

## REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 23 NOVEMBER 2021

### AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET – SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

#### 1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 The report seeks consideration of applications for Area Committee Budget funding (Small Grant Scheme) from the North East Scotland Preservation Trust and Huntly Development Trust.

#### 2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider, and determine whether to approve or reject, applications for Area Committee Budget funding from:

- (a) North East Scotland Preservation Trust for up to £1,000 towards the cost of a valuation of the Huntly Hotel in The Square, Huntly; and
- (b) Huntly Development Trust for up to £2,000 towards the cost of a scoping exercise for setting up a “Remakery” for repairing and repurposing damaged or broken items.

#### 3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 The Area Committee, at its meeting on 30 March, 2021 (Item 7), approved priorities for expenditure of the Marr Area Committee Budget for 2021/22, including the provision of a Small Grant Scheme offering grants of up to £2,000 for community projects.

#### 4 Discussion

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider applications for funding from the North East Scotland Preservation Trust and Huntly Development Trust as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 All grants must be paid within the current financial year. Projects awarded funding will be monitored to ensure they are progressing. Grant offers will be withdrawn if milestones are not met to ensure that the Area Committee Budget can be fully utilised.

#### 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver the following Council Priorities :

Pillar	Priority
Our Environment	Resilient Communities

Our Economy	Economy and Enterprise
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5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed:

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	x		
Staffing		x	
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty		x	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		x	
Health and Wellbeing		x	
Town Centre First		x	
Sustainability		x	

5.3 The Area Committee Budget for 2021/22 is £80,800 of which £25,230 is allocated to the Small Grants Scheme. The current balance available before these awards are considered is £7,994.08.

5.4 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required as the award of funding would not have impacts requiring detailed assessment in answer to any of the screening questions.

5.5 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 and any comments received have been incorporated within the report. 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.6.3 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the authorisation of expenditure from the Area Committee Budget.

**Alan Wood**  
**Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared by Kirsty Macleod, Area Committee Officer (Marr)  
Date: 04 November 2021

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Application Details

## APPENDIX 1 - APPLICATION DETAILS

### (a) Organisation: North East Scotland Preservation Trust

#### Project: Huntly Hotel Valuation

**Project Outline:** This is stage 2 of a project to purchase, renovate and run the Huntly Hotel in The Square, Huntly as a community run hotel with accommodation, restaurant, and bistro. Stage 2 focuses on the working up of a full feasibility study for the project. The final project will run as a SCIO and form a key part of the reinvention of the centre of Huntly as described in the Room to Thrive Strategy. As part of the feasibility study a full valuation of the building will be required and will form the basis of negotiations over the purchase of the building. Funding is sought towards the cost of the valuation.

**Community Benefit and Support:** The whole community will benefit from this key building being renovated to a high standard and being brought back into use. The Trust are working with the Huntly Hotel Group on this project, and through them are in communication with the Huntly Town Team. The project is a result of the work completed on the Huntly Room to Thrive Strategy which was developed through extensive community consultation.

#### Project Costs:

**Total:** £2,000      **Amount Requested:** £1,000

**Other Funding:** Applications have been made to Strathbogie Community Council and the Glens of Foudland Wind Farm Community Trust. An external benefactor is also prepared to commit £500.

The Trust did not receive a Marr Area Committee Grant in 2020/21.

### (b) Organisation: Huntly Development Trust

#### Project: Scoping Exercise for a Remakery

**Project Outline:** Huntly Development Trust (HDT) is leading a consortium of local-based organisations to project manage a new initiative for the town of Huntly. The project aims to support the town regeneration by creating a Town-wide "Remakery" which allows for the repair and repurposing of damaged or broken items for personal use or sale. Through the remakery, waste can be reduced, new skills learned and a new social business created. The initial phase requires a scoping exercise supported by an organisation which has created similar projects in other locations across Scotland and the UK ([Remade.network](https://remade.network)).

**Community Benefit and Support:** The community of Huntly and District will benefit from the Remakery project through opportunities for involvement in the various educational, creative and practical activities involved in repurposing and repairing goods. The initiative has the potential to create new businesses and strengthen existing ones, through the circular economy approach. The project is being taken

forward in partnership between HDT, Gordon Rural Action, Deveron Projects and Networks of Wellbeing.

**Project Costs:**

**Total:** Remade consultancy fees total £7,000 of which £4,000 relates to Phase 1: Scoping exercise.

**Amount Requested:** £2,000 towards Phase 1.

**Match Funding:** £2,000 for Phase 1 from the consortium members.

HDT received a grant of £5,000 from the Marr Area Committee in 2020/21 towards the development of an operational plan for No. 30 The Square, Huntly.