

REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE 4 MAY 2021

COMMUNITY COUNCIL GRANTS 2021/22

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 The Committee is being asked to consider the allocation of Community Council administration grants for the Marr area for 2021/22 which provides each Community Council in the Marr area with a sum to assist with the administration of their Community Council for the year ahead.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 **Agree the allocation of community council administration grants for the Marr Area for 2021/22 on the basis of a fixed grant of £300 supplemented by an additional amount based on the number of electors in each community council area, as detailed in the appendix to the report.**

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 Each year the Council provides funding to Community Councils towards their operating and administrative costs. The budget for Aberdeenshire for 2021/22 is £65,000. Commitments for insurance, data protection registration, election expenses and community council events are top sliced from the budget and the balance is allocated between the six areas on the basis of a fixed lump sum per community council plus an amount per elector. The allocation of the budget to central costs and to each area is detailed as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 In recent years the Area Committee has agreed to distribute the budget allocated for this purpose to local Community Councils on the basis of a fixed base amount for each Community Council plus an allocation on the basis of the number of electors in each area.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the current approach be continued this year.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 Last year, due to the movement restrictions in force due to Covid-19 and the implications of this on Community Council elections, no elections took place and there were no requirements for an AGM to take place until later in the year. Because of this, and because it was considered that some Community Councils may require the funds to be available to them within the normal timescale, the requirement for audited accounts and AGM minutes to be provided in advance of the grant being released was relaxed for one year.

- 4.2 Arrangements are currently underway for elections to take place this April/May and we will be requesting relevant AGM minutes and audited accounts to date, in order to release the grants for 2021-2022.
- 4.3 The total budget for community council administration grants for Marr for 2021/22 is £9,183.
- 4.4 In previous years the Marr administration grant has been allocated to community councils on the same basis as the distribution of funding between the six areas, i.e. a fixed administration grant of £300 supplemented by an additional amount based on the number of electors in each community council area. It is proposed that the current approach be continued this year. The proposed allocations for 2021/22 are detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.5 The Council facilitates payment of insurance premiums on behalf of community councils. Where additional insurance cover has been arranged this will be deducted from the grant allocation prior to payment as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.6 The administration grant is intended to assist with the operating costs of community councils and can be used in any way the community council determines, subject to compliance with their constitution and the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. Community Councils also receive an additional payment for data protection registration. Where Community Councils have chosen to meet online, the grant can also be used to fund licenses for online platforms, such as Zoom.
- 4.7 It should be noted that due to lockdown and continuing restrictions, over the past year Community Councils have had to adapt and find new ways to conduct their business. The majority of our Community Councils are meeting remotely and have been able to continue to operate efficiently. For those that have not been able to meet due to difficulties, including poor internet, technical skills and other issues, we are working with them to discuss and advise about available options, to try to ensure that they can find ways to address the issues. In Marr, the vast majority of Community Councils have been able to transition to online or alternative working arrangements.
- 4.8 An allocation has been made for Tap O'Noth Community Council, which has recently dissolved. The grant will be held until a new Community Council is formed, to allow the new Community Council to receive an administration grant, for the 2021/22 financial year.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver the Council Priorities:
1 – Our People – Education, Health and Wellbeing;
2 – Our Environment – Resilient Communities.
- 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 is not required because the recommendations will not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 5.4 There are no direct staffing implications as a result of this report. The proposals are in line with the allocation of financial resources as contained in the 2020/21 Revenue Budget for Area Managers.
- 5.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to these matters on a Corporate Level: Budget Pressures (ACORP001); Working with Other Organisations (ACORP005), (see Corporate Risk Register).

No risks have been identified as relevant to these matters on a Strategic Level.

6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Their comments have been incorporated within the report and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Sections B.1.1 and B.3.3 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it may determine any matter that is specific to the Marr area not otherwise properly delegated to any other Committee and because it relates to the consideration of the award of grants to Community Councils within the approved budget.

Alan Wood
Interim Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Alison McLeod, Area Committee Officer (Marr)
Date: 31 March 2021

List of Appendices –
Appendix 1 - Proposed allocations for 2021/22

Community Council Budget 2021-2022(Marr)

	No. of Electors		Administration Grant			Additional Insurance (£) *	Additional Payment for Data Protection Registration (£)
	2020	2021	Fixed Grant (£)	Elector Supplement (£)	Total (£)		
Ballater & Crathie	1,663	1,626	300.00	267.00	567.00	29.00	40.00
Banchory	6,020	5,943	300.00	977.00	1,277.00		40.00
Braemar	443	438	300.00	72.00	372.00		40.00
Birse and Ballogie	352	352	300.00	57.00	357.00	2.98	40.00
Cromar	1,226	1,217	300.00	200.00	500.00		40.00
Donside	5,238	5,214	300.00	858.00	1,158.00	61.01	40.00
Feughside		841	300.00	138.00	438.00	40.01	40.00
Finzean	346	349	300.00	57.00	357.00		40.00
Huntly	3,505	3,452	300.00	563.00	863.00	102.66	40.00
Inchmarlo, Brathens & Glassel		525	300.00	86.00	386.00	36.00	40.00
Lumphanan	808	798	300.00	131.00	431.00	39.09	40.00
Mid Deeside	3,006	2,981	300.00	490.00	790.00	70.20	40.00
Strathbogie	1,842	1,828	300.00	301.00	601.00		40.00
**Tap O'Noth	1,388	1,369	300.00	226.00	526.00		40.00
Torphins	1,597	1,575	300.00	260.00	560.00	99.16	40.00
Totals	28,799	28,481	4,500.00	4,685.00	9,183.00		600.00

*Deducted from total grant prior to payment

** Community Council has been dissolved, and grant will be held pending re-establishment