

REPORT TO KINCARDINE AND MEARN'S AREA COMMITTEE – 7 DECEMBER 2021 AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2021 - 2022

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 Two applications have been submitted for funding from the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee Budget 2021/22.

2 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to consider and agree two applications to the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee Budget from:

- **Auchenblae Primary School - £2,610.00 and**
- **Stonehaven Fireballs - £4,000.00.**

3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 The Council has allocated £80,800 to each Area Committee for the financial year 2021/22 for the Area Committee Budget. Eleven applications have been submitted and approved at Area Committee leaving a balance of £26,478.99 see **Appendix 1**. The criteria for the Area Committee Budget has been appended to this report as **Appendix 2**.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 An application has been received from Auchenblae Primary School to support their "Community Digital Literacy Project". Auchenblae School are looking to deliver a project that will collaborate the parent body, local businesses and other local groups. An extract below from their application outlines the project in more detail.

The project will involve the use of technology in the form of iPad for;

1. Engaging parents and the wider school community through digital profiling

Currently an app called SeeSaw allows us to share and engage our families in the learning, iPad are crucial for this and we have very limited resource in this area. The intention is to have increased capability for profiling, sharing learning, assessment and blended learning.

2. Creating strong links with local businesses

Partnerships with local businesses from farmers, oil companies and retail to hospitality and the creative industries can be made virtually through video links, email and other apps. The mutual benefits are multiple, our pupils learn about the world of work and can collaborate to learn about enterprise and sustainability from those in our locality.

Business breakfasts where volunteers are invited to discuss and share knowledge is an opportunity for networking but also a meaningful rich context for learning. Technology is integral to this in order to facilitate and maintain

links during the pandemic and beyond this, in order to create business cards, video advertisements, jingles, explore marketing etc.

3. Re-establish intergenerational connection

In the recent past, Auchenblae Primary have had regular meets with senior citizens in the community to demonstrate the use of technology such as iPad. To maintain links, it would be our intention to extend this to the local writing group, senior citizen groups and care homes in the community through intergenerational storytelling.

Children can capture video stories about elders in their family or community and collaborative with them creatively. Children can make interview-based documentary films about memory objects, cultural activities, and historical testimony. The community develop competency in digital storytelling and understand the value of intergenerational collaboration and learning. In the case studies reviewed, participants reported stronger multi-generational relationships and a deeper understanding of historical events.

- 4.2 The total cost of the project is £5,330.00, match funding is in place through fundraising efforts carried out by parents and teachers. The school currently only have 3 iPad and this funding along with their match funding will enable them to purchase 18 iPad. This will enable them to have enough that a whole class can use them. The school have been unsuccessful in previous Windfarm applications as it was considered that their application did not match the criteria.
- 4.3 An application has been submitted from Stonehaven Fireballs Association for £4,000.00 to help with insurance. During the pandemic the event could not take place and as such they had no income for the year 2020. When renewing their insurance, the cost had increased from £930.00 to £7,572.72. This will be paid up over a period of 10 months, commencing December 2021. This insurance not only covers the Fireballs Ceremony but they work closely with the wider community and help and support all the community events where they can. The Stonehaven Fireballs Association supply volunteers, use of our barriers, and use of transport for the following events : RW Thomson Rally, Stonehaven Half Marathon, Harbour Festival, Christmas Light Switch-on Event, Feein' Market, Highland Games, Folk Festival, Beer Festival and Nippy Dip.
- 4.4 The total project cost is approximately £12,000.00 this includes costs for licensed stewards and first aiders. The remaining funding is being sourced through donations from members of public, businesses and local organisations. Due to the increase in costs and to allow them to build up reserves for next year they will be introducing handheld card machines and suggesting a donation amount to all that attend. Previously donation buckets have been used however unfortunately for a number of different reasons this only raises approximately £1,000.00.
- 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk**
- 5.1 This report helps deliver Council Priority 1 – Our People and Council Priority 2 – Our Environment.

5.2. The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed.

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

5.3 An integrated impact assessment is not required as the award of funding will not have a differential effect on persons sharing the same protected characteristics.

5.4 No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level.

5.5 Approval of these applications will reduce the remaining balance of the Area Initiatives Budget to £19,868.99.

6. Scheme of Governance

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

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

Alan Wood
Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Emma Storey, Area Committee Officer
Date 22 November 2021

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Area Committee Balance
Appendix 2 – Area Committee Budget Criteria

Appendix 1

KINCARDINE and MEARN'S AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22						
			BUDGET		£80,800.00	
		DATE RECEIVED	AMOUNT REQUESTED	DATE TO COMMITTEE	AMOUNT AGREED	RUNNING TOTAL
APPLICANT	PURPOSE					
FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22						£80,800.00
Redmyre Primary School	Outdoor Classroom	April 2021	£2,794.00	18 May 2021	£2,794.00	£78,006.00
Auchenblae Primary School	Create Allotment	April 2021	£410.70	18 May 2021	£410.70	£77,595.30
Laurencekirk Primary School	Create Allotment	May 2021	£1,300.00	8 June 2021	£1,300.00	£76,295.30
Auchenblae Park Committee	Purchase of equipment to maintain the recreational facilities.	July 2021	£8,000.00	31 August 2021	£8,000.00	£68,295.30
Stonehaven & District Sea Cadets	Purchase and installation of an access lift.	July 2021	£8,000.00	31 August 2021	£8,000.00	£60,295.30
Stonehaven Town Partnership	Purchase and installation of new fire doors.	July 2021	£2,740.31	31 August 2021	£2,740.31	£57,554.99
Mearns Coastal Heritage Trail (MERCHAT)	Purchase rock armour to complete the path at Seagreens Cottages	August 2021	£8,468.00	21 September 2021	£8,000.00	£49,554.99

Appendix 1

Skateraw Hall Committee	Purchase of Skateraw Hall, Newtonhill for the Community.	October 2021	£8,000.00	10 October 2021	£8,000.00	£41,554.99
Bervie Skatepark	Complete a feasibility report	October 2021	£8,000.00	16 November 2021	£8,000.00	£33,554.99
Maryculter Driving for the Disabled Group	Towards the purchase of a horse	October 2021	£2,000.00	16 November 2021	£2,000.00	£31,554.99
Stonehaven and District Lions Club	To purchase a trailer	October 2021	£5,076.00	16 November 2021	£5,076.00	£26,478.99

APPENDIX 2

Criteria for the Use of the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee Budget 2021/22 onwards, agreed by Area Committee (27.04.21).

1. The budget should be used to enable the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee to respond to local needs by supporting projects within its Area. Projects will be favourably considered if they have clear evidence **of fit to the Councils Strategic Priorities**, including community economic development, and emerged from, or take cognisance of:
 2. Community Action Plans; Settlement Plans
 3. Town Centre First approach
 4. The Local Community Plan
 - a. Strong Communities,
 - b. Wellbeing, and
 - c. Connecting People.
 5. Community Empowerment Act – in support of the assembly of business plans; feasibility studies etc.
 6. Under normal circumstances the maximum payment for any one project or initiative is **£8,000.00**.
 7. The Area Committee Budget should, in normal circumstances, only be used as part of the wider funding package with a maximum contribution normally being (50%). Voluntary/in kind contributions will be considered as part of the contribution of a project, for example, contribution of a piece of equipment or volunteer time. Below is a table that indicates the standard rates, which should be used to calculate volunteer time:

Type of voluntary/in-kind contribution	Per Hour	Per Day
General, unskilled labour (for example, supervised scrub clearance, ditch-digging, planting, basic administrative support)	£9.50*	£76.00
Specialist, skilled, trained labour (for example, operations for which certificated training is a requirement, such as operating dangerous equipment, driving off-road vehicles, using chemicals)	£18.75	£150.00
Specialist services, (for example, supervising, training labour teams, surveys, counts, trapping, ringing, diving, printing, designing, photography)	£31.25	£250.00

Professional services (for example, consultants, lawyers, planners, engineers, accountants, auditors) £50.00 £350.00

*The Living Wage in Scotland.

8. The use of the Area Committee Budget is open to Council Services and constituted groups who can prove that a funding package is being assembled and cannot be met from normal budgets.
9. The applicant must demonstrate that this is the final part of a wider funding package and that the money will be spent before the end of the financial year (31 March). This would not preclude an agreement in principle, earlier in the process, if that is of assistance to the applicant in attracting other funding.
10. The Area Committee Budget may **not** be used to directly fund a continuation of a service or a grant which has been stopped or reduced as a result of budget savings agreed by the Council. It can however, be used to facilitate the transfer of such service delivery or facility to the community or other third sector partner.
11. Where the funding level is in excess of £5,000.00 applicants will be asked to address the Area Committee. Applicants will be given advice on how and what to present to the Committee.
12. The Area Committee Budget will not commit the Council to recurring expenditure and if there are any employee implications, the approval of the Director of Business Services will be obtained. Any proposal that has an implication on a Council revenue or capital budget will have this clearly identified.
13. Recurring annual costs of a group or event will not be supported. The following costs will be considered on a case by case basis:
 1. Developmental costs of a new group that is being established with
 - (a) aims consistent with
 - (b) Council objectives (i)
 2. Setting up costs of a new event (i)
 3. Costs of a one off event which is consistent with Council objectives
 4. Event costs due to circumstances which could reasonably be considered as unforeseen (ii) and (iii)
 - i. An application would have to provide evidence of longer term financial sustainability.
 - ii. Excludes cancellation, weather, poor planning and retrospective applications.
 - iii. An application would have to provide evidence that all other avenues have been exhausted.

14. The Fund will close at the end of February to enable the end of year financial process to progress.
15. A reporting and monitoring system is to be put in place and made available to the Area Committee.
16. All applications must be agreed by the Area Committee.
17. Grants should be claimed **within 6 months of award** and before the end of the financial year in which they are awarded. If outwith timescale a further application will be required if funding still available. A key factor in assessing applications as the financial year progresses will be the likelihood of funding being used.

For Information:

1. You need to evidence how your project meets the criteria and priorities. Depending on the type of project, some criteria and priorities may be more relevant and some not applicable.
2. All Proposals must be in line with and address the **Council Plan priorities** which are:

Our People – Education; Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment – Infrastructure; Resilient Communities
Our Economy – Economy & Enterprise; Estate Modernisation

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-plan/delivering-our-priorities-across-services/>