

## REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 19 APRIL 2022

### CROWN ESTATE SCOTLAND FUND – BUCHAN COASTAL COMMUNITIES COMMISSIONING STRATEGY 2022-2027

#### 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

- 1.1 This report updates Buchan Area Committee on the Crown Estate Scotland Fund for Aberdeenshire Council, and the associated framework for managing the allocation of funds. The report requests Committee to agree to a workshop to develop a commissioning strategy in support of the Buchan allocation of the fund.
- 1.2 **The Committee is recommended to:**
- 1.2.1 **Agree the Buchan Coastal Communities Commissioning Strategy 2022-2027;**
- 1.2.2 **Discuss and agree the recommended priority projects for Year 1 of the Buchan Coastal Communities Commissioning Strategy 2022-2027; and**
- 1.2.3 **Agree to delegate approval of individual commissions allocating funding Year 1 of £89,558 to the Buchan Area Manager following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.**

#### 2 Decision Making Route

- 2.1 On 11 March 2021 Infrastructure Services Committee agreed a framework for the future use of Crown Estate Scotland funding allocated to Aberdeenshire Council - [Aberdeenshire Council - Committees and Meetings](#) (Item 12). This agreement followed a consultation process with Area Committees and Buchan Area Committee considered the proposed framework on 1 December 2020 - [Aberdeenshire Council - Committees and Meetings](#) (Item 9).
- 2.2 On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Buchan Area Committee considered the draft Buchan Coastal Communities Commissioning Strategy 2022-2027, acknowledged the allocation of £89,558 to Buchan for 2021/22 and agreed to undertake a workshop to further develop the detail of the strategy.
- 2.3 The agreed workshop took place on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and the outcomes of the discussion have been incorporated into the strategy.

#### 3 Discussion

- 3.1 Crown Estate Scotland generates income from a range of marine assets (aquaculture, offshore renewables, moorings, and other coastal income).

Aberdeenshire Council receives a proportion of this income annually to be used for coastal community benefit such as support for local projects or initiatives.

3.2 Aberdeenshire Council has received a total of £770,916.15 to date through two separate annual allocations (2019/20 and 2020/21). Each of the coastal Area Committees received £37,500 to disperse through a grant award process. In Buchan, dispersal of the funds was undertaken via a competitive application process with Buchan Area Committee approving the projects to receive funding.

3.3 Recognising future allocations of Crown Estate Scotland funding are anticipated, a framework to govern how this resource is managed in future was developed, in consultation with Area Committees and Area Managers, and agreed by Infrastructure Services on 11 March 2021. In summary the framework confirms:

**Eligible Area** - The eligible area will be Aberdeenshire's Coastal Zone, as defined in the Local Development Plan, and any settlement which borders this. Projects taking place outside of this area and up to two miles from the coastline may be considered where they can demonstrate a strong and tangible link with the coast or sea.

**Priorities** - Funding will be targeted towards activities or infrastructure which support the following priorities:

- 1) Supporting the development of active travel routes along, to and from the coastline
- 2) Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism
- 3) Creating or enhancing community, leisure, and recreational facilities
- 4) Safeguarding, restoring, or enhancing the coastal environment Projects must demonstrate a tangible link to the coast (either by location or theme).

3.4 Infrastructure Services Committee also approved the allocation of 50% of future Crown Estate Scotland allocations to the Council's four coastal Area Committees, divided equally between them, and to approve the allocation of 50% of future Crown Estate Scotland allocations to an Aberdeenshire Coastal Communities Challenge Fund.

3.5 When agreeing to 50% of the future Crown Estate Scotland funding being managed by the four coastal Area Committees, Infrastructure Services Committee noted that the devolved funding should be supported by a plan or commissioning strategy to identify specific projects or initiatives which they would like to see taken forward, with each Area Committee determining how this funding is used.

3.6 Commissioning may involve delivery through Council Services and/or the procurement of goods, works or services in line with the Council's procurement procedures. Areas may also wish to work collaboratively and jointly commission activity which crosses Area boundaries.

3.7 In November 2021, Aberdeenshire Council received notification that the 2021/2022 Crown Estate Scotland Fund allocation will be £716,469. This is

significantly higher than previous allocations as it is based on a new distribution methodology. The allocation to Buchan Area Committee for Year 1 of the Buchan Coastal Communities Commissioning Strategy will be £89,558.

- 3.8 A proposed Commissioning Strategy for Buchan is attached as Appendix 2.
- 3.9 Previously Buchan Area Committee has identified informally the types of projects that could benefit from funding streams including:
- Coastal paths and active travel
  - Harbours - supporting the coastal economy/tourism
  - Sustainable tourism
  - Community facilities
- 3.10 Following the Buchan Coastal Communities Commissioning Strategy workshop the following additional types of projects were identified:
- Community, leisure and recreation facilities, particularly those that contribute to wellbeing and improving mental health
  - Community Hub projects if thematically linked to the Coastal Communities priorities
- 3.11 Potential priority projects for Year 1 of the strategy have been identified and are set out in Appendix 3 to this report.

#### **4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 All of the Council priorities are of relevance to this report, as well as the underlying principles of responsible financial planning and climate and sustainability.

<b>Pillar</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Our People	Education Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Infrastructure Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy & Enterprise Estate Modernisation

- 4.2 This report helps deliver against the Buchan Community Plan and the priority Empowered Communities - successful, inclusive, resilient communities with the confidence, capability, and capacity to tackle the things that matter to them.
- 4.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is (are) agreed.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Financial	X		
Staffing			X
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	X [IIA attached as Appendix 1]		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	X [IIA attached as Appendix 1]		
Climate Change and Sustainability	X [IIA attached as Appendix 1]		
Health and Wellbeing	X [IIA attached as Appendix 1]		
Town Centre First	X [IIA attached as Appendix 1]		

4.4 The financial implications of this Report are that there would be an element of financial risk to the Council in commissioning services from external organisations. This would be mitigated by following the Scheme of Governance Part 3 Financial Regulations.

4.5 An integrated impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as Appendix 1 and no negative impacts have been identified.

4.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a [Corporate Level](#):

ACORP001 – Budget Pressures

ACORP005 - Working with other organisations (e.g., supply chains, outsourcing and partnership working)

## **5 Scheme of Governance**

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

5.2 The Committee is able to consider [and take a decision on] this item in terms of Section B.1.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to agreeing outcomes and areas of focus for the funding of projects which will result in recommendations to services and organisations on matters impacting the Buchan area.

### **Ritchie Johnson, Director of Business Services**

Report Prepared by Eleanor Morris, Area Project Officer, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 – Commissioning Strategy – Buchan

Appendix 3 – Priority Projects Year 1

# Aberdeenshire Council

## Integrated Impact Assessment

### Crown Estate Scotland Funding - Buchan

Assessment ID	IIA-000558
Lead Author	Eleanor Morris
Additional Authors	Amanda Roe
Service Reviewers	Theresa Wood
Subject Matter Experts	Suzanne Rhind, Susan Forbes, Claudia Cowie, Jane Wilkinson, Christine McLennan
Approved By	Amanda Roe
Approved On	Wednesday April 06, 2022
Publication Date	Wednesday April 06, 2022

# 1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Impact of Crown Estate Scotland Funding within Buchan Area

During screening 10 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 5 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Town Centres First

In total there are 27 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by [amanda.roe@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.roe@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

## 2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	Yes
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes

## 3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	No Negative Impacts Identified
Climate Change and Sustainability	No Negative Impacts Identified
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	No Negative Impacts Identified
Health Inequalities	No Negative Impacts Identified
Town Centre's First	No Negative Impacts Identified

## 4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

### 4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe		Yes		
Healthy	Yes			
Achieving		Yes		
Nurtured		Yes		
Active	Yes			
Respected		Yes		
Responsible		Yes		
Included	Yes			

### 4.2. Rights Indicators

UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy	Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child Article 31 - Leisure, play and culture
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### 4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Active	Communities, partners and services can seek funding to develop projects that encourage active travel or create or enhance community, leisure and recreational facilities which may increase physical activeness
Healthy	Exercise and physical activity: Communities, partners and services can seek funding to develop projects that encourage active travel or create or enhance community, leisure and recreational facilities
Included	Many projects that secured funding previously focused on young people and arose from feedback from young people.

### 4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Reducing poverty/Child Poverty Action Plan	Evidence highlights that children living in deprived areas have poorer outcomes and wellbeing levels in comparison to their non-deprived peers. The data shows that not all families living in poverty live in deprived areas. A number of children and young people experiencing poverty, with a level of unmet need will be living in coastal communities.	Using funding to deliver positive outcomes in coastal communities will help support wellbeing and improved socio-economic outcomes

#### 4.5. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

Young people form part of our 'Local Voices' lived experience forum and contribute to discussion about service improvement. Young people also participated in the community impact assessment.

#### 4.6. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

It is recognised that a rights based approach embedded into the commissioning strategy will ensure any services commissioned support the wellbeing of young people and the wider community.

#### 4.7. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

By embedding a rights based approach into our commissioning strategy we provide support and promotion of inclusion and the importance of participation.

#### 4.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The children and young peoples' rights and wellbeing implications are likely to close the inequalities gap and support improved quality of life.

## 5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

### 5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)	Yes			
Age (Older)	Yes			
Disability	Yes			
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

### 5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income	Yes			
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation	Yes			
Socioeconomic background	Yes			

### 5.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Older)	Communities, partners and services can seek funding to develop projects that encourage active travel or create or enhance community, leisure and recreational facilities
Age (Younger)	Communities, partners and services can seek funding to develop projects that encourage active travel or create or enhance community, leisure and recreational facilities.
Disability	Communities, partners and services can seek funding to develop projects that encourage active travel or create or enhance community, leisure and recreational facilities
Area deprivation	The funding uses a range of set criteria and information supplied to identify opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity. Some coastal areas of Buchan (particularly Peterhead Harbour intermediate zone) experience less favourable outcomes relative to the rest of Buchan, Aberdeenshire and Scotland. These areas are included in a Locality Plan and are eligible for this fund under the geographical criteria.

Impact Area	Impact
Low income	The funding uses a range of set criteria and information supplied to identify opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity. Some coastal areas of Buchan (particularly Peterhead Harbour intermediate zone) experience less favourable outcomes relative to the rest of Buchan, Aberdeenshire and Scotland. These areas are included in a Locality Plan and are eligible for this fund under the geographical criteria.
Socioeconomic background	The funding may increase/enhance social and recreational facilities in coastal communities (including deprived areas), many of which would be free to use. There may be increased employment and local spend.

## 5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Community Impact Assessment	It identifies the impact of Covid and gives information on what is important to communities as they recover and where improvements could be focused	It highlights where investment such as Crown Estate Funding can be invested.
Internal Consultation	Area Committee	When developing the framework for dispersing the Crown Estate Funding, consultation was undertaken with Area Committees. No specific equalities issues were identified through this input.	Focusing the funding on the priorities is not anticipated to have a negative effect on any of the protected characteristics.
External Consultation	Online workshops	When developing the framework for the Crown Estates Funding, a stakeholder survey and online workshops were undertaken. From an equalities perspective, both age (younger and older) and disability were highlighted in the input.	There is potential to advance equality of opportunity through the funding for protected characteristics related to age and disability. Specifically, this would be to ensure that the funding can be used to support projects which benefit different age groups and improve the safety and accessibility of coastal facilities including active travel routes.

## 5.5. Engagement with affected groups

Community Impact Assessment, Online stakeholder engagement, Lived Experience Forum

## **5.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups**

Through partnership work with those who support marginalised groups and through community champions supporting these communities.

## **5.7. Evidence of engagement**

When developing the Crown Estates Funding framework priorities accessibility has been reflected in the priorities, particularly around active travel and enhancing community, leisure and recreational facilities

## **5.8. Overall Outcome**

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The proposal is anticipated to have a neutral impact for most protected characteristics and a positive one for disability and age-related protected characteristics.

## **5.9. Improving Relations**

Empowerment of coastal communities to develop/deliver projects that meet the priorities within the commissioning strategy and supported by the funding.

## **5.10. Opportunities of Equality**

The Crown Estate funding provides an opportunity to provide direct resourcing to projects which support people with protected characteristics.

## 6. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

### 6.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating		Yes		
Exercise and physical activity	Yes			
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol		Yes		
Substance use – drugs		Yes		
Mental health	Yes			

### 6.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Exercise and physical activity	Communities, partners and services can seek funding to develop projects that encourage active travel or create or enhance community, leisure and recreational facilities
Mental health	Communities, partners and services can seek funding to develop projects that encourage active travel or create or enhance community, leisure and recreational facilities which in turn can promote positive mental wellbeing.

### 6.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Community Impact Assessment	Over one third of respondents noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted their mental wellbeing. Around one third (35%) of all respondents indicated that their physical wellbeing had been impacted in a negative way although 12% stated that it had a positive impact.	Focusing the funding on priorities that include creating or enhancing community, leisure and recreational facilities could have a positive impact on reducing health inequality.

### 6.4. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The funding can support projects that improve physical and mental wellbeing

## 7. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

### 7.1. Emissions and Resources

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Consumption of energy	Yes			
Energy efficiency	Yes			
Energy source	Yes			
Low carbon transition	Yes			
Consumption of physical resources	Yes			
Waste and circularity		Yes		
Circular economy transition		Yes		
Economic and social transition	Yes			

### 7.2. Biodiversity and Resilience

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Quality of environment	Yes			
Quantity of environment		Yes		
Wildlife and biodiversity	Yes			
Infrastructure resilience		Yes		
Council resilience		Yes		
Community resilience	Yes			
Adaptation	Yes			

### 7.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Adaptation	The funding can be used to support communities identify and adapt to alternative sources of energy for physical assets or improve the material of an asset to increase energy efficiency and reduce consumption of energy
Quality of environment	Funding can be sought for projects that safeguard, restore or enhance the coastal environment
Community resilience	The funding is designed to enable communities to develop and deliver projects within their locality. As part of developing projects support is available to community groups to help ensure the projects and the groups are resilient and the outcomes of the project have a wider socio-economic impact.
Wildlife and biodiversity	The funding can support projects developed by communities, partners or services that safeguard, restore or enhance the coastal environment

Impact Area	Impact
Consumption of energy	The funding can be used to support communities identify alternative sources of energy for physical assets or improve the material of an asset to increase energy efficiency and reduce consumption of energy
Energy efficiency	The funding can be used to support communities identify alternative sources of energy for physical assets or improve the material of an asset to increase energy efficiency and reduce consumption of energy
Energy source	The funding can be used to support communities identify alternative sources of energy for physical assets or improve the material of an asset to increase energy efficiency and reduce consumption of energy
Economic and social transition	Communities, partners or services can seek funding in support of delivery of projects that developing the coastal economy/ sustainable tourism and/ or create or enhance community, leisure and recreational facilities
Low carbon transition	The funding can support communities, partners or services transition to low carbon by supporting appropriate projects
Consumption of physical resources	The funding can be used to support communities identify alternative sources of energy for physical assets or improve the material of an asset to increase energy efficiency and reduce consumption of energy

## 7.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Community Impact Assessment	Community cohesion remains strong and desire for social participation and increased community empowerment seems to be increasing	Community groups may see increase in participation and have ideas for projects to strengthen local cohesion.
External Consultation	Community Impact Assessment	When asked about changes in their local area 28% of respondents had noticed environmental improvements such as better air quality and reduction in noise	Individuals are connecting with their local environment and positive changes are noticed
Other Evidence	Previous applications for funding	Previous grant allocations from the Buchan Coastal Communities Funding was oversubscribed	Communities are looking to develop projects that fit with the priorities of the funding.

## 7.5. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Funding support for communities, partners and services to take forward environmental, coastal activity will have positive impact on socio and economic outcomes

## 8. Town Centre's First Impact Assessment

### 8.1. Local Factors

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Town centre assets	Yes			
Footfall		Yes		
Changes to road layouts		Yes		
Parking		Yes		
Infrastructure changes		Yes		
Aesthetics of the town centre	Yes			
Tourism	Yes			
Public safety		Yes		
Town centre business	Yes			
Cultural heritage and identity	Yes			
Social and cultural aspects	Yes			

### 8.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Aesthetics of the town centre	The funding could be used to develop cultural/heritage projects which may enhance the town centre, within the applicable geographic boundaries. Additional investment in coastal town, creating additional economic and recreational opportunities for locals and visitors
Cultural heritage and identity	The funding could be used to develop cultural/heritage projects which may enhance the town centre, within the applicable geographic boundaries. Additional investment in coastal town, creating additional economic and recreational opportunities for locals and visitors
Social and cultural aspects	The funding could be used to develop cultural/heritage projects which may enhance the town centre, within the applicable geographic boundaries. Additional investment in coastal town, creating additional economic and recreational opportunities for locals and visitors
Town centre assets	The funding could be used to improve town centre assets, within the applicable geographic boundaries. Additional investment in coastal town, creating additional economic and recreational opportunities for locals and visitors
Town centre business	Additional investment in coastal town, creating additional economic and recreational opportunities for locals and visitors
Tourism	Additional investment in coastal town, creating additional economic and recreational opportunities for locals and visitors

### 8.3. Evidence



Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Community engagement	A range of engagement has taken place over a number of years which confirms the coastal links within the town and a desire to see the culture and heritage of a coastal town being reflected within the town centre	The funding could support projects in the town centre that demonstrate a tangible link to the coast and sea.

## 8.4. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The funding could be used to develop cultural/heritage projects which may enhance the town centre, within the applicable geographic boundaries. Additional investment in coastal town, creating additional economic and recreational opportunities for locals and visitors

## 9. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details	
<p>The Coastal Communities Buchan Commissioning Plan will capture and summarize information on inclusion and participation annually, through an annual report to Buchan Area Committee.</p>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Eleanor Morris
	<b>Repeating Activity</b>	No
	<b>Planned Start</b>	Wednesday April 20, 2022
	<b>Planned Finish</b>	Friday March 31, 2023
	<b>Expected Outcome</b>	Each commission will highlight applicable cross-cutting themes, inclusion and participation, and links to Buchan Community Plan priorities.
	<b>Resource Implications</b>	None - the Annual Report will be completed as part of the work plan.

## **DRAFT Buchan Coastal Communities Commissioning Strategy 2022-2027**

*An annual allocation will be made to each coastal Administrative Area. Each Area will develop a plan or commissioning strategy to identify specific projects or initiatives which they would like to see taken forward, with Area Committees approving this. Commissioning may involve delivery through Council Services and/or the procurement of goods or services in line with the Council's procurement procedures. Areas may also jointly commission activity which crosses Area boundaries.*

### **1 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

Crown Estate Scotland generates income from a range of marine assets (aquaculture, offshore renewables, moorings, and other coastal income). Aberdeenshire Council receives a proportion of this income and allocates Buchan Area Committee approximately £90,000 annually to be used for coastal community benefit such as support for local projects or initiatives.

This framework aims to set out principles and outline processes for the use of this funding for the period 2022-2027.

#### **1.2 Eligible Buchan Localities**

The eligible area is based on the Aberdeenshire's [Coastal Zone](#), as defined in the Local Development Plan, and any settlement which borders this. Projects taking place outside of this area and up to two miles from the coastline may be considered where they can demonstrate a strong and tangible link with the coast or sea. Within Buchan, the eligible area is identified in Appendix 1 using maps 14-19 from supplementary guidance section 4 of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017. Settlements within or on the edge of the coastal zone include:

- Boddam
- Crimond
- Cruden Bay
- Longhaven
- Peterhead
- St Combs
- St Fergus

#### **1.3 Outcomes to Be Delivered**

Through a commissioning approach, Buchan Area Committee is seeking to achieve the following outcomes in line with the Coastal Communities programme:

- People will have access to active travel routes along, to and from the coastline will be developed
- The coastal economy and sustainable tourism will be improved
- Community, leisure, and recreational facilities will be created or enhanced to provide more opportunities
- The coastal environment will be safeguarded, restored, or enhanced

Projects must demonstrate a tangible link to the coast (either by location or theme).

#### **1.4 Buchan Priorities**

In line with the Aberdeenshire Council Crown Estate Scotland Framework, Buchan Area Committee has prioritised:

- Supporting the development of active travel routes along, to and from the coastline
- Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism
- Creating or enhancing community, leisure, and recreational facilities
- Safeguarding, restoring, or enhancing the coastal environment

In addition, Buchan Area Committee is seeking to support relevant priorities within the Buchan Community Plan, including but not limited to:

- Priority 1.2 Support teenagers to build confidence and self-esteem to improve their outcomes and reduce social isolation
- Priority 1.3 Support the development of activities for families and young people, including sporting activities
- Priority 2.1 Identify initiatives and tools to raise awareness of the support that is available to help improve mental wellbeing
- Priority 2.2 Explore and develop initiatives to reduce social isolation including through physical activities
- Priority 2.3 Work to ensure there is affordable and reliable transport available in our communities
- Priority 2.4 Work to ensure there is secure access to food and the skills needed to maintain a healthy diet
- Priority 3.1 Support safety initiatives in our communities
- Priority 3.3 To reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour through developing initiatives or activities
- Priority 3.5 Support Active Travel
- Priority 4.2 Develop a Community Wealth Building approach
- Priority 4.3 Support projects and initiatives for regeneration of our communities

## 1.5 Links to Other Areas

Projects that incorporate the boundaries of other coastal Aberdeenshire Areas (Banff & Buchan, Formartine, Kincardine & Mearns) in whole or part may be considered for funding.

## 1.6 Eligibility

Any of the following organisations will be considered as potential commissioning partners:

- SMEs (limited companies, partnerships, or sole traders)
- Public sector organisations
- Co-operatives
- Charities registered in Scotland
- Constituted community groups

## 2 COMMISSIONING PLAN - DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES

### 2.1 Funding

The budget available annually is approximately £90,000 (based on 25% of the Area allocation – 50% of the total Crown Estate Scotland Aberdeenshire Council allocation).

The budget may be subject to change in years 2022/23 onwards.

Funding may be awarded on a non-recurring basis (one off grant) or recurring over a maximum of 3 financial years, subject to funding settlements in future years.

### 2.2 Criteria

The following criteria will be considered when determining commissioning arrangements:

- 1) **Strategic Fit** – To what extent does the project align with the priorities of the framework, Buchan Area Plan (Council), Buchan Community Plan (Partnership), or Buchan Community Action Plans (Community)
- 2) **Cross-Cutting Themes** – Can the project demonstrate a neutral or positive contribution to the following themes?
  - a. Equalities
  - b. Fairer Scotland Duty
  - c. Town Centre First Principle

- d. Sustainability
  - e. Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing
- 3) **Legacy and Sustainability** – Will the project deliver a legacy beyond its lifetime and be sustainable once grant funding has ended?
  - 4) **Project Need and Demand** – Is there sufficient evidence that the project will meet an unmet demand?

### 2.3 Commissioning

Both capital and revenue projects may be supported. Commissions will be negotiated individually, and appropriate commissioning mechanism will be utilised in line with Financial Regulations.

Commissions will be authorised by the Buchan Area Manager following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition spokesperson.

This multi-year commissioning strategy offers the opportunity to use a degree of flexibility in approving commissions reflecting the uncertainty and risks in developing and delivering projects across multiple years. Projects may, therefore, be accelerated or deferred as necessary within the five-year plan while ensuring that the overall strategy meets the programme aims.

### 2.4 Year One Focus

Year one of the commissioning strategy project plan (Appendix 2) includes projects that will deliver against all four priorities, but the following are areas of specific focus:

- Supporting the development of active travel routes along, to and from the coastline
- Creating or enhancing community, leisure, and recreational facilities

With an emphasis placed on projects that support the wellbeing, including mental well-being of Buchan's Coastal communities.

In addition, year one includes support for events promoting sustainable tourism and the coastal economy and safeguarding the natural environment of Buchan's extensive beaches.

### 2.5 Year Two Onwards

To be agreed by Buchan Area Committee. It is noted that feasibility studies funded in year one could enable further projects and future years of the Fund may be used to further develop and deliver those projects.

## 2.6 Governance / Decision Making Process

Buchan Area Committee will agree the outcomes and areas of focus for the Coastal Communities Fund on an annual basis.

Services/Organisations will deliver the outcomes and areas of focus will be identified by the Buchan Area Management Team (in collaboration with other Areas as appropriate).

An appropriate procurement process will be used (if external supplier) to commission the activity and a partnership agreement, service level agreement or equivalent will be used to monitor and evaluate delivery. All commissioning will be in accordance with Aberdeenshire Scheme of Governance [Part 3 Financial Regulations](#).

An annual report will be presented to Buchan Area Committee.

## 2.7 Monitoring and Evaluation

The following outputs and outcomes will be monitored:

- Number of new facilities created
- Number of existing facilities enhanced
- Number of jobs created (in Full Time Equivalent @ 37 hours)
- Number of new products/services created
- Number of volunteer opportunities created
- Length of active travel routes enhanced or created
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Increase in biodiversity
- Increase in revenue to sustain and grow the organisation

Any assets funded by the project grant must be maintained in good condition, adequately insured, and used for the purposes set out in the grant agreement for a minimum of 5 years after the project end date

### Appendix 1 Coastal Zone, Buchan





Project	Phase	1) Supporting the development of active travel routes along, to and from the coastline	2) Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism	3) Creating or enhancing community, leisure and recreational facilities	4) Safeguarding, restoring or enhancing the coastal environment	Cross-cutting Themes	Buchan Community Plan Priorities
Collieburn Peterhead to F&B Way Active Travel Link	Detailed Design & permissions	✓				Sustainability	Priority 3.5 Support Active Travel
Coastal Promenade Peterhead to F&B way active travel link	Scoping & Survey	✓				Sustainability	Priority 3.5 Support Active Travel
Peterhead Links shared use path	Survey, QS	✓				Sustainability	Priority 3.5 Support Active Travel
Peterhead Lido/ Bay Watersports Facilities	Scoping: Options Appraisal & Feasibility			✓		Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	Priority 1.3 Support the development of activities for families and young people, including sporting activities
Boddam - Community Led Facility Improvements	Delivery			✓		Equalities	Priority 2.2 Explore and develop initiatives to reduce social isolation including through physical activities
Interpretation improvements Buchan Beaches	Scoping & Options Appraisal				✓	Equalities	Priority 2.2 Explore and develop initiatives to reduce social isolation including through physical activities
Events - celebrating coastal communities and their stories, culture and heritage, both for local people and visitors	Planning and Delivery		✓			Town Centre First Principle	Priority 4.3 Support projects and initiatives for regeneration of our communities