

**REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 25 MAY 2021**

**ABERDEENSHIRE CHARITIES TRUST (ACT2) APPLICATION**

**1 Reason for Report / Summary**

1.1 This report presents an application for funding to ACT2 (Aberdeenshire Charities Trust) from Braemar Community Ltd, for £1,000 towards the cost of a development officer post in Ward 15.

**2 Recommendations**

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

Ward	Trust Purpose	Applicant
15	<b>The prevention or relief of poverty; the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.</b>	<b>Braemar Community Ltd</b>

**3 Purpose and Decision Making Route**

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

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

**4 Discussion**

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

4.2 The applicant has been invited to attend the meeting and has confirmed that they do not wish to address the meeting.

4.3 The application has been assessed by officers from Legal and People and Finance and it is considered that the application does not meet the purposes

set out in the Trust. Although it is related to affordable housing, the funding sought is to contribute towards the funding of a development officer post, and it is not considered to be directly linked to the prevention or relief of poverty. Ultimately, it is for the Trustees to decide if they are content that it does meet the purposes set out in the Trust.

## 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 The report helps deliver:  
Council Priority 1 – Our People - Education, Health & Wellbeing;  
Council Priority 2 – Our Environment - Infrastructure, Resilient Communities; and  
Council Priority 3 – Economy & Enterprise, Estate Modernisation.
- 5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed.

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

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

Ward and purpose	Revenue	Capital
Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside (Marr Area) Ward 15 – the prevention or relief of poverty	£1,715.52	0.00

- 5.4 An equality impact assessment is not required because Section 193 of the 2010 Act contains an exemption for charities which make positive discrimination to groups or individuals on the basis of their disadvantage. Insofar as the charity purposes discriminate positively in favour of individuals or groups on the basis of poverty, age, disability, or other disadvantage, there is no discrimination on the basis of any other protected characteristic (such as gender or religion). No negative impact on any individual or group as a result of this report has been identified.
- 5.5 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.
- 5.6 There is no financial risk of the Committee decision, however the financial implication will be that a greater proportion of Area Committee funds will transfer to education, health and science within Marr.

5.7 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: ACORP001 - Budget Pressures; ACORP005 - Working with Other Organisations (see Corporate Risk Register). No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level.

## **6 Scheme of Governance**

6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Any comments are incorporated within the report and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

6.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.2.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the administration of trusts controlled by the Council for the benefit of their Area.

**Alan Wood**  
**Director of Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared by Alison McLeod, Area Committee Officer (Marr)  
Date: 21 April, 2021

## **Appendix 1 – Project Outline and Costs**

## APPENDIX 1

**Applicant:** Braemar Community Ltd

**Trust Ward and Purpose:**

Ward 15 – the prevention or relief of poverty; the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

**Amount Applied for:** £1,000.

**Why the Funding is required:** the funding is required to continue to fund a development officer post for the development of 15 low-carbon, affordable homes for rent within Ward 15.

Braemar Community Ltd (BCL) is taking forward a community-led development of 15 low-carbon, affordable homes for rent, to address the issues of a lack of affordable housing and very high average house prices in Braemar. The homes are being designed to achieve the Passivhaus level of energy efficiency, ensuring that the occupants are prevented from ever suffering from fuel poverty and that climate changing greenhouse gas emissions from the homes are minimized.

The project has a steering group of volunteer members and employs a project development officer (from charity Rural Housing Scotland) for 2 days per week to co-ordinate all aspects of the project.

The officer has been in post since February 2020 and has helped BCL to secure over £150,000 of funding; secure in-principle funding offers totalling £2.6m from the Scottish Government and a mortgage lender for the construction of the homes; tender for and appoint an architect-led design team to develop design proposals, engage with the community and prepare a planning application; purchase the site for the new housing and co-ordinate all steering group members and the design team's input.

As the only paid person working on the project, the Development Officer's role is essential in moving the project forward. To date the post has been paid by funding from a combination of CNPA and Marr Area Committee. Funding support from Aberdeenshire Charities Trust will help to continue this essential role.

**Who will the Funding help:** The funding will help in the creation of 15 affordable, low carbon homes – around 60% of current housing need in the village of Braemar. With the homes being designed to a very high level of energy efficiency, they will ensure low heating costs for residents, helping to prevent fuel poverty.

**Other Funding Applied for:** Other applications for funding have been made to:

- Nationwide Community Fund (£20,000);
- Bank of Scotland Foundation (£20,000);
- Baillie Gifford Community Awards (£5,000);
- Stafford Trust (£5,000);
- National Lottery Awards for All (£10,000);

- National Lottery Community-Led Fund (£10,000);
- Fore Trust (£30,000)