

REPORT TO BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 30 March 2021

BANFF AND BUCHAN COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND 2020-2021

1 Reason for Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the decisions made by the Banff and Buchan Area Manager for the allocation of the Banff and Buchan proportion of the Coastal Communities Fund, to advise the Committee of additional funding that has been made available, and to ask the Committee to consider potential future use of the funds.

2 Recommendations

The Banff and Buchan Area Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 **note the decisions taken by the Banff and Buchan Area Manager to approve the funding allocations detailed in Appendix 1 to this report allocating the 2019/20 budget;**
- 2.2 **note the additional funding of £25,000 which has been allocated to Banff and Buchan to support coastal community initiatives;**
- 2.3 **agree to allocate £10,000 of funding to offer an additional contribution to enable the Coastal Aberdeenshire Project Officer to work with Banff and Buchan communities to expand on ideas and proposals arising from the Coastal Aberdeenshire Coastal Environment Strategy and allocate the remaining £15,000 to support the delivery of projects; and**
- 2.4 **agree to delegate approval of the project grants to the Banff and Buchan Area Manager following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.**

3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 In January 2020, the Scottish Government awarded the first tranche of funding from the Scottish Crown Estate (Marine) Coastal Communities Fund to local authorities. Aberdeenshire Council was awarded £328,314 for 2019/2020.
- 3.2 The Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC), at its meeting on 23 January 2020 (Item 13), agreed funding allocations and investments in strategic projects and an allocation of £12,500 to each of the four Area Committees which had a coastline.
- 3.3 The Area Committee, at its meeting on 16 June 2020 (Item 7), agreed to approve £2,498.50 to the "Light of the North" Lighthouse trail. The Committee also deferred consideration of an application for a Coastal Seaweed Industries Diversification Study so that more information about the project could be

gained. The Committee granted delegation to the Area Manager, following consultation at an informal meeting with Members on 31 July 2020, to award the remaining money. The Area Manager subsequently agreed to grant the award of £10,000 to the Coastal Seaweed Industries Diversification Study. Appendix 1 notes the full allocation of projects funded by the first tranche of Coastal Communities Money.

- 3.4 ISC, at its meeting on 14 May 2020 (Item 8), agreed that future funding from the Scottish Crown Estate for coastal communities' activity could be aligned with economic development Covid-19 recovery initiatives such as the Phoenix fund and the Business Resilience and Sustainability Scheme.
- 3.5 ISC, at its meeting on 20 August 2020 (Item 11), noted the amount of funding awarded in 2019/20 and 2020/21, and that a further £25,000 was to be awarded to the four Area Committees which had coastal communities.
- 3.6 Subsequently the Scottish Government confirmed that local authorities could extend the financial flexibility of this funding to the end of the financial year 2021-2022.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 The criteria for spending the 2020/21 allocation have been widened to allow the Council to use funds to support businesses, including Third Sector organisations in genuine need from the Covid-19 pandemic but this must still align with the general purpose of the funds to deliver benefit to coastal communities and the Council must be accountable to the communities to ensure transparent distribution of funds. Appendix 2 sets out the criteria of the fund.
- 4.2 Banff and Buchan has an allocation of £25,000 to be fully spent by March 2022.
- 4.3 Following informal consultation with Banff and Buchan Area Committee on 19th January and 23rd February 2020 it was agreed that relevant projects would be identified in order that suitable submissions be put forward to the Coastal Communities Fund. This is to include proposals that may come from the Coast Aberdeenshire (North) Project.
- 4.4 On 9 March 2020, Banff and Buchan Area Committee considered a report on Coast Aberdeenshire – Phase 1 (North) Project Update. The report presented the outcome of consultation with Coastal Communities and invited project proposals. Appendix 3 notes the Aberdeenshire Coastal Path Corridor project summary of which a number of projects were identified across Banff and Buchan.
- 4.5 At the same meeting, support for a Project Officer to take forward elements of the wider Coast Aberdeenshire projects was agreed. The post will support the delivery of a number of the more complex projects, including a focus initially

on the Cullen to Sandend Infrastructure. The Project Officer will aim to develop a wider number of coastal projects in partnership with local groups, assist with the establishment of a Project Forum, and delivery of the Management and Maintenance Strategy. The Project Officer will also support capacity building for local community groups, who are anticipated as key partners in the future management and maintenance of the coastal path assets.

- 4.6 It is proposed that a proportion of the £25,000 allocated to the Banff and Buchan Area Committee is used to further enable the Coastal Aberdeenshire Project Officer to work with Banff and Buchan communities to expand their ideas and project proposals. The allocation of the funds will be more clearly defined once the job description for the post is approved and fixed term contract finalised. At this point £10,000 is the estimated contribution required to ensure the post is full time for a period of up to 23 months. The remaining funds will be allocated to projects grants once more details are scoped out and verified. Grant application forms will capture viability against the criteria assessed. The grant application forms are attached as **Appendix 4** for information.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report may help to deliver the following Council priorities:

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Health and Wellbeing
Our Environment	Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy and Enterprise

- 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 The financial implication for the Council sits with £30,000 match funding to be allocated from the Planning & Environment 2021/2022, Cost Centre P370000

Access Project – North. The additional £10,000 funding will allow the project officer role to be full-time for a temporary contract period up to 23 months.

- 5.4 Equalities considerations will form part of the overall Coast Aberdeenshire Project. Individual projects will also be assessed and any impacts affecting protected characteristics will be reported to Committee as required.
- 5.5 The following risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

ACORP005 – working with other organisations (e.g. partnership working). This will be mitigated by ensuring that all parties are clear on the objectives of the funding and that deliverables and timescales are agreed and robustly monitored through the grant/service level agreement process.

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

ISSR004 Climate Change – The project should help support the change in behaviour to deliver the Council's Climate Change mitigation objectives.

ISSR002– Regeneration – Projects included in this tranche of Crown Estate funding may contribute to the delivery of Regeneration Action Plans in Banff, Macduff and Fraserburgh.

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 this item in terms of Section B.1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as this is a matter specific to the Banff and Buchan Area which is not otherwise properly delegated to any other Committee.

LAURENCE FINDLAY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**Report prepared by: Angela Keith
Date: 10 March 2021**

List of Appendices:

- 1. First Tranche Funding Allocations allocated by Banff and Buchan Area Committee
- 2. Banff and Buchan Coastal Communities Fund Criteria
- 3. Aberdeenshire Coastal Path Corridor – Banff and Buchan Summary
- 4. Grant application form

Appendix 1

	Name of Organisation	Project	Amount Allocated
1	Aberdeenshire Council	Fraserburgh "Light the North" lighthouse trail	£2,498.50
2	Aberdeenshire Council	Coastal Seaweed Industries Diversification Study	£10,000.00

Appendix 2

Criteria for the Banff and Buchan Coastal Communities Fund

Fund Eligibility:

- The site of the project or the community is within one mile of Aberdeenshire's coastline.
- Eligible settlements are; Sandend, Fordyce, Portsoy, Whitehills, Boyndie, Banff, Macduff, Gardenstown, Crovie, Pennan, New Aberdour, Rosehearty, Sandhaven, Fraserburgh and Inverallochy/Cairnbulg.
- As **sites** are specifically included, it is possible that applications will be received for projects taking place at coastal locations outwith any settlement.
- Such applications may come from groups or organisations representing communities of interest as well as of place (for example wildlife or environmental, arts or well-being groups).
- Projects must be led by public or third sector parties and have a tangible link to the coast and/or the sea.

This is subjective but, for example, it has been indicated that town centre public realm improvements will not be eligible unless they can be demonstrated to improve access to the foreshore, beach or harbour.

Examples of what is meant by a tangible link to the coast or sea are:

- Projects that help people to develop skills related to coastal or seafaring pursuits, activities or enterprises, for example sailing, fishing or boatbuilding
 - Projects that celebrate the heritage of coastal and seagoing communities of place and interest. For example, a coastal or fishing village or township, historic boatbuilding, or relevant clubs or organisations
 - Projects that improve access to coastal areas. For example, paths and viewpoints
 - Projects that improve the coastal environment. For example, applications to establish and support community groups looking after their coastline
 - Projects that improve community-controlled infrastructure such as harbours, boathouses and buildings.
- Projects must contribute to **at least** one of Aberdeenshire Council's priorities:

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Health and Wellbeing
Our Environment	Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy and Enterprise

- Grants must be a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £10,000.
- There must be a minimum of 10% match funding, which can be in-kind. Funding of up to 90% of projects will support deliverability within the timescale.
- Applications from organisations with an annual turnover of more than £250,000 will not be considered.
- Funding for core activities such as staffing, and overheads will not be eligible.
- Applicants will be required to submit a copy of their most recent, independently examined set of accounts, including their current bank balance and any funds therein which have been ringfenced for other projects.
- Applicants will be required to provide information on related funding applications, whether they have been successful and, if so, how much funding they have received.
- Groups require to be properly constituted and submit a copy of their Constitution or Memorandum and Articles.
- Applications which are solely or substantially for individual benefit will not be considered.
- Groups must be able to give an assurance that they will be able to complete their projects and have receipts submitted in time for the end of the financial year (31st March).
- Payment will be made retrospectively on receipt of invoices or other confirmation that the money has been spent in accordance with the proposals applied for. Payment will be made by BACS transfer to a group's bank account.
- The use of the budget or project must not commit the Council to recurring expenditure or maintenance.

Appendix 3

Aberdeenshire Coastal Path Corridor – Banff and Buchan Project Summary

Following community and stakeholder consultation, the projects identified in the Consultation & Engagement Report are summarised below. These have been listed in the order proposed for moving forward towards funding and delivery as part of the scope of the project. In particular, the projects have been listed with consideration of the current timescales, and the maturity of the project (ie. the extent to which it, and its appropriate group / entity is in a position to proceed with the project).

Project	Overview	Cost	Comments
Initial Projects			
Resourcing of Aberdeenshire Coastal Corridor Project Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek funding to support the continuation and further development of the Aberdeenshire Coastal Path Corridor Initiative over 2-3 years. Key initial task to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider further engagement works and / or delivery to the wider route and communities south of Peterhead. Support the development of the Path Forum and the delivery of the Management and Maintenance Strategy Further investigation and development of options to improve Sandend to Cullen routes and infrastructure responding to high level of desire from community engagement, and indication of intent and initial undertakings by local community council. Work to support subsequent listed project in appropriate development work and subsequent funding applications / delivery. 	Circa £30,000 per year salary and overhead costs	
Invercairn Path Project – Cairnbulg to Fraserburgh Path Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation and final stages of the development of a path between Cairnbulg and Fraserburgh, Includes infrastructure required for the crossing at Philorth (also noted as a key desire from community engagement). Significant work already in place with landowner agreements, feasibility and costings. Requirement to work with Aberdeenshire Council as landowner of final sections of the route. 	£122,000 plus VAT £146,400	Includes estimate for bridge crossing using existing masonry piers
Medium-Long Term Projects			
Infrastructure Improvements – Sandend to Cullen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Stakeholder engagement has demonstrated this to be a priority for improvements to the physical infrastructure. 	Unknown	A full options appraisal exercise is required in

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement has highlighted the Community Council as a key group who are working to address various existing issues. • Significant feasibility works will be required to identify the solutions and works to create or improve routes. • Consideration required around ecological impact and further damage. • Consideration required around landownership and agreements. 		
Clan Baird Society – St Drostan Project, Aberdour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project includes the preservation of St Drostan’s Church in the short term, and the provision of a visitor centre in the medium to long term, highlighting the heritage around St Columba and subsequent history. • Aim to incorporate pilgrimage trails. • Project to include archaeological work and surveys within the local area. • Group progressing this project with key stakeholders – Community Council, Aberdeenshire Council etc. 	Unknown	
Portsoy to Cullen Sustrans Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project looking to improve the NC Route 1 between Aberdeen to Inverness focusing on the Portsoy to Cullen segment. • Desire is to move this segment away from the A98 and traffic risks • Considerations of using former railway line and / or Kings Road 	Unknown	
Friends of Tarlair – Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing well established group looking to improve path access to the outdoor pool in Tarlair. • Group are looking also at land ownership / lease options to support development. 	Unknown	
Combined Outdoor Sports and Activities Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledging multiple groups and organisations providing outdoor sports – sailing, kayaking, etc. that would look to increase promotion of activities for local residents and visitors to the Coastal Path Region. • Accessibility of outdoor leisure would be key in the Covid Recovery plans or strategies. 	Unknown	
Fraserburgh Harbour Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe vantage points to view harbour • Golden Horn Lighthouse conservation 	Unknown	



**BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE COASTAL
COMMUNITIES FUND**

(Grants between £1000 and £10000)

Application for Assistance

Name of organisation:	
------------------------------	--

Contact name:	
Position in organisation:	

Address (including postcode):	
--------------------------------------	--

Telephone number:	
--------------------------	--

Email address:	
-----------------------	--

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with **the Banff and Buchan Area Manager** prior to submitting the application form.

Tell us about your group's aims and purposes (include details of your membership and evidence that the organisation has the right level of resources, skills, and capacity to deliver the project):

**Tell us what would you like to do and describe the need and support for the project? Include an explanation of how your project will be sustained in the future and also how any risks will be managed (e.g. shortfalls in funding).
You must include the site or location of your project.**

Please explain how your project has to tangible link to the coast and/or the sea and how it will deliver positive benefits including leverage of investment, economic growth, regeneration and rural or community development:

What is the total project cost? (The cost of everything related to your project, even the items or activities you aren't asking us to fund)

Please tell us the costs of each item or activity you would like us to fund:

Item/Activity	Total Cost	Amount Requested from Coastal Communities Grant
Total		

Total funds raised to date and the amounts raised (including grants, your own fundraising activities and donations):		
Source	Amount	Date confirmed
Total		

Other funding applied for (give details of the amount(s) and source(s) as appropriate – in particular Aberdeenshire Council sources):		
Source	Amount	Date confirmed
Total		

Will your project be completed by 31st March 2021?	
If you answered no, can your project be delivered in phases and if so please explain how this can be done?	

Aberdeenshire Council Priorities	
Tick the Council Priorities your project helps to deliver? (you must tick at least one)	
A strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the best possible transport and digital links across our communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide the best life chances for all our children and young people by raising levels of attainment and achievement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work with parents and carers to support children through every stage of their development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage active lifestyles and promote well-being with a focus on obesity & mental health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the right mix of housing across all of Aberdeenshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support the delivery of the Health & Social Care Strategic Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work to reduce poverty and inequalities within our communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver responsible, long-term financial planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the right people, in the right place, doing the right thing, at the right time	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protect our special environment, including tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>

Give details of how your project meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 ensuring that it will be inclusive and not discriminate against any members of your community:

Applicant Declaration: I certify that the information contained in this application is correct, and that I am authorised to make the application on behalf of the above group. I understand that decisions made by the Banff and Buchan Area Committee are final.	
Name (Please print)	
Signature	
Date	

Checklist – please attach the following items:

- Constitution or Memorandum & Articles of Association
- Your most recent verified accounts
- Two most recent bank statements
- Quotes/specifications

The application should be emailed to – banffandbuchanamo@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Please note that successful applicants will require to provide a short report on the project by no later than 31st March 2021.