

REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 25 MAY 2021

AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET – SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 The Committee is recommended to consider applications for Area Committee Budget funding from (1) Huntly Hairst; and (2) St Margaret's, Braemar, as detailed in **Appendix 1** to the report.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to consider applications for funding for a Small Grant Application for:

- (a) **up to £2,000 towards the cost of running the Huntly Hairst festival in the summer of 2021; and**
- (b) **for up to £1,300 towards the cost of signage for the building at St Margaret's, Braemar.**

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 The Area Committee, at its meeting on 30 March, 2021 (Item 7), approved priorities for expenditure of the Marr Area Committee Budget for 2021/22, including the provision of a Small Grant Scheme offering grants of up to £2,000 for community projects.
- 3.2 All grants must be paid within the current financial year. Projects awarded funding will be monitored to ensure they are progressing. Grant offers will be withdrawn if milestones are not met to ensure that the Area Committee Budget can be fully utilized.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to consider two applications for funding, as detailed in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The amount of the awards can be accommodated from within the current year's Marr Area Committee budget for 2021/22.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver the following Council Priorities:
- 1 – Our People – Education, Health and Wellbeing;
 - 2 – Our Environment – Resilient Communities.
 - 3 – Our Economy – Estate Modernisation

5.2 The table below shows risks and implications

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	X		
Staffing		X	
Equalities		X	
Fairer Scotland Duty		X	
Town Centre First		X	
Sustainability		X	

5.3 The Area Committee Budget for 2021/22 is £80,800 of which £27,300 has been allocated to the Small Grants Scheme. The current balance available before these awards is considered is £25,450.

5.4 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommendations will not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

5.5 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

5.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to these matters on a Corporate Level: ACORP001 Budget Pressures; ACORP005 Working with Other Organisations (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 and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

6.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.6.3 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the authorisation of expenditure from the Area Committee Budget.

Alan Wood
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Alison McLeod, Area Committee Officer (Marr)
Date: 12 May, 2021.

Appendix 1 – Project Outline and Costs

APPENDIX 1

(a) Organisation: Huntly Hairst

Project: Huntly Hairst – annual harvest festival for Huntly and district, to be held on Saturday 4 September, 2021.

Project Outline: The project aims to celebrate the food and traditions of Aberdeenshire, with an extended Farmers Market with over 60 stalls showcasing the best of local produce to cookery demonstrations and competitions, including the World Stovies Championship, a craft beer festival, street food and Kid's food events. Huntly's Room to Run event will also take place on the same day. Leith Hall and Gardens will open its doors on Sunday 5 September to host The Big Picnic, another family event with live music, foraging sessions and featuring Rare Breeds of North East Scotland.

The festival is organised by a group of volunteers and one paid event organiser, who completes the administrative part of the event. The event is free, based in the main square of the town and throughout Huntly and is loved by the entire community as it brings a massive increase in local trade.

The event is a collaboration of many community partners, with the Huntly Room to Run Event bringing runners from all over the world to run the tough but beautiful courses.

The aim this year is to develop specific areas of the event to showcase more food and drink producers in the Aberdeenshire area as well as helping the community to recover from the pandemic using the event to bring people together again in a simple, safe and enjoyable day.

The funding being sought will support the provision of a kids birthday fancy dress tea party for 100 children, kids online cooking classes for 60 children and covid safety equipment, including 7 hand sanitiser stations and supplies of hand sanitiser, and face masks.

Community Benefit and Support: The local and surrounding community benefits from this successful event. The event is run in collaboration with many different groups, including the Huntly Farmers Market, who have an extended offering 4 times the size of the usual monthly market, with producers coming from all over Aberdeenshire. The last event (in 2019) was extremely successful, with a large number of market stall holders, including Huntly Crafters who had 25 stalls. There are a number of local charities represented which allows them to fundraise on the day. Local businesses all reap the rewards of the increase in footfall on the day.

Project Costs:

Total: £9,700.

Amount Requested: £2,000.

Funds Raised: £2,500.

Other funding (£5,000) is being sought from Connect Regional Food Fund, and an outcome is expected by July 2021. Funding has been secured from Huntly Development Trust, Huntly Farmers Market and a small funding carryover from 2020.

Potential hurdles in hitting milestones re impact from Covid-19:

- Risk of a third wave of Covid-19 – a week of online events is planned so there would be no indoor demonstrations or talks;
- The Farmers Market would go ahead and would focus on food sellers;
- The room to run the event would have to stagger the start and finish times;
- Creating a one-way system around the markets, with cleaning stations at every entrance;
- Consideration being given to an App that will allow people to check in and out from the event.

Additional Information:

- The Hairst has been running for many years and in 2019, in order to ensure its continuation and growth, a paid co-ordinator was appointed;
- This year in order to proceed safely, the Hairst requires to purchase Covid-19 safety equipment, which is a new cost to the event, but it is proposed to hold more events than before through inviting all the local community groups and businesses to participate;
- It is proposed to host more food related events, and the funding sought will help to support these.

(b) Organisation: St Margaret's, Braemar

Project: St Margaret's, Braemar – to provide signage for building to publicise use of building for events and concerts and as an information point for visitors.

Project Outline: The project seeks to repurpose the Grade A listed St Margaret's, Braemar as an events venue by providing signage to signify that the building is now used as a concert venue, exhibition space, and as an information point for tourists and visitors to Braemar.

Work has been undertaken with Historic Churches Scotland to design signage which is consistent with the building and local environment. Discussions with the planning department at Aberdeenshire Council have been positive and a full planning application is currently being prepared.

Two signs are planned – one with the main title of the building, and the other with more detail on purpose and advertising of future live events.

Community Benefit and Support: St Margaret's is committed to supporting tourism in the area and improving the local economy, and works in partnership with local groups and businesses. The Trustees work with Braemar Tourist Group and collaborate with other local attractions, including Braemar Castle and Braemar Highland Society. They have a developing relationship with the Fife Arms Hotel working to increase tourism in the village of Braemar through high quality exhibitions and concerts.

Project Costs:

Total: £2,604.00

Amount Requested: £1,300.00

Funds Raised: £1,304.00

Potential hurdles in hitting milestones re impact from Covid-19: With the gradual easing of restrictions, it is considered that the project will be able to be delivered in the timescales proposed, and with appropriate measures in place to ensure the work is carried out safely.