

REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 28th June 2022

AREA COMMITTEE GRANT SCHEME 2022/2023 – APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

1. Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report requests Members' consideration of applications for community project funding from the Area Committee Grant Scheme.

1.2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 approve the allocation of the Area Committee Grant Scheme as recommended in Appendix 1 attached to this report, and

1.2.2 agree that applications come forward to the Buchan Area Committee at any time between now and the end of the financial year, or until the fund is fully disbursed

2. Decision Making Route

2.1 At the Buchan Area Committee on 19th April 2022 (Item 11) Councillors agreed to make available £61,500 of the Area Committee Budget to an Area Committee Grant Scheme, similar to that run in previous years. It was further agreed that the grant scheme would be publicised and developed in tandem with the Buchan Development Partnership.

2.2 The fund attempts to achieve a good spread of schemes, with broad community benefit across the Buchan area and to focus on local priorities. As in previous years the projects that have been recommended will help deliver towards the Council's priorities and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Where possible the grant will also help groups attract match-funding.

2.3 The schedule of applications received, total costs and recommended awards are included as Appendix 1 to this report. In assessing the schemes together with Buchan Development Partnership, all the applications meet the criteria.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 A total of 11 grant applications was received. Members of the Area Committee met with BDP representatives informally on 7th June 2022 to consider the content of the applications and as to whether more information was required from the groups prior to agreeing any awards.
- 3.2 Nine of the applications are recommended for an award of grant funding. Two applications are considered premature at this stage; Officers will, however, advise the groups concerned of the requirements to allow them to come back to the Area Committee in due course.
- 3.3 The recommended grant awards total £35,551.00, leaving a balance of £25,949.01. It is recommended, in light of the remaining balance, that applications be welcomed at any time, up until the end of the financial year or until the fund is fully utilised, whichever is the sooner.
- 3.4 The awards are based on the agreed limit of £10,000 or 80% of the project costs. Councillors do have the discretion, should they agree that a project is of exceptional merit, to allocate funds accordingly. Where an award has been given, but falls short of the amount requested, Buchan Development Partnership will work with these groups to help them identify the gap funding required.
- 3.5 The applications include a variety of projects ranging from festivals, path and car park repairs, electrical upgrades and kitchen installations.
- 3.6 The communities have prioritised their projects and it is suggested that they are all worthy of support. The recommended projects allow for a balanced geographical spread, are deliverable and reflect value for money.
- 3.7 The help and support of Buchan Development Partnership has been fundamental in the development of this report.
- 3.8 It is proposed to undertake a virtual presentation of awards to be arranged following the Summer recess.

4. Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This report details an application which helps deliver Council Priorities –

Our People – Education, Health & Wellbeing

Our Environment – Infrastructure, Resilient Communities

Our Economy – Economy & Enterprise, Estate Modernisation

Further information can be found –

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

- 4.2 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	

- 4.3 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) was carried out and, at initial screening, no negative impact has been identified. The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken, as the positive impacts relate to projects outwith the Council's control, but which are in pursuit of the Council's priorities relating to community benefits.
- 4.4 There are no staffing implications arising from this report. The management of this budget will be undertaken within existing area management resources.
- 4.5 The proposals outlined in this report are in line with the allocation of financial resources approved as part of the Councils Revenue Budget.
- 4.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: Budget Pressures - ACORP001; Working with other organisations - ACORP005 [Corporate Risk Register](#).
- 4.7 No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level [Directorate Risk Registers](#)

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 can 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.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services

Report by Theresa Wood, Area Committee Officer
Date : 17th June 2022

List of Appendices - Appendix 1 – List of Awards

Area Committee Grants

Name of Group	Description of Project	Project	Amount	Recommend	Reason/Conditions
		Total	Requested		
1 New Pitsligo Community Council	Spoken Word Festival	£2,475	£815	£814.99	
2 Strichen Community Park Company	Path repairs, safety rails, fencing	£9,190	£7,352	£5,000.00	
3 Strichen Town House	Demolition of the Toilets	£8,000	£5,000	No Award	*
4 Hatton Hall	Car Park Repairs	£12,726	£5,000	£5,000.00	
5 Cruden Bay Community Ass	New LED lights and token operated meter	£2,450	£1,960	£1,960.00	
6 Apex Church	Purchase of a generator and associated electrical works	£38,349	£5,000	No Award	*
7 PACT	Payment of a Maintenance/ Engagement Contractor	£6,000	£5,000	£4,500.00	*
8 Mintlaw and District Menshed SCIO	Level the compound surface to improve access and improve sa	£4,860	£3,888	£3,888.00	
9 The Sanctuary	Kitchen installation	£20,873	£5,000	£5,000.00	
10 Buchanhaven Boatshed	Upgrade winch from manual to electric and add safety features	£5,485	£4,388	£4,388.00	
11 Mintlaw Public Hall	Replace existing lighting with LED	£8,373	£5,000	£5,000.00	
12					
13					
				£35,550.99	
				Budget	£61,500
				Underspend	£25,949.01

*Reason / Conditions

3 - Strichen Town House - Group to be invited to put in another application in subsequent rounds

6 - Apex - Application to be deferred until SSEN decision known

7 - PACT - Funding awarded up to March 2023 only