an aspirational project, appraising options for a larger circular route. The Coastal Path forms part of the potential circular route. If we can deliver improvement on the North Coast that would be a subset of a potential, non-motorised, circular route. Coastal Communities Funding could support any of the options suggested by Councilor Cox.

Conclusions

There is clearly significant interest from communities and other stakeholders on the use of Crown Estate Funding in Aberdeenshire, based on the number of detailed responses received to the online survey and participation in community events. The input obtained is invaluable and provides a wide range of options for Aberdeenshire Council to consider when developing a framework for the use of the resources.

In terms of priorities, there appears to be a general consensus that the **Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Priorities are a useful basis upon which to target the funding**. There are differing views on which of the priorities are the most relevant, but overall the following are emerging strongly in the suggested priorities/activities:

- **Health & Wellbeing**
- **Resilient Communities**
- **Economy and Enterprise**
- **Infrastructure**

Whilst Education was a stronger priority in responses to the specific question in the online survey on priorities, it did not come through as strongly in the project suggestions submitted through the comments and the stakeholder engagement sessions. With regards to Infrastructure, many of the specific proposals put forward appear to relate to the statutory functions and obligations of the Council or private landowners/landlords. The Council may wish to consider whether other funds or policies may be more appropriate ways of taking forward these suggestions/issues than Crown Estate Funding.

However, some elements of infrastructure investment would appear to be non-statutory and also support additional priorities. In particular, investment related to **active travel routes** (including walking and cycling routes) and **tourism** has emerged as a theme which is of particular interest to stakeholders and can provide a wide range of health, well-being, environmental and economic development benefits to coastal areas.

What will be particularly challenging is getting the right balance between using the funds in a way which is both sufficiently flexible and responsive to the needs and demands of communities; and sufficiently targeted to deliver tangible outcomes and fill gaps where other resources are unavailable. Furthermore, there was **no clear consensus on what the geographical coverage of the fund should be** in the consultation responses. This provides further evidence that demand will exceed the resources available. As such, it will be a challenge to manage expectations as demand seems very likely to exceed the available resource.

Further work to map other sources of support and identify areas where Crown Estate Funding can have the greatest impact and added value may be beneficial. There is potential for Crown Estate Funding to be used to support activities for which no or limited support is currently available or to use the resource to draw in further funding from larger national programmes to deliver a wider range of activities of benefit to coastal communities.