



REPORT TO GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE – 22 JUNE 2021

AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET - AREA INITIATIVE FUND AND STRATEGIC BUDGET - 2021/22

1 Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report presents for consideration all the requests for funding received for the Area Initiative Fund by closing date 31 May 2021 and potential projects for funding from the Garioch Area Committee Strategic Budget 2021/22.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:-

- 2.1 **determine whether to grant the following awards from the Area Initiative Fund, details in Appendix 1 :-**
- a. **£5,000 to Home Start Garioch towards volunteer expenses;**
 - b. **£2,000 to Westhill Men's Shed towards the repair of its roof;**
 - c. **£558.60 to Kemnay Community Council towards festive lights;**
 - d. **£3,879.15 to Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust towards six replacement boats;**
 - e. **£5,000 to Garioch Rugby Football Club towards professional fees for the development of additional community facilities in the new pavilion;**
 - f. **£1,750 to Newmachar Community Council towards festive lights;**
 - g. **£2,046 to Westhill and Elrick Community Council towards path drainage;**
 - h. **£4,858.97 to LATNEM towards mental health support resources;**
 - i. **£1,560 to Kemnay Community Council for repair of the path at Fetternear Estate;**
 - j. **£4,900 to Action Kintore for repair of Kintore Bothie.**
- 2.2 **note the feedback on projects considered by elected members on 23 March for Strategic Budget in Appendix 2;**
- 2.3 **consider and agree how to allocate Strategic Budget to the proposed projects in Appendix 3;**
- 2.4 **acknowledge the update on the Strategic Budget projects for 2020-2021 in Appendix 4; and**
- 2.5 **acknowledge the decisions made by the Garioch Area Manager in respect of the Small Grants Fund in Appendix 5.**

3. Purpose and Decision Making

- 3.1 The Area Committee is asked to consider and determine the applications to the Area Initiative Fund, consider and agree the allocation of the Strategic Budget and note the approved applications from the Small Grants Fund.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 At its meeting on 20 April 2021, Garioch Area Committee considered the allocation and criteria of the Area Committee Budget for 2020/21 and agreed to allocate it as follows:-

- a. £5,000 towards a Small Grants Fund;
- b. £25,800 towards an Area Initiatives Fund; and
- c. £50,000 towards a Strategic Budget.

- 4.2 It was further agreed: -

That the Area Initiative Fund:-

- a. has a maximum grant of £5,000 except for festive lights, which remains at £1,750;
 - b. will fund up to 50% of the total project cost; and
 - c. sets two dates for closure of applications (May and October) with the opportunity for emergency applications to be brought outwith these dates if required.
- 4.3 As of 31 May 2021, ten applications have been received from organisations in Garioch. Information taken from each of the application forms has been provided as **Appendix 1** to the report. Officers consider that all the proposed projects comply with at least one of the themes and meet the criteria for the Area Initiative Fund.
- 4.4 The total Area Initiative Fund available is **£25,800**. If all the applications were granted in full, they would total **£31,552.72** which is over subscribed. The Committee will have to determine how to allocate the funding to the applicants.
- 4.5 However, Committee is advised that it is possible to reallocate funds from the Strategic Budget to cover any shortfall. Standing Order 7.2.1.b allows the Chair to note the change in circumstances and for the decision to allocate £50,000 (as made with six months) to be amended.

Strategic Budget

- 4.6 The proportion of the budget identified as Strategic Budget would normally comply with the following requirements;
- i) projects should advance or be aligned with the Council Priorities;
 - ii) projects should be of significant benefit to the local area

- iii) projects should be identified through local community planning processes or demonstrate that relevant community consultation has taken place
- 4.7 The Committee held an informal session on 23 March 2021 to identify and consider potential projects for funding from the Strategic Budget for the current financial year taking into account projects that were carried forward from the previous year’s consideration, but also to identify potential longer-term projects for future years. The result of the informal discussions is in **Appendix 2**.
- 4.8 The projects identified by Committee plus those that have been proposed by Officers as able to be completed within the current financial year are detailed within **Appendix 3** to the report. The Committee is asked to consider the detail of these proposals and determine which and how these projects should be funded from the Strategic Budget. The total Strategic Budget available is **£50,000**. If all applications were approved this would total **£75,269** which is significantly over subscribed. The Committee will have to determine how to allocate the funding to the applicants.
- 4.9 For information the projects that were approved for last year’s Strategic Budget are detailed in **Appendix 4**. Further updates will be provided as the ongoing projects progressed.

Small Grants Fund

- 4.10 Finally, Committee requested updates on the Small Grants Fund that is being managed the Area Manager and Area Team. The approved applications are detailed in **Appendix 5**.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priorities ‘Health & Wellbeing’ within the pillar ‘Our People’, ‘Resilient Communities’ and Infrastructure within the pillar ‘Our Environment’ having the right people in the right place at the right time.
- 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	EIA attached as Appendix 6		
Fairer Scotland Duty	EIA attached as Appendix 6		
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 6** and there is a positive impact as follows. The Home Start Garioch project will have a positive effect on families with young children by providing them with the support they require. Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust will have a positive effect on school age children including those with a disability by providing them with the opportunity to learn a new skill and raise their self-confidence. LATNEM will have a positive effect on new mums particularly those struggling with mental health by providing them with a range of support and resources.
- 5.4 Officer time will be required to deliver the council-based projects. This will be managed within the Service and in accordance with the Council's managed Recovery Strategy and applicable governance process. The management of the strategic budget will be undertaken within existing area office resources.
- 5.5 The budget available for strategic projects is £50,000, approval of all of the projects identified requested for this financial year to the maximum level of requested funding would require £75,269. If Committee wishes to support all of the projects, then reduced amounts will have to be considered for some or all of the projects.
- 5.6 If funding is allocated to a project that will be delivered by a community group, the Financial Regulations will be applied as will the requirements of the Following the Public Pound.
- 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. (Corporate Risk Register).

No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level (Directorate Risk Registers).

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 are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider and approve this item in terms of Section B.6.3 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as the matter relates to expenditure from the Garioch Area Committee Budget.

Laurence Findlay

Director of Education and Children's Services

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14 June 2021

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Details of projects for consideration from Area Initiative Funding

Appendix 2 – Proposed Strategic Budget Projects 2021/22 suggested at meeting on 23 March 2021

Appendix 3 – Complete list of Strategic Budget Projects for consideration 2021/22

Appendix 4 – Update on Strategic Budget Projects 2020/21

Appendix 5 – Update on Small Grants Fund

Appendix 6 - EIA

Details of projects for consideration from Area Initiative Funding

Appendix 1a

Organisation:	Home- Start Garioch
Project	Volunteer Expenses
Total Project Amount	£11,000
Amount requested	£5,000
Other funding	£6,000 has been raised through the Kiltwalk this year
Details and Outcomes	
<p>Home-Start Garioch provides supports families with at least one child under the age of 5 who are struggling for a variety of reasons. Families are referred by usually statutory services although we do receive referrals from other third sector organisations. Families can and do refer themselves.</p> <p>We fully anticipate that once the statutory services commence home visiting there will be a huge rise in referrals for support. To be able to meet this demand we will recruit and train new volunteers and provide ongoing support to them and existing volunteers. Living in a largely rural area, volunteers can travel quite a distance to support their families. Volunteer travel expenses are a considerable cost.</p> <p>A volunteer is going into the home to offer support as a friend and so it is essential that the match between the volunteer and family is right. If we get it wrong, it just doesn't work. We don't match on a first come, first service basis, we don't match because it's convenient that they live within the same locality, we match because we think that the support will be well received and bring about a positive change for the family.</p> <p><u>Healthier Communities. Connected Communities</u></p> <p>98% of families referred to Home-Start Garioch identify that they have poor mental health. This impacts on their ability to cope with the day-to-day challenges they face. Poor mental health impacts on all aspects of their life, parenting, working, relationships and physical health. The recent lockdown has contributed to an existing mental health problem. Some families who prior to the lockdown were unable to go out and make use of resources within their community have felt the impact less as they couldn't go out and that made it ok, for others who had started to recover, it has sent them backwards. For many families, they are now afraid to go out, see people, engage and socialise. With the support of Home-Start Garioch we will bring about change. A volunteer going in offering friendship and support can take the time to build and establish a friendship of trust. Supporting and gently encouraging parents to go out with their children, or at the start, just allowing their child to go out to the park with their volunteer. Play in the fresh air, socialise with their peers.</p> <p>70% of families will report improved mental health within the first review visit as a result of being matched to a home visiting volunteer.</p>	

Garioch is a largely rural area with expensive, infrequent public transport. For a mum with 3 children under 5, coming to an appointment, shopping, using a community group can be very difficult. A volunteer can help with that by, being an extra pair of hands to help, accompanying the parent. In addition, they can help with the transportation, or mind the children to allow the parent to attend her appointment. For some parents without transport of their own, if they are not on a public transport route, they are totally cut off. While extensive use of digital support has been invaluable during the lockdown, we know that for many of the parents, they have needed the face-to-face support, they have needed to be out.

80% of mums will report feeling less isolated within their first review.

New mums with babies born in lockdown have missed out on the opportunity of antenatal classes, the opportunity to meet other new mums to be, to form a peer support network that new mums usually do at these classes. They have been unable to have friends or families visiting and so have become extremely isolated with poor confidence in their ability. Having a good knowledge of the local area, our coordinators, volunteers can set up and support small peer groups of mums to go out walking together, make connections, friendships and peer support so that when groups reopen in the community, they can support each other to attend. Making connections with other new parents allows them to share concerns, worries and achievements. Allows them a level of support at any time with messages online or on the phone. Convenient and can be responded to when a parent has the time to do it.

100% of mums will be contacted and an initial visit arranged within 2 days of receiving a referral.

100% of families will be offered an initial visit within 1 week of receiving a referral.

100% of families will identify with their co-ordinator how we can best provide support to them.

100% of families will be offered a review 3 monthly to evaluate the support and see if it needs to change or be adapted.

Community Support

Families referred to Home-Start at their initial visit, discuss the reasons for referral. This is reviewed every 3 months. Volunteers supporting a family receive support and supervision 6 weekly. It is during these meetings that we develop a good understanding of what is going on for the family, the issues they are facing and how support can best address them.

During the first and at the end of the first lock down, as well as weekly conversations with the families and volunteers we put out a survey and the findings were very clear. Families were feeling increasingly isolated, struggling with their mental health which in turn impacted on their physical health. No motivation to go out, exercise or get fresh air. It became a vicious cycle and when lockdown lifted, they found themselves not going out. Because of this, when the second lockdown came (and within government regulations) we were able for families in need to continue to provide the service they needed such as face to face visits, supporting and encouraging the families to go out for walks, taking children to the park to play, see other children and play together. Look at how we could support new mums who had missed out so much, especially working mums who had stopped prior to the lockdown or during the lockdown and then had their baby. Out of the 16 new mums

referred to us during the second lockdown, 14 are now walking in their own established wee groups and 6 of them have gone onto receive a home visiting volunteer. For the other 8, taking the time on a one to one, developing and introducing them to a peer group has provided them with the support they need.

Maintenance Arrangements

As a service we have continually evolved to meet the needs of the families referred to us. Ongoing reviews and evaluations ensure that we change and adapt to as required within our core values.

Ongoing risk assessments are continually reviewed to ensure we meet the requirements of the Scottish Governments with regard to providing support.

3 monthly reviews with the family supported by a volunteer or a group to ensure that as a service we are providing that they need and as their needs change, we change the support or bring to an end.

Appendix 1b

Organisation:	Westhill & District Men's Shed
Project	Replace entire 270 m2 roof with new PVC roofing, insulation, fascia board, guttering and down pipes
Total Project Amount	£38,000
Amount requested	£2,000
Other funding	£ 5,500 Robertson Trust - secured £10,000 National Lottery Community Fund - secured £20,000 Men's Shed Reserve Funds – secured £500 Men's Shed income
Details and Outcomes	
<p>Improving Appearance and Maintenance The Men's Shed has been at its current location since start-up in 2012. The building was previously used as the Westhill Library for almost 30 years. We recently added a 100 m2 portacabin extension to meet the increasing attendance at the Shed. The Council has agreed to extend our lease until 2037. The flat roof of the original building has had issues for a few years with leaking rainwater that has been repaired on a regular basis. Now that we have a long lease, we feel it is incumbent on us to solve the problem and stop the gradual deterioration with a completely new roof. This will guarantee the integrity of the Shed for years to come.</p> <p>Healthy Communities At the Men's Shed, we aim to improve the physical and mental health of disabled, unemployed, and older men, by providing a place for socialising, sharing skills, and working on community projects. The popularity of the Shed shows how much it is valued by the members, and the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership acknowledged it by helping fund part of the recent extension. The new roof will enable us to continue offering these services</p> <p>Strong Communities As the Shed grew in the past ten years, we realised that we could widen our focus and expand the services we offer to include many sectors of the community. Four years ago, we started a "She Shed" group that has grown to around 30 female members. In addition, there are several groups and clubs that use the Shed as a meeting place for their activities. We have weekly meetings of a Bridge group, a Model Railway club, a Guitar circle, and a Winter Lecture Series on health and social issues.</p> <p>Just before lockdown we agreed for the Westhill First Responders to use the Shed as their base on the evenings they are on duty. It is a warm place for them to meet and train with access to our kitchen and rest rooms.</p> <p>In addition, a large percentage of the work in the Shed goes to projects supporting local schools and charities. In April 2020 we won national attention when a Covid Project Group</p>	

was quickly drawn together. Shed members with 3D printers made and delivered nearly 3000 Face Shields for Aberdeenshire Council, care homes and essential workers in local businesses.

Community Support

After discussion, the Shed membership prioritised this major repair because the leaks regularly restricted use of sections of our workshops and threatened the long-term use of the building.

The importance of this project was recognised by the fact we received maximum grants from both the National Lottery Community Fund (£10,000) and the Robertson Trust (15% of total cost) two of the most experienced charitable funders in Scotland.

The Shed Trustees agreed to spend £20,000 from our funds on the new roof. That will leave us with £4,000 for current re-start operations and £9,000 in our reserve fund which would cover 6 months normal expenses.

Shed has been closed because of the pandemic for about a year. However, we are now starting back up on a limited basis and hope to return to normal operations soon.

Maintenance Arrangements

As part of our lease arrangements, we have taken on responsibility for the Shed maintenance. Fortunately, we have a wide range of practical skills among the Shed members willing to help out.

We seek help from outside funders only for large capital expenses like the new roof and the portacabin extension.

The re-roofing project will be managed by Shed Chairman, Dave Thomson. After finalising arrangements with A&B Buchan of Alford, the work is expected to be finished by October 2021.

Appendix 1c

Organisation:	Kemnay Community Council
Project	Festive Lights
Total Project Amount	£1,117.20
Amount requested	£558.60
Other funding	£1,616.61 from fundraising
Details and Outcomes	
<p>We are undertaking a rolling replacement of our village Christmas lights display. Some of our current stock are nearing the end of their lifespan, and an update to LED lights is more viable for the future. This year, we are looking to purchase motifs to replace the lights that no longer work. Our lights run through the main street of the village of Kemnay, along with the High Street. If we are unable to source funding to help maintain our stock, future displays will be restricted by the amount of lights we can replace. We hope to receive our new motifs by September, ahead of the 2021 festive period.</p> <p>The Christmas lights in Kemnay have been a staple of the village community for more than a decade. Especially in the last year, the display brightened up our main street in which was a difficult Christmas, to say the least. Funding will help maintain our current display and also allow us to enhance it, in the future. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, we held a Christmas Event, which involved a light switch on, on our green, and an event in our village hall. Our motifs were a central part of that, lighting up the main street throughout the village as a piper led a procession to the village green, for the switch on of our Christmas tree lights. Funding will allow us to continue to have a display for years to come.</p>	
Community Support	
<p>We have a sub-committee dedicated to the maintenance and rolling replacement of the motifs. We have also had the support of local businesses, who have agreed to be involved with replacing existing stock.</p>	
Maintenance Arrangements	
<p>With the purchase of new LED motifs, there should be less of a need to replace existing motifs going forward. Current stock, some of which are not LED, do need to be upgraded and therefore in the future, whether this be by the upgrade of existing stock to LED bulbs or the purchase of new motifs, a rolling replacement programme will be in place for the next few years to enable us to have economically viable motifs.</p>	

Appendix 1d

Organisation:	Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust
Project	Purchase of six new boats
Total Project Amount	£7,758.30
Amount requested	£3,879.15
Other funding	Additional funding to come from Sailing Trust reserves
Details and Outcomes	
<p>We urgently need to fundraise for new optimist children’s sailing boats for Loch of Skene. We run lots of children’s sailing groups and courses during the months of April, May and June at Loch of Skene, the months when sailing is allowed by SNH and Dunecht Estates. We are currently using very old boats belonging to Aberdeen City Council that are now leaking and very difficult to weld & repair. They are really beyond the point of repair & useful life. Without these boats we cannot run our young children's sailing groups, Easter courses, after school clubs, disability sailing for young children and primary school sailing days in the Summer term.</p> <p>In this very difficult period of covid, children and young people have suffered much from the lockdowns and cessation of activities that would normally help them to feel better and happier. We have had increased demand from parents, disabled groups and schools for more sailing. Sailing really helps with children and young people's mental health.</p> <p>Sailing provides a great means to personal development, in that sailors increase their confidence, determination, problem solving, creativity, communication and teamwork. They also get better at assessing risk and making choices based on this. All of this happens during the process of learning how to sail, and all of this sense of achievement of getting better at something or feeling like you have got it, plus the sharing of these moments with other young people is the stuff that helps with mental health, that makes a person feel good about themselves.</p> <p>Without replacing these boats, then we will not be able to continue to run these activities. We can't run sailing activities unless our boats are of a standard that meets with governing body approval (in our case the Royal Yachting Association), so replacing these boats will be essential if we want to offer children’s sailing at Loch of Skene going forward.</p> <p>Outdoor fulfilling activities are excellent things for children to do, being low risk in these times of covid compared to indoor activities, and this would explain why demand has gone up. It is really important that we continue to be able to offer these benefits to children in Garioch.</p> <p>Additional Information</p> <p>Our Easter courses and our after-school clubs had just over 60% of bookings from people who live in Garioch. These are open to all.</p>	

We also use these boats for school group bookings, the majority of which are from Garioch. This year we had reduced bookings from schools as we weren't certain if we would be allowed back to the loch by Dunecht Estate. We were wrong to be worried, as they were very keen that we returned, but the shorter notice and planning about how it could work with covid, made it harder for schools to get set up. This year only Skene school came sailing with us. In 'normal' years we always have Echt, Dunecht, Cluny and Midmar, and teachers from Elrick & Westhill have been asking about future years.

The school group sailing is generally the local schools, and lots of the smaller country schools as part of a health or activities week.

If we were to look at school group bookings in a 'normal' year, it would be more like 90% from Garioch.

Community Support

We have conducted a survey amongst parents & participants who have sailed in these boats so far this season. Because of covid, parents have been unable to stay at the venue or see the boats in action so weren't all aware of the age of the boats. These are extra rules that Dunecht Estate asked us to put in place to protect the residents who live at the loch. However, all of the parents who responded were absolutely in favour of having 'oppie' boats at the loch and were very disappointed at sailing activities gradually being curtailed as individual boats die. They were worried at the prospect of there not being sailing for younger children and younger - mid primary years at Loch of Skene. They felt that if we didn't have boats for this age group, and children could only start later it would have been a huge, missed opportunity. We had feedback about how good the boats had been for little children to build confidence. That they were stable, easy, forgiving, everything they needed to be for young children to enjoy starting sailing and grow in confidence.

Maintenance Arrangements

We anticipate these boats will last in excess of 10 years. They come with a guarantee for 4 years. We will do all the maintenance on them ourselves, as we do with our other sailing boats.

Appendix 1e

Organisation:	Garioch Rugby Football Club SCIO
Project	Professional fees for the development of additional community facilities in the new pavilion
Total Project Amount	£10,000
Amount requested	£5,000
Other funding	This will come from club reserves
Details and Outcomes	
<p>The current Garioch RFC clubhouse at Kellands Park Inverurie, owned by Aberdeenshire Council, is due to be demolished as part of the Inverurie Academy Campus Development, as part of their upgrade of changing room facilities, leaving the club without social or meeting areas.</p> <p>However, the opportunity exists for GRFC to re-provide these facilities as part of the new build project, taking responsibility for additional cost of construction. GRFC see this as an excellent opportunity to significantly enhance the amenities for the club (meeting rooms, social areas, educational space, members gym, small sports hall etc.) and for the benefit of the wider community including the Garioch Sports Hub (cricket, hockey, table tennis) and other community groups. We genuinely believe that we are stronger together, with the vision of a facility used 7 days a week: building community and encouraging collaboration between user groups (e.g., strength & conditioning, first aid, child protection, mental wellbeing etc).</p> <p>The Club anticipates a final construction cost between £500k and £1m; and consequently, recognises the need for professional support now to identify the right way forward. The specific activity we are seeking funding for is for Architect and Quantity Surveyor input to assist in defining the proposition; to identify other user needs, how these could be met, and the production of robust costings. We need to develop something that is sensible, maximises user benefit and optimises value for money.</p> <p>(I have previous experience of such projects, including the redevelopment of Monymusk Village Hall. which i managed. The initial receipt of £10k of ESF funding enabled the engagement of an Architect and Quantity Surveyor for the soaping stage, which was fundamental in securing the £250k construction cost)</p> <p>The expected outcome of this project will be the production of a robust business case, for the development of community facilities within Kellands Park This is a necessary first step in realising the vision of re-providing the clubhouse and additional facilities for the benefit of sport, participation, and engagement by all.</p>	
Community Support	
<p>The project has the backing not only of GRFC members (circa 250) but has been discussed as a member of the Garioch Sports Hub and received the backing of other members.</p>	

There is direct support from the SRU and understand that there are other sporting I bodies tbc (Sports Scotland, Table Tennis Scotland, Cricket Scotland) who likely supporters and contributors.

Further open consultations will be held as part of the scoping of the project.

Maintenance Arrangements

GRFC will manage any new facility on behalf of all user groups, as mandated by our charitable objectives.

Appendix 1f

Organisation:	Newmachar Community Council
Project	Festive Lights
Total Project Amount	£11,189
Amount requested	£1,750
Other funding	We have the funding in place for the remainder
Details and Outcomes	
<p>Replacement of Christmas lights in Newmachar with update to Aberdeenshire policy for weight and power requirements.</p> <p>Newmachar Christmas lights are out of date in appearance, weight, and power requirement and new lights would enhance the appearance of the village at that time of year.</p>	
Community Support	
<p>The Community Council identified the need to replace the lights initially about three years ago. This was ,then followed by Aberdeenshire Council policy on weight and power requirement</p>	
Maintenance Arrangements	
<p>Scotia Animations Ltd have maintained, erected and fitted our lights for a number of years and will continue to do so.</p>	

Appendix 1g

Organisation:	Westhill and Elrick Community Council
Project	Path Drainage
Total Project Amount	£4,092
Amount requested	£2,046
Other funding	<p>The balance for funding will be provided from WECC resources</p> <p>This application is a follow-up to an application submitted by WECC last July. £14,000 of funding was awarded in August 2020 to undertake and complete the project. £4,000 from the Strategic Fund and £10,000 from Developer Obligations. Unfortunately, the flooding issues we are seeking to address here were unknown at the time of the last year's application.</p>
Details and Outcomes	
<p>To improve the condition of a 50-meter section of the 12-kilometer Westhill Orbital Trail at Lawsondale Woods that is prone to regular flooding and therefore difficult to traverse to the point of deterrence. The woodland is lower than the adjacent land and very poorly drained. The technical solution suggested by our paths contractor is to lay path aggregate on top of a membrane to create a raised path that will allow water to drain through it thereby maintaining a relatively dry route even in wet conditions.</p> <p>The Westhill Orbital Trail project team believes that Trail users are presently deterred from using this section of the Trail after prolonged heavy rainfall because it becomes very wet and slippery due to the poor condition of the soil. Poor drainage and the surrounding higher ground. A number of makeshift measures to mitigate the worst of the conditions have been tried by the WECC project team and volunteers, but with limited success. Laying a raised path that drains well will overcome this problem and make this section of the Trail accessible all year round.</p> <p>Woodland walking in particular scores well in the list of pursuits that enhance good mental health and wellbeing, and this is one of the only three stretches of woodland in Westhill; the others being at Carnie Woods in the south-western sector of the Westhill Orbital Trail, and at Denman Park / Arnhall Moss.</p>	
Community Support	
<p>A consultation process was undertaken in 2020 amongst community groups and informal networks to establish the appeal of the Westhill Orbital Trail and the concept of 'connecting to the countryside' was adopted as meeting the aspirations of the community</p>	
Maintenance Arrangements	
<p>WECC has established a Westhill Orbital Trail Volunteer Group whose role is to flag up any maintenance issues encountered on the trail and address these from within the pool of volunteers. The condition of the raised path will be monitored as part of this process.</p>	

Appendix 1h

Organisation:	LATNEM ((Let's All Talk North East Mums)
Project	Mental health support resources
Total Project Amount	£12,655.93
Amount requested	£4,858.97
Other funding	Unrestricted funds and The Corra Foundation
Details and Outcomes	
<p>LATNEM promote and protect the mental health of women and their families by providing a free, comprehensive, peer support service. Our face-to-face support meetings are fully booked each week with a waiting list, with new referrals coming through each week. LATNEM currently accept referrals from GPs, midwives, health visitors, social work, third sector agencies and self-referrals. We aim to empower our members to engage in vital health care appointments and activities that promote mental health and wellbeing. All services are provided free of charge at point of use to our members.</p> <p>5 months Inverurie Operational Costs Person Responsible: LATNEM Chair Start Date: November 2021 Finish Date: March 2022 Key Milestones: Funding from Corra Foundation for operational costs stops at the end of October 2021. Potential funding from Garioch Area Initiatives Fund for Operational Costs would stop end of March 2022. Key Risks: Face to face meetings would have to stop without sufficient funding, leaving local mums and birthing people suffering with their mental health with no appropriate peer support service.</p> <p>To allow face to face maternal mental health peer support meetings to continue, there are running costs to be paid. Annual running costs for Aberdeenshire face to face maternal mental health peer support meetings (based in Inverurie) include room hire charges, meeting refreshments, PPE, Cleaning supplies and volunteer mileage.</p> <p>Self-Care for New Mums Person Responsible: LATNEM Chair Start Date: Ongoing Finish Date: Ongoing Key Milestones: Project is operational, two self-care packs left in stock are allocated to mums with babies due in the next 4 weeks. Twenty packs have been budgeted for in this funding application for babies due to mums in the group in the next 6 months. Key Risks: Without sufficient funding we would be unable to continue providing the Self-Care packs for new mums or would have to significantly reduce the contents. There has been an increase in mums seeking support for their mental health ante-natally since the beginning of the pandemic and we believe that prevention is better than cure – these packs remind each mum to take care of themselves right at the start of the motherhood journey which will encourage healthy habits to benefit their mental health throughout parenthood.</p>	

Mums who are supported by LATNEM ante-natally are provided with a self-care pack when baby arrives. This contains items such as mindful activities, toiletries, chocolate, button front pyjamas for breastfeeding etc.

New mothers are often so busy with baby that they forget to care for themselves, this can have a detrimental impact on their mental (and physical!) wellbeing. A common belief many of our members have is that being a “good mum” means sacrificing their own wellbeing in order to cater to the needs of their child – that their own needs should be last on the list. It is important that mums care for themselves to maintain their mental wellbeing and build their resilience.

Crisis Pack

Person Responsible: LATNEM Vice Chair

Start Date: Ongoing

Finish Date: Ongoing

Key Milestones: Potential funding from Garioch Area Initiatives Fund for Operational Costs would stop end of March 2022. Anticipate 2 crisis packs per month based on previous needs and so 20 Crisis packs have been included in this application.

Key Risks: Mothers who are at home with the children during maternity leave and beyond are often responsible for household duties and preparing meals etc. When in crisis with their mental health, they are often unable to care for themselves and can lack capacity to be able to do food shopping and prepare nutritious meals. Without this funding there is a real risk that mothers and their families will go without, and that the additional load of preparing the shopping and meals during crisis will add to the mental load of the mum.

When a mum is in crisis with her mental health, LATNEM provide a nutritious, ready to heat, family meal to the doorstep along with some essential shopping to lighten the mental load and ensure the family do not go without. Crisis packs also contain self-care items such as toiletries, chocolate and books specific to mum’s mental health situation. These are delivered to mums awaiting admission to a Mother and Baby mental health unit, an adult psychiatric unit, who have suffered a bereavement, nervous breakdown or are otherwise in crisis with their mental health.

Mindful Wellbeing Boxes:

Person Responsible: LATNEM Vice Chair

Start Date: Ongoing

Finish Date: Ongoing

Key Milestones: Potential funding from Garioch Area Initiatives Fund for Operational Costs would stop end of March 2022. Anticipate 4 Mindful Wellbeing Boxes per month based on previous needs and so 32 boxes have been included in this application.

Key Risks: Without this funding mums would not be provided with vital mental wellbeing tools to encourage self care and build resilience.

LATNEM provide self care packages to local mums struggling with their mental health. The Wee Wellbeing Box is provided by a small business in Kintore and contains 7 mindful activities to practice, which improve and maintain mental wellbeing. These boxes encourage mums to take time to themselves and practice mindfulness. Giving them a focus to be present, mindful and concentrate on “now”, not worrying about what has previously happened or may happen tomorrow. The mindful activities in the box provide

mums with self care tools and practices such as mindful breathing, reiki, yoga, nutrition, crafting and relaxation.

The feedback we receive from mums about these boxes is brilliant, they are so grateful for the “pick me up” and it is often the prompt they have needed to start looking after themselves and allow themselves the time to focus on their mental wellbeing.

Journaling

Person Responsible: LATNEM Vice Chair

Start Date: March 2020

Finish Date: Ongoing

Key Milestones: Funding from Trig Ltd allocated to journals stops at the end of July 2021. Potential funding from Garioch Area Initiatives Fund for Operational Costs would stop end of March 2022. An average of 4 journals per month are requested by those supported by LATNEM and so 32 journals and sets of journaling supplies have been included in this funding application to meet demand until end of March 2022.

Key Risks: Without sufficient funding, LATNEM would be unable to offer their members a journal as a tool to support their mental health journey.

Every mum supported by LATNEM is provided with a journal to allow her to track her mood or habits, encourage self care and mindfulness and provide a way to express themselves creatively. A journal is a brilliant visual tool to allow those we support to reflect on their mental health, set goals and solve problems more effectively.

LGBTQ+ Training

Person Responsible: LATNEM Chair

Start Date: September 2022

Finish Date: September 2022

Key Milestones: LATNEM are rebranding before the end of 2021 to be outwardly inclusive of LGBTQ+ parents. LATNEM has always been for all mums, but stating “all mums” is not enough for the LGBTQ+ community to feel welcome and included.

This training needs to be completed before the rebrand to ensure our volunteers are appropriately trained to meet the needs of the local LGBTQ+ Community. Key Risks: If sufficient funding is not in place, the inclusivity re-brand would have to be postponed. Without this training there are gaps in the knowledge of our volunteers around the challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ Community in the perinatal period and the appropriate language which should be used.

LATNEM want to ensure their 4 volunteers who lead peer support meetings have appropriate training to fully support LGBTQ+ mothers and birthing people with their mental health and signposting to appropriate support services. The training would be provided by Lucy Warwick-Guasp, who delivers training to NHS Perinatal Mental Health Teams on ensuring services are inclusive of LGBTQ+ parent families.

6 in 10 health and social care practitioners with direct responsibilities for patient care (including social workers, nurses and mental health workers) say they don't consider sexual orientation to be relevant to one's health needs. 1 in 10 say they are not confident in their ability to understand and meet the specific needs of lesbian, gay or bisexual patients and service users. A quarter aren't confident in their ability to respond to the specific care needs of trans patients and service users.1 Completion of this training will allow LATNEM to provide a service which is truly inclusive of the specific needs of

LGBTQ+ mothers and birthing people. There is currently no LGBTQ+ specific maternal or birthing person mental health peer support in Aberdeenshire.

Cultural Awareness Training

Person Responsible: LATNEM Chair

Start Date: September 2020

Finish Date: September 2020

Key Milestones: LATNEM are rebranding before the end of 2021 to be outwardly inclusive of BIPOC parents. LATNEM has always been for all mums, but stating “all mums” is not enough for the BIPOC community to feel welcome and included. This training needs to be completed before the rebrand to ensure our volunteers are appropriately trained to meet the needs of the local BIPOC Community.

Key Risks: If sufficient funding is not in place, the inclusivity re-brand would have to be postponed. Without this training there are gaps in the knowledge of our volunteers around the challenges faced by BIPOC parents in the perinatal period and the appropriate language which should be used.

LATNEM want to ensure their 4 volunteers who lead peer support meetings have appropriate training to fully support Black Indigenous and other People Of Colour (BIPOC) with their maternal mental health and signposting to culturally appropriate support services. The Perinatal Mental Health Training CIC offer a two day Cultural Awareness Course, designed to raise awareness of the attitudes and beliefs of differing cultures towards perinatal mental health. It aims to recognise the challenges and explores ways in which to change or improve current service provision, optimising the best outcomes for parents and families.

There is currently no BIPOC specific maternal mental health peer support in Aberdeenshire and LATNEM would like to be pro-active in ensuring BIPOC mothers know they are welcome at LATNEM and will be appropriately supported. Black women in the UK are four times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than a white woman and it is vital that BIPOC mothers are supported with their maternal mental health.

Resource Library

Person Responsible: LATNEM Vice Chair

Start Date: January 2020

Finish Date: Ongoing

Key Milestones: LATNEM are rebranding before the end of 2021 to be outwardly inclusive of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC parents.

Key Risks: LGBTQ+ and BIPOC parents who become LATNEM members may not feel supported if there is not literature available for them which is specific to their needs and experiences.

LATNEM provide a resource library full of self-help and reference books recommended by a perinatal psychologist. Members of LATNEM can borrow books from the resource library free of charge, these books are often sent from and returned to the resource library by post. Additional titles are required to specifically report LGBTQ+ and BIPOC families, and for fathers mental health. In addition, we have seen an increase in requests for books related to birth trauma, PTSD and health anxiety since the beginning of the pandemic and would benefit from additional titles and copies of the books on these topics.

Mindfulness Training

Person Responsible: LATNEM Volunteer Rebecca Lowson

Start Date: May 2021

Finish Date: February 2022

Key Milestones: LATNEM volunteer would be able to provide mindfulness classes free of charge from February 2022.

Key Risks: The current provision of Mindfulness classes to LATNEM members is significantly more expensive than having our own qualified Mindfulness teacher who would provide classes exclusively for LATNEM members for free. Continuing to pay £65 per hour to a 3rd party mindfulness teacher is not sustainable. Without a volunteer with a mindfulness qualification we will no longer be able to provide Mindfulness as an ongoing service. LATNEM are keen to be able to provide 50% of the training fees (the equivalent of 22 mindfulness sessions at the current rate we pay at £65 per hour), with the remaining 50% being paid by the volunteer herself as she will also provide her service in private practice. Contract will be in place for recovery of funding from the volunteer should she choose to leave LATNEM.

A LATNEM volunteer is currently self funding training to become a Mindfulness teacher and has offered to provide LATNEM members with access to mindfulness classes at no charge if we can contribute towards her training costs. The course has been developed by the Mindfulness Association, a reputable UK based Mindfulness training provider. Their tutors and courses comply with and are recognised by BAMBA (the British Association of Mindfulness-Based Approaches) who oversee the quality of mindfulness-based training in the UK.

We believe that having these classes delivered by a peer and within the peer support environment will maximise uptake and the effectiveness of the practice, helping our members develop their resilience and self care skills.

We are currently paying £65/hour for a mindfulness practitioner to provide us with well attended classes which have had excellent feedback from our members who have confirmed it is making a difference to their mental health and providing them with self care skills to practice at home. This is an investment in the community and would be a sustainable way to fund our mindfulness services moving forward.

Mindfulness has a proven benefit to mental health. It is recommended by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) as a preventative practice for people with experience of recurrent depression.²

Many studies have confirmed the practice as beneficial for mental health. For example a Massachusetts General Hospital study³ of 93 individuals with an anxiety diagnosis (DSM-IV-diagnosed generalized anxiety disorder) were randomly assigned to an 8-week group intervention with mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) or to a control group, stress management education (SME). The group that went through the MBSR program was associated with a significantly greater reduction in anxiety.

Yoga for Mental Health

Person Responsible: LATNEM Chair

Start Date: August 2021

Finish Date: February 2022

Key Milestones: First Block of classes in August 2021, Second block of classes in February 2022.

Key Risks: LATNEM will be unable to deliver this project without funding to contribute to the cost, meaning that those supported by LATNEM will miss out on an opportunity to learn a new skill to support their mental wellbeing. There is a financial barrier for many of the mums we support to access Yoga classes on their own and so for many if we are not able to fund these classes they will be unable to participate in this otherwise.

Many LATNEM members experience depression and anxiety, which has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic as lockdown prevented many of them from going and exercise. Regular exercise can have a profoundly positive impact on depression and anxiety.

Funding would be used to pay for a block of specialist 'Yoga for mental health' classes to encourage these women to come together in a class exclusively for LATNEM members and exercise in an environment which is safe and judgement free.

We have identified a local yoga practitioner with many years experience in working with families, who has experience of maternal mental ill health and supporting women.

Volunteers would attend these classes too and host a peer support drop in after the class.

Yoga is widely known to promote relaxation and ease stress. Multiple studies have shown that it can decrease the secretion of cortisol, the primary stress hormone.⁴ For example in one study of 131 people showed that a block of yoga helped reduce stress and anxiety, improve quality of life and mental health⁵. Another study followed 64 women with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which is characterized by severe anxiety and fear following exposure to a traumatic event. The study showed the women who practiced yoga once weekly had fewer symptoms of PTSD with some having complete recovery from symptoms.⁶

Practical Help Project

Person Responsible: Vice Chair

Start Date: March 2021

Finish Date: Ongoing

Key Milestones: Funding from Corra Foundation for the Practical Help Project stops at the end of October 2021. Potential funding from Garioch Area Initiatives Fund for the project would stop end of March 2022.

Key Risks: Without sufficient funding we would not be able to meet demand for this project and mums will go without the specialist mental health care they require. LATNEM members have previously been unable to attend specialist appointments for their mental health, after as long as a 9 month wait for their first appointment, as they were unable to take their children to the appointment and had no feasible childcare option.

The Practical Help Project allows us to provide childcare via a Childcare Agency when a mum needs to attend an appointment which will benefit her mental health. The demand for this support has been high and we have 40 additional sessions forecasted which require funding.

It is incredibly difficult to engage in a frank discussion about your mental health while a baby is wriggling in your arms and we aim for every mum to get a real benefit from her appointments.

Treatments such as Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, or psychology, cannot be carried out with distractions, and mums are putting off treatment they desperately need as they have no childcare.

Mindful Crafternoons

Person Responsible: Vice Chair

Start Date: Ongoing

Finish Date: Ongoing

to meet friends

Key Milestones: Funding from Corra Foundation for the Mindful Crafternoons stops at the end of October 2021. Potential funding from Garioch Area Initiatives Fund for the project would stop end of March 2022.

Key Risks: Without sufficient funding, LATNEM would be unable to offer their members a journal as a tool to support their mental health journey.

LATNEM provide mothers suffering with maternal mental ill health with the opportunity to come together and practice crafting. Craft activities can improve mood and increase feelings of relaxation, as well as build confidence as you learn a new skill. During each 2-hour session, LATNEM volunteers serve refreshments and are available to encourage conversation between the mums and offer support and signposting with their mental health if required.

Macramé has specifically been chosen as the art of Macramé is therapeutic in nature. Pulling and working of the cords helps to strengthen the hands and arms. It helps to loosen the joints. Some people find that macramé, an art of repetitive knots used to create designs is meditative bringing with it peace and calmness of mind.

Many of the mums we support are not able to meet in person and so LATNEM provide these mums with a way of practicing mindfulness craft at home which requires little experience or instruction. We have sourced cross-stitch kits which are suitable for beginners and when completed, display an affirmative message which the mum can then display in her home.

members a journal as a tool to support their mental health journey

Healthier Communities

Suicide remains the leading cause of maternal death within the first year following pregnancy.⁷ All too often, mums come to LATNEM because they have been incorrectly advised that there is no mental health service available to them, or that the waiting lists are so long that there is no point seeking professional help. LATNEM ensure that every mum they support is signposted to the specialist mental health support that they may need and that they are informed about the options available to them. We support mums while they wait for treatment, start treatment and throughout their recovery, ensuring they don't fall through the gaps and that they feel supported with someone to turn to every step of the way. We arm our members with tools to facilitate self-care and healthy practices to build their resilience and mental wellbeing in a safe, judgement free environment. Every service that we offer contributes to improving the mental wellbeing of local mothers and

their families. Changes to a mum's mental health can affect her children and their well-being, the support LATNEM offer mums with their mental health will allow them to feel better, sooner.

Living with someone who has serious mental illness is deemed an "adverse childhood experience" (ACE). The impact of ACES can have an impact on the future physical and mental health of children and are often a barrier to healthy attachment relationships. Some of these effects include an increased risk of mental health difficulties, violence, the ability to recognise and manage different emotions and capacity to make and keep healthy friendships and other relationships. LATNEM allows mums to recover more quickly from maternal mental ill health, reducing the impact on both her and her children and preventing generational trauma.

Connected Communities:

LATNEM as an organisation is committed to reducing isolation and loneliness in our members and wider community. Mental health problems can often lead to isolation and stigmatization of the individual by the wider community and by internal stigma. By reducing stigma and building connections our members are able to develop vital community links and have a greater sense of self-esteem and community. We have built a community of mums through shared strength who are now not only supported by LATNEM, but who support each other. Building these relationships with others who have similar struggles has increased their confidence and given them the much-needed judgement free sense of community they so need.

All of our activities are delivered free of charge at point of use to remove and financial barriers to accessing these services.

Community Support

LATNEM regularly engage with NHS Grampian (including the specialist perinatal mental health midwife), Maternal Mental Health Scotland, Mother and Baby Mental health Units, Homestart, Crossreach Perinatal Counselling and of course our own LATNEM members to find out where the gaps in service are and what support is needed. NHS Grampian have included LATNEM as co-chairs on the Integration team for a new specialist perinatal mental health service across Grampian and in consultation on the role out of the Best Start programme. Our volunteers are also key members of the Maternity Voices Partnership, the Birth Trauma Association and Maternal Mental Health Alliance and the Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Programme Board regularly engage with LATNEM for representation at meetings and consultation on policy.

LATNEM receive referrals from midwives, GP's, Health Visitors, Social Work and third sector organisations such as Homestart and Crossreach. Many mums self-refer after hearing of our services through word of mouth. In addition, our services have recently been recognised in the High Street Heroes Roll of Honour and as finalists in the Pride of Inverurie Awards.

Maintenance Arrangements

Appendix 1i

Organisation:	Kemnay Community Council on behalf of Fetternear Estate
Project	Upgrade of Core Path from Kemnay to Burnhervie
Total Project Amount	£3,120.00
Amount requested	£1,560.00
Other funding	Fetternear Estate will cover the remainder
Details and Outcomes	
<p>Due to unprecedented increase in public access, we have an urgent need to carry out repairs to the access road into the new car park we created with your help at the main entrance to the estate beside the Kemnay Bridge, as well as a ditch emptying exercise all the way along the Kemnay — Burnhervie estate drive which is a `core path' in the Aberdeenshire CP Network. This is essential, damage-prevention work. Safety is a key priority for us, particularly along the core path.</p> <p>We now have literally hundreds of people using our walks and drives and the numbers take their toll with heavy wear and tear. The local schools, special needs learning specialists, running and walking groups, scouts, girl guides etc. are all welcomed into the estate, but we need help to maintain the safe use of our facilities.</p> <p>To put this in perspective, in 2020 we spent £23K on improvements to our roads and drives, and on tree safety work.</p> <p>We estimate that 4 days of JCB work would be involved plus a couple of loads of Type 2 sub-base for the core path and the car park access road. Our cost estimate is based on this.</p> <p>Fetternear Estate is a safe and beautiful place for many of the local community to take exercise, jogging, cycling, clog-walking, etc. It is a very valuable way of giving people who do not have money to spend on healthy activities such as sport the chance to exercise regularly, meet other people and improve their mental health in a friendly and safe environment.</p> <p>The access legislation permits the free use of walks and paths in places such as Fetternear but we have a duty of care to ensure that they can do so safely. The core path network encourages the use of these walks, but it does not help us fund their repair.</p> <p>The improvement that we could deliver if our application is successful would be felt very strongly by all users of the estate.</p>	
Community Support	

Maintenance Arrangements

We employ a part-time individual who cannot work full-time due to health issues for 60 hours per month, keeping all our paths and walks safe, particularly from the ancient woodland dangers such as rotten tree limbs and falling branches as well as excessive path wear and tear. So, our walks and drives are regularly looked after.

The ditch-emptying along the main core path will be sufficient to ensure good condition for at least another 3 years as the 150 year-old granite and steel drainage channels under the road will be able to fully function again.

Appendix 1j

Organisation:	Action Kintore SCIO
Project	Repair the Bothie youth and community facility
Total Project Amount	<p>Rendering removal and disposal, sealing of timber cladding, installing new slate sills to replace rotten chipboard sills - £3000</p> <p>Installing supporting framework and Siberian Larch cladding - £6750</p> <p>Minor Electrical works to remove and re-instate lights and camera - £240</p> <p>Total - £9995</p>
Amount requested	£4900
Other funding	<p>Action Kintore has over £10,000 in reserves and given the urgency of this repair shall utilise these funds.</p> <p>Over the past three financial years, Action Kintore has received £32,865 for Opportunities for Young People, £10,396 for the Town House Project and £3000 for benches.</p>

Details and Outcomes

The Bothie, Kintore is a youth and community facility situated in Allandale Gardens, Kintore. AB51 0UT. Owned by Action Kintore Ltd, it was completed in December 2013 and is a very environmentally friendly building, with all outer walls comprising straw bale construction, covered with lime and plaster. Regrettably, this construction method has resulted in the front walls cracking beyond repair. This project is to remove the cracked plaster cast finish and replace it with wooden cladding.

The Bothie build was completed, and the facility opened in December 2013. It has become widely recognized within the community as a valuable addition to the (limited) meeting places within Kintore and been used by a variety of individuals and groups, including for musical practice sessions, Police Scotland meetings, Council meetings (presentation on the proposed Inverurie bypass and the recent Community Council elections are good examples), Kintore Rotary Club, defibrillator and First Aid training, Church groups, an Art Group, xmas and birthday parties for various age groups. All these are in addition to the primary function of the building, as a regular and minimum, there evening per week meeting place for the various youth groups.

The frontage of the building is a cause for concern, with severe cracking of the plaster, particularly at the right side. See photographs. There is very limited similar damage to the rear or sides of the building. Experts advise a section to the right side of the frontage could collapse at any time. Being a potential danger to users, fencing has been erected to prevent access to that area. They also advise that it is not economically viable to continue carrying out repairs to the plaster. The most recent repairs were carried out less than 3 years ago, at a cost to Action Kintore of circa £1500. Should this deterioration spread across the remaining frontage, it would be prudent and perhaps necessary to further barricade the frontage, thereby completely closing the facility. The drastic remedial action

now being pursued is not only advisable but necessary, hence our request for financial support.

Community Support

The appearance of the frontage is certainly not aesthetically pleasing.! Various concerns have been expressed by users about the safety of the building, despite assurances it is structurally sound. Further deterioration may lead to some users declining to further use the building.

Maintenance Arrangements

It is expected that the proposed work will completely and permanently solve the problem.

Appendix 2 – Strategic Budget - Projects to be considered for progression by elected members at the informal session on 23 March 2021

	Project	Officer Response	Outcome
1	Reducing overheads of Community Halls - funding for energy efficiency measures	Further investigation required about the costs for this and whether these projects would be progressed by the Council or community hall groups	Proposed for 2021-22 . Progressed
2	Provision of allotments (Westhill, Inch, Blackburn and Inverurie)	Inverurie project was supported 2020-21	No progression. Groups are being supported with site identification.
3	Water resistant surfacing of riverside path in Kemnay	Service will progress in due course without recourse to area committee budget	Strategic Budget not required
4	Next Phase of Uryside Riverside Park	Potential projects for playpark and entrance. Cost £90k approx. Entrance would take 6-8 weeks.	Potential future project which would require further funding – keep on list for 2022-23
5	Kintore Town House Project	Feasibility Study identified an outline plan, but greater detail is required before this can be a project. Is likely to cost upward of £1 million and would require significant external funding to progress. Being progressed by Community Group.	Potential for Community Group to intimate need for funding in future – keep on list for 2022-23

Appendix 3 - Proposed Strategic Budget Projects 2021/22

Project	Potential cost	Alignment with Council Priorities	Officer
<p>Reducing overheads of Community Halls - funding for energy efficiency measures.</p> <p>Working with the Council's Energy Management Team (EMT) all Garioch community halls will be contacted and asked if they would be willing to work with the energy team to investigate reducing overheads and where appropriate, funding can be made available for energy efficiency measures. The support from the EMT will be to conduct energy audits, review current energy bills and arrangements, review previous energy audits and offer professional energy advice. The activities of the EMT will be managed within the approved service budget so this makes the proposed allocation stretch further.</p> <p>This is a suggested ring fencing of funding. It is intended that the applications into this 'pot' for projects by a community hall group would follow the Area Initiative Fund application process, with the criteria being focused on delivering the aim of reducing energy overheads and increasing use of energy efficient measures. These applications would be reported to Committee for determination.</p>	£25,000	<p>Environment Pillar and Economy Pillar</p> <p>Underpinning Principles - responsible finances; climate and sustainability</p>	Garioch Area Manager and Principal Energy Management Engineer
<p>Community Action Plans</p> <p>Community Action Plans have previously been undertaken by The Garioch Partnership; however, this is no longer a service it provides. If funding from the Strategic Budget is available this would allow alternative means of provision to be identified and</p>	£10,000	<p>People Pillar Environment Pillar Economy Pillar</p>	Garioch Area Manager

<p>funded. There is also potentially a further £5000 from the Local Community Planning Group budget that can be applied for. A verbal update on how the CAPS could be delivered will be provided at the meeting.</p>		<p>Underpinning Principles - Community Planning Partnership and Local Outcome Improvement Plans</p>	
<p>Blackburn Steps</p> <p>An incident happened in Summer 2019 when a member of the public fell on a steep embankment in Blackburn Park which is owned by Aberdeenshire Council. Local members requested that Landscape Services provide quotes to install steps and a handrail at this embankment to avoid any similar incidents. The quotes received are £5,720 to install 10 steps at 1.2m wide set on formed blockwork with slabs at the top and bottom, and a further £1,450 for handrails. There is no identified budget to cover the cost of this work, it is not currently matter that is programmed by the Service as it is not a priority or reserve matter.</p>	<p>£7,170</p>	<p>People Pillar</p>	<p>Principal Officer – Landscape Services</p>
<p>Arnhall Moss Nature Reserve Path</p> <p>The Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (OATS) was asked by Aberdeenshire Council to assess the condition of the Arnhall Moss Nature Reserve path network at Westhill. The assessment was carried out over nine sections i.e., Main Loop, Outer Loop and link or spur paths. Two bridges were also assessed. The main issues identified were lack of surface, undulations, and flooding, which limits the users of the path. OATS reported that ‘the popularity of the site was evident on the day of the survey and therefore surface improvements would allow more people to access the site or access the site more comfortably under foot; in particular for the</p>	<p>£21,099</p>	<p>Environment Pillar</p> <p>Underpinning Principle - climate and sustainability</p>	<p>Environmental Planner (Garioch)</p>

<p>elderly and those pushing prams. Ideally, if the surface was improved the site would be excellent for all abilities use; close to access from a housing scheme to the west via a tarmac path; and via the car park to the tennis courts as an excellent dropping off point'</p>			
<p>Denman Park</p> <p>The Denman Park in the centre of Westhill is the principal park in the town and a popular recreation/walking area. WECC has two improvement projects they would like to implement.</p> <p>1) a. Add 3 bench seats in the central area of the park, to add to the 7 existing seats which are mainly around the park perimeters b. Add 2 picnic benches with seating as there are currently no picnic benches c. Add 2 large litter bins to be placed near the picnic benches. Currently there are only 3 small litter bins and 1 dog poo bin d. Add a bike stand at the tennis courts car park</p> <p>2) <u>Denman Park Ponds</u> The 3 ponds in the burn that runs between Denman Park and Arnhall Moss need to be dredged and cleared of excess plant growth. This was last done during winter 2015/16 via a lottery funded project managed by the Froglife charity. WECC has commissioned a survey to give us more detail of what is required to be done to improve the ponds.</p> <p>Providing more seating and adding picnic benches will make the park more attractive for residents to visit and socialise there. There are now 5 fast-food outlets near the park so the picnic benches and bins should help to reduce the litter problem.</p>	<p>£12,000 (estimate)</p> <p><u>Denman Park</u> 3 seats - £1800 2 picnic benches - £1200 Matting for picnic benches - £100 2 litter bins - £1000 Bicycle Stand - £ 100 Sub-total £4200</p> <p>Above items would be less if they could be bought through Aberdeenshire Council</p> <p>Denman Park ponds work £8000</p> <p>This is an estimate based on the 2015 work costing £10k but it should be less work than then. A better estimate will be available when the survey is done</p>	<p>Environment Pillar</p> <p>Underpinning Principle - climate and sustainability</p>	<p>Principal Officer – Landscape Services</p> <p>Westhill & Elrick Community Council</p>

<p>The ponds are an important wildlife habitat and are used by the local schools for freshwater sampling and general nature education.</p> <p>The seating and picnic benches would be manufactured of recycled plastic material and require little maintenance. Occasional cleaning would be done by WECC members and/or other volunteers.</p> <p>The Denman Park ponds just need regular monitoring that is already being done by the WECC Environmental group. Pollution incidents are notified to SEPA and Scottish Water</p>			
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Appendix 4 - Feedback from projects funded by Strategic Budget 2020/21

Organisation	Project	Total Project Cost (£)	Amount Requested (£)	Award (£)	Progress of Project	Amount still to be paid	
Inverurie Men's Shed	Provision of car park for Inverurie Allotments		£6,950	£6,950	Project Complete.	£0	Feedback sheet below
Landscape Services	Improvement works to Formartine & Buchan Way			£15,000	£390.33 spent, transferred to LS Budget	£14,609.67	
Landscape Services	Planting and rewilding 6 areas in Garioch			£10,000	£787.50 spent, transferred to LS Budget	£9,212.50	
Transportation Services	Equipment to set up electric bike hub at Kintore Station			£14,200	£5,922.94 spent, to be transferred to Transportation Budget	£8,277.06	
Westhill & Elrick Community Council	Westhill Path Project		£4,000	£4,000	Project Complete	£0	Feedback sheet below

Completed
Started but yet to be completed. Scheduled for 2021/22



Appendix 4 - Feedback from projects funded by Strategic Budget 2020/21

Organisation:	Inverurie Men's Shed
Project	Provision of a Car Park for Inverurie Allotments
Total Project Amount	£25,000
Amount requested	£6,950.00
Other funding	<p>£1,318.05 was received from the Garioch Community Planning Partnership to help with the cost of the planning application for change of use. We also received £1,680 from the Garioch Community Food Fund for water pump and fittings</p> <p>Financial donations have been received from local businesses and organisations; £300 from Inverurie Rotary Club, £250 from Eric P Massie, Funeral Directors; £500 from Fennel Restaurant and £1530 was received from the Stafford Trust towards the chain link security fence.</p> <p>Inverurie Men's Shed used £865 of their own funds to purchase a barrier for the car park.</p> <p>A gate was donated by Inverurie Light Fabrication and further donation of timber, cement sand and paint and paving slabs were gratefully received from other local sources.</p> <p>Trees, grass seed, bamboo and wildflower seeds to create a wildflower meadow outside the main allotment area are still required and an application has been made to Morrison's for £3,500 for this.</p> <p>The project is nearing completion; however, we are still looking for funding for a composting toilet.</p>
Outcomes	
<p>The project was to develop a site of agricultural land at Old Port Road to form a community allotment site with a polytunnel.</p> <p>Full Planning Permission was granted in January for Change of Use of Agricultural Land to Allotments and Erection of Polytunnel, Storage Shed and Sheds.</p> <p>The layout has provided 20 small allotments and a secured area for the polytunnel and store which was originally near the Men's Shed Harlaw site but has been vandalised. The gravel car park was created to allow parking at the site.</p> <p>All 20 allotments have been let to members of the community. It is great to see a "mix" of budding gardeners of all ages and often multi generations of one family. It is heartening to see the interaction between everyone already.</p>	

The polytunnel cover has still to be fitted. This has been delayed due to current restrictions - when the cover is fitted it then becomes an enclosed space.

Community Support

There has been a long-standing need in Inverurie to provide allotments. Aberdeenshire Council has held a list of those looking for allotments (currently sitting at 20) for over a decade, however as there are only 3 plots in Inverurie the list is stagnant. Aberdeenshire Council carried out a survey in September/October 2018 on allotment provision across Aberdeenshire and Inverurie along with Ellon and Portlethen were identified as the areas with the greatest need.

All allotments have been let and we have a mix of Men's Shed members and local residents including young families.

By providing allotment plots on the identified site the capacity will meet the demand. If the demand rises, having a greater number of plots will inevitably lead to a shorter wait as there is likely to be a greater turnover. There may be potential to extend this site if the demand increased significantly.

Although the Men's Shed is aimed at men aged 18+, allotments are available to the whole community, including women, ethnic groups and young families. There is a small charge for each individual to hold an allotment and preference will be given to those living in the Inverurie area.

If there is a demand for disabled access, provision will be reviewed to meet this need.

Maintenance Arrangements

General ongoing maintenance of the site will be funded by the annual rental of each allotment. This was £1,190 this year

Appendix 4 - Feedback from projects funded by Strategic Budget 2020/21

Organisation:	Westhill & Elrick CC
Project	Westhill Path Project
Total Project Amount	£14,000 (plus 10% contingency)
Amount requested	£4,000.00
Other funding	£10,000 developer obligations
Outcomes	
<p>The primary objectives of establishing a route – now known as “Westhill Orbital Trail” - and then procuring and installing appropriate signage was achieved in the course of the financial year with the GAC Strategic Budget of £4,000 fully drawn down. The fact that some landowners refused permission to erect waymarker posts on their land freed up some of the budget to be used improving access to/from Carnie Woods, the Golf Course and at Lawsondale Woods.</p>	
Community Support	
<p>All known community groups were invited to input to the concept prior to design and procurement but not all did for various reasons. For example, much as we wanted to include the Boys Brigade, Scouts and Guides, they couldn't participate in the project because of covid-19 restrictions on their activities.</p> <p>However, we were able to award some of the work to the local Men's Shed and we have recruited and retained a number of volunteers to undertake around 250 hours of clearing work at the golf club and Lawsondale Woods. Clearing work at Lawsondale continued into April.</p> <p>Feedback has been very positive although some criticism at the lack of signage in some sections [where we're not allowed any] and continuing absence of a published map [with AC cartographers]</p>	
Maintenance Arrangements	
<p>Very little maintenance is expected, but we will have to keep an eye on how some of the wilder areas will grow and respond to prolonged rainfall. To that end, we have established an “Orbital Trail Volunteers” WhatsApp group to help with drainage and pruning issues as they arise. The local litter picking groups have also adopted the route for inclusion in their twice monthly picks manned by volunteers.</p> <p>A request has been made to Aberdeen City Council ranger for ACC to adopt the improvement works at Carnie Woods.</p>	

Appendix 5 – Small Grants Fund

Name of Applicant	Description	Amount	Status
Inverurie Rotary Club	To purchase: 15 litter picking grabbers 6 litter bag hoops	£250	Awarded in full – 24 th May 2021
Fintray Community Council	To purchase: 10 x children’s litter pickers 10 x adult litter pickers 20 x specific reusable gloves (adult and child) 10 x litter bag hoops 20 x hi viz vests (adult and child)	£500	Awarded in full – 8 th June 2021
Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council	Repair to a footbridge	£500	Awarded in full – 14 th June 2021

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EIA Version	Date	Author	Changes
1	22/06/2021	Susan Adams	

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	Education and Children’s Services
Section	Garioch Area Office
Title of the activity etc.	Applications to Garioch Area Committee Area Initiatives Fund – Home Start Garioch, Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust, LATNEM
Aims and desired outcomes of the activity	Home Start Garioch to pay volunteer expenses, Aberdeenshire sailing Trust to purchase six new boats, LATNEM towards mental health support resources.
Author(s) & Title(s)	Susan Adams – Area Project Officer

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	
Internal consultation with staff and other services affected.		
External consultation (partner organisations, community groups, and councils.		

External data (census, available statistics).	Application forms from Home Start Garioch, Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust and LATNEM	
Other (general information as appropriate).	<p>Information provided by:</p> <p>Home Start Garioch will have a positive effect on families with young children by providing support.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust will have a positive effect on school age children including those with a disability by providing sailing training to them allowing them to gain new skills.</p> <p>LATNEM will have a positive effect on new mums particularly those struggling with mental health by providing a range of tailored resources.</p>	<p>The project matches volunteers to vulnerable families to befriend and assist as required. This particularly important as COVID restrictions have had a negative impact on many young families leaving them socially isolated.</p> <p>The provision of new boats will allow the Sailing Trust to continue to offer training to a range of young people including those with disabilities. Training will assist with the development of new skills and social interactions.</p> <p>LATNEM are a group specifically targeted at helping new mums particularly those suffering with poor mental health. This group will have a positive effect on the young and pregnancy and maternity.</p>

Stage 3: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the information you currently hold?	Information provided is minimal as this relates to a project being promoted by an external organisation which is seeking funding from the Council.
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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:

Stage 5: What steps can be taken to promote good relations between various groups/areas?

These should be included in the action plan.	
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Stage 6: How does the policy/activity create opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity?

Realisation of all these projects will allow access to important facilities for all members of the community. The ability to access the services more easily will improve the quality of life for the users and their families and provide an opportunity to integrate with others.

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	✓			
Age - Older			✓	
Disability	✓			
Race – (includes Gypsy Travellers)			✓	
Religion or Belief			✓	
Sex			✓	
Pregnancy and maternity	✓			
Sexual orientation – (includes Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual)			✓	
Gender reassignment – (includes Transgender)			✓	
Marriage and Civil Partnership				✓

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 income, 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
Pockets: Low income/income poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	✓			
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	✓			

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	✓			
Place: Area deprivation – where you live, where you work			✓	
Prospects: Socioeconomic background – social class i.e. parents education, employment and income , educational achievement.			✓	

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.	Realisation of this project will allow easier access to important facilities for all members of the community. The ability to access the services more easily will improve the quality of life for the users and their families and provide an opportunity to integrate with others.	

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?	This would have been done by the groups when identifying the requirement, the services to improve the experience for their users.

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

Stage 11: What monitoring arrangements will be put in place? How the EIA will be used to monitor the proposal	
These should be included in any action plan (for example customer satisfaction questionnaires).	N/A

Stage 12: What is the outcome of the Assessment?

Please complete the appropriate box/boxes	1	No negative impacts have been identified –please explain.
	Given the limited information and nature of the proposal it is considered that the realisation of these projects will have a positive benefit for all concerned.	
	2	Negative Impacts have been identified, these can be mitigated - please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen.
	3	The activity will have negative impacts which cannot be mitigated fully – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen

* Stage 13: Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.

N/A

Stage 14: Sign off and authorisation.

Sign off and authorisation.	1) Service and Team	Education and Children's Services	
	2) Title of Policy/Activity	Area Initiatives Fund application	
	3) Authors: I/We have completed the equality impact assessment for this policy/ activity.	Name: Susan Adams Position: Area Project Officer Date: 10/06/2021 Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:
	4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name: Ann Overton Date: 14/06/2021	
	5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Laurence Findlay Position: Director of Education and Children's Services Date:	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: 10/06/21	
	7) EIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: equalities@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Date: 17/06/21	

