



REPORT TO BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2022

BANFF AND BUCHAN COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND 2021-2022

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the decisions made by the Banff and Buchan Area Manager for the allocation of the Banff and Buchan proportion of the Coastal Communities fund, to advise the Committee of additional funding that has been made available, and to ask the Committee to consider potential future projects. The paper sets out the allocation of the grant in 2021/22 and highlights the funding and suggested projects that it may be supported by the recent allocation of funding for 2021/22 with the potential of this being extended to 2022/23 financial year.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 approve the application from Rosehearty Community Council for £3,409.20 for various items as noted in Appendix 1; and

1.2.2 agree to continue delegated approval of the project grants allocating the current budget to the Banff and Buchan Area Manager following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, and Opposition Spokesperson to ensure approval of future applications to the fund before March 2023.

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 In January 2020, the Scottish Government awarded the first tranche of funding from the Scottish Crown Estate (Marine) Coastal Communities Fund to local authorities. Aberdeenshire Council was awarded £328,314 for 2019/2020.

2.2 The Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC), at its meeting on 23 January 2020 (Item 13), agreed funding allocations and investments in strategic projects and an allocation of £12,500 to each of the four Area Committees which had a coastline.

2.3 The Area Committee, at its meeting on 16 June 2020 (Item 7), agreed to approve £2,498.50 to the "Light of the North" Lighthouse trail. The Committee also deferred consideration of an application for a Coastal Seaweed Industries Diversification Study so that more information about the project could be gained. The Committee granted delegation to the Area Manager, following consultation at an informal meeting with Members on 31 July 2020, to award the remaining money. The Area Manager subsequently agreed to grant the award of £10,000 to the Coastal Seaweed Industries Diversification Study.

- 2.4 ISC, at its meeting on 14 May 2020 (Item 8), agreed that future funding from the Scottish Crown Estate for coastal communities' activity could be aligned with economic development Covid-19 recovery initiatives such as the Phoenix Fund and the Business Resilience and Sustainability Scheme.
- 2.5 ISC, at its meeting on 20 August 2020 (Item 11), noted the amount of funding awarded in 2019/20 and 2020/21, and that a further £25,000 was to be awarded to the four Area Committees which had coastal communities.
- 2.6 Subsequently the Scottish Government confirmed that local authorities could extend the financial flexibility of this funding to the end of the financial year 2021/22.

3. Discussion

- 3.1 The current allocated budget for this fund is £89,558.75, to be spent by March 2023. This was an allocation from 2021/22 which the Scottish Government approved could be carried over to 2022/23. The current allocation of Crown Estate funding for 2022/23 is still awaited from the Scottish Government.
- 3.2 The Coast Aberdeenshire Project Officer has been in post full-time for one year, the current contract running to mid-July 2023. The project now involves around 30 community groups, including 5 community councils in addition to public and third sector partners (e.g., RSPB, NatureScot). Two successful networking events for Stakeholders have taken place, the first at Loch of Strathbeg RSPB reserve on 4 November; the second at the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses on the 23 June. The latter – “Coastal Conversations” - used large maps as a focus for discussions. This format was popular, stimulated lots of useful discussion, and will be repeated.
- 3.3 Expanding interest and activity by communities along the Coastal Pathway Corridor is complemented by the development of farmers' paths under the Scottish Rural Development Programme. New areas for development continue to be identified; key to progressing these is building relationships with landowners. A useful exercise in this regard is the approach to controlling Japanese knotweed along the Coastal path. In addition, the Project Officer, working closely with the Access and Environment Teams and supported by other Council Services, has a number of projects targeted for completion as part of Coast Aberdeenshire in the current financial year. This includes upgrades to the Sandhaven to Rosehearty path, design and upgrades to the path between Findlater and Sandend, and installation of steps at the Sandend Beach.
- 3.4 Elected Members are invited to suggest other potential projects that can be considered from current or future funding allocations.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 Depending on the applications received, this report may help to deliver the following Council priorities:

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Health and Wellbeing
Our Environment	Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy and Enterprise

- 4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

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

- 4.3 Planned projects may have financial and staffing implications but the management of the budget will be undertaken within existing Area Management resources.
- 4.4 An IIA (IIA-000323) was carried out as part of developing the framework for the use of Crown Estate funding previously approved by the Infrastructure Services Committee. This assessment identified a positive impact for disability and age-related protected characteristics.
- 4.5 The following risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

ACORP001 – budget pressures – there is a risk that the Scottish Government may not allow the fund to be carried forward to future years.

ACORP005 – working with other organisations (e.g., partnership working).

This will be mitigated by ensuring that all parties are clear on the objectives of the funding and that deliverables and timescales are agreed, and robustly monitored, through the grant/service level agreement process.

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

ISSR002 – regeneration – action plans depend on how effectively the Development Partnerships engage with the local communities and are able to deliver their vision for each area. Projects included in this tranche of Crown Estate funding will contribute to the delivery of Regeneration Action Plans in Banff, Fraserburgh, Macduff, and Peterhead. In future years, investment through this funding stream in regeneration priorities will continue to be an objective.

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. Any comments are incorporated within the report, and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B.1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as this is a matter specific to the Banff and Buchan Area which is not otherwise properly delegated to any other Committee.

LAURENCE FINDLAY
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Report prepared by: Angela Keith
Date: 10 August 2022

List of Appendices:

1. Application received from Rosehearty Community Council
2. Banff and Buchan Coastal Communities Fund Criteria

APPENDIX 1



**BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND
(Grants between £1000 and £10000)
Application for Assistance**

Name of organisation:	Rosehearty Community Council
Contact name:	Kasia Balina
Position in organisation:	Secretary
Address (including postcode):	
Telephone number:	
Email address:	roseheartycc@hotmail.co.uk

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the Banff and Buchan Area Manager prior to submitting the application form.

Tell us about your group's aims and purposes (include details of your membership and evidence that the organisation has the right level of resources, skills, and capacity to deliver the project):

We are a voluntary group of 10 people who stay locally. Our main aim is to represent the views and take actions to promote the interest of our community. We take care of our community and want to make it a better place to live. We support and work closely with other community organisations, Police Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council. We run environmental projects:

- in cooperation with local Primary School we take part in the Marine Conservation Society's Big Beach Clean Week,
- we organise beach and village clean-up days; we sourced and we own the specialist beach cleaning equipment and in cooperation with local farmers we remove from the beach the seaweeds to harvest the local fields,
- we do our best to keep the public spaces clean and safe for residents, tourists and pets (we raise awareness of the importance of cleaning after dogs and removing the litter).
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In 2021 we successfully applied for the grant from the Banff and Buchan Area Office Initiatives Fund. We bought three picnic tables to make our local Caravan Park even more attractive for residents and tourists and the beach cleaning equipment which is also used by other community groups (for example – the Brownies did the litter pick on Thursday, 21 April, 2022 and they borrowed the litter picking equipment from Rosehearty Community Council).

We care not only about the cleanness and safety of the village. We organise Christmas Lights every year and we plant the flowers in the village, we support other local groups in the delivery of projects important to our small community.

Tell us what you would like to do and describe the need and support for the project? Include an explanation of how your project will be sustained in the future and also how any risks will be managed (e.g. shortfalls in funding).

You must include the site or location of your project.

Rosehearty is a beautiful village. It has everything to attract tourists and to make the residents' life more interesting, cheerful and healthy, except the proper infrastructure.

We would like to create the Rosehearty Heritage Trail to encourage residents to more active life and tourists to stop, stay and spend money in Rosehearty.

The Rosehearty Heritage Trail will be an organised walking route around the village. It will start at the Caravan Park(1). A modern and eye catching information board will direct tourists to the next attractions – Pitsligo Castle(2), the War Memorial (3), Old Pitsligo Kirk(4), the Mounthooly Doocot(5), the Tower (Lighthouse) and the picturesque cliffs (6) and the Rosehearty Harbour (7). We have to apply for 6 planning permissions to erect 6 information boards. We don't need a planning permission for an information board at the Graveyard (Old Pitsligo Kirk, number 4) – we are going to replace an existing board.

Each location will have an information board with the history of the place and some interesting details. We also want to promote the local dialect – a Doric Language – a Doric sentence will be printed on each information board. Additionally, for our elderly residents and guests we will set up a bench on the hill (the War Memorial) with the view on the village, sea and a golf course.

The sites, location plans and pre-planning documents and correspondence are attached to the application form as part of planning documentation.

Please explain how your project has to tangible link to the coast and/or the sea and how it will deliver positive benefits including leverage of investment, economic growth, regeneration and rural or community development:

The project will promote the unique character and history of coastal fishing village. It will boost the tourism and will be promoted by local voluntary organisations and businesses.

To encourage people to come to Rosehearty and stay in Rosehearty we need to deliver an interesting family & leisure package. Our aim is to create an offer which encourage tourists to stay longer and spend more.

Currently we have in Rosehearty 1 restaurant, few businesses with street food, one hotel, two shops, golf course and a beautiful beach. The walking route will be a great addition to our touristic offer and, we believe, will help to boost the tourism.

Tourists currently staying in Rosehearty are surprised when they discover the War Memorial or Mounthooly Doocot. We currently don't have a proper touristic offer or promotional tools to direct them to those places and to show them our history and culture.

Additionally, we want to encourage our residents and residents from neighbouring villages and towns to more active life. We want to promote the Rosehearty Heritage Trail among the B&B schools, we think it could be an attractive offer for a day out for pupils, their families and tourists.

We also believe that the Rosehearty Heritage Trail will be a great addition to the existing natural walking routes located in the close neighbourhood of the village.

What is the total project cost? (The cost of everything related to your project, even the items or activities you aren't asking us to fund)	£14,047.2
	1 st phase – planning applications costs and design - £3,787.20
	2 nd phase – information boards and bench - purchase, delivery and installation - £10,260.00

Please tell us the costs of each item or activity you would like us to fund:		
Item/Activity	Total Cost	Amount Requested from Coastal Communities Grant
Create 7 signs for walking route map of area with bits of history etc; 'You are here' spot to highlight; Provide 2 sets of client's alterations; Proofs and final artwork files for client; Ready to print and PDF for using online if required.	£2,160	£1,944
Design of A4 leaflet folded to 1/3 A4; Map designed and information; Cover design if required.	£576	£518.40.
Illustration of the area, artistic style which can be used for front of leaflet and in a corner of the map. Used for social media etc.	£260	£234
Printing of leaflets, 1000, 170g silk.	£186	£167.40
Planning application cost (6 planning applications 6x £101)	£606	£545.40
Total	£3,788	£3,409.20

Total funds raised to date and the amounts raised (including grants, your own fundraising activities and donations):		
Source	Amount	Date confirmed
Own resources	1 st phase £378, 2 nd phase £1,026	n/a
Total	£1,404	

Other funding applied for (give details of the amount(s) and source(s) as appropriate – in particular Aberdeenshire Council sources):		
Source	Amount	Date confirmed
We intend to apply to Aberdeenshire Council's Coastal Communities Challenge Fund (CCCF) for phase 2 (total cost of project in phase 2 - £10, 260; own resources - £1,026): Information boards, extra protection coat, delivery, installation, bench for Rosehearty Heritage Trail	£9,234	Information not available
Total	£9.234	

Will your project be completed by 31st March 2023?	YES
If you answered no, can your project be delivered in phases and if so please explain how this can be done?	
n/a	
Aberdeenshire Council Priorities	
Tick the Council Priorities your project helps to deliver? (you must tick at least one)	
A strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy	x
Have the best possible transport and digital links across our communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide the best life chances for all our children and young people by raising levels of attainment and achievement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work with parents and carers to support children through every stage of their development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage active lifestyles and promote well-being with a focus on obesity & mental health	x
Have the right mix of housing across all of Aberdeenshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support the delivery of the Health & Social Care Strategic Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work to reduce poverty and inequalities within our communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver responsible, long-term financial planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the right people, in the right place, doing the right thing, at the right time	x
Protect our special environment, including tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions	x

Give details of how your project meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 ensuring that it will be inclusive and not discriminate against any members of your community:

The Rosehearty Heritage Trail will be an outdoor attraction for all people regardless their age, race, gender reassignment, religion or belief and sexual orientation. Access to the information boards and walking route will be free of charge.

Applicant Declaration:

I certify that the information contained in this application is correct, and that I am authorised to make the application on behalf of the above group. I understand that decisions made by the Banff and Buchan Area Committee are final.

Name (Please print)	Kasia Balina Rosehearty Community Council
Signature	Kasia Balina
Date	15/05/2022

Appendix 2

Criteria for the Banff and Buchan Coastal Communities Fund

Fund Eligibility:

- The site of the project or the community is within one mile of Aberdeenshire's coastline.
- Eligible settlements are; Sandend, Fordyce, Portsoy, Whitehills, Boyndie, Banff, Macduff, Gardenstown, Crovie, Pennan, New Aberdour, Rosehearty, Sandhaven, Fraserburgh and Inverallochy/Cairnbulg.
- As **sites** are specifically included, it is possible that applications will be received for projects taking place at coastal locations outwith any settlement.
- Such applications may come from groups or organisations representing communities of interest as well as of place (for example wildlife or environmental, arts or well-being groups).
- Projects must be led by public or third sector parties and have a tangible link to the coast and/or the sea.

This is subjective but, for example, it has been indicated that town centre public realm improvements will not be eligible unless they can be demonstrated to improve access to the foreshore, beach or harbour.

Examples of what is meant by a tangible link to the coast or sea are:

- Projects that help people to develop skills related to coastal or seafaring pursuits, activities or enterprises, for example sailing, fishing or boatbuilding
 - Projects that celebrate the heritage of coastal and seagoing communities of place and interest. For example, a coastal or fishing village or township, historic boatbuilding, or relevant clubs or organisations
 - Projects that improve access to coastal areas. For example, paths and viewpoints
 - Projects that improve the coastal environment. For example, applications to establish and support community groups looking after their coastline
 - Projects that improve community-controlled infrastructure such as harbours, boathouses and buildings.
- Projects must contribute to **at least** one of Aberdeenshire Council's priorities:

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Health and Wellbeing
Our Environment	Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy and Enterprise

- Grants must be a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £10,000.
- There must be a minimum of 10% match funding, which can be in-kind. Funding of up to 90% of projects will support deliverability within the timescale.
- Applications from organisations with an annual turnover of more than £250,000 will not be considered.
- Funding for core activities such as staffing, and overheads will not be eligible.
- Applicants will be required to submit a copy of their most recent, independently examined set of accounts, including their current bank balance and any funds therein which have been ringfenced for other projects.
- Applicants will be required to provide information on related funding applications, whether they have been successful and, if so, how much funding they have received.
- Groups require to be properly constituted and submit a copy of their Constitution or Memorandum and Articles.
- Applications which are solely or substantially for individual benefit will not be considered.
- Groups must be able to give an assurance that they will be able to complete their projects and have receipts submitted in time for the end of the financial year (31st March).
- Payment will be made retrospectively on receipt of invoices or other confirmation that the money has been spent in accordance with the proposals applied for. Payment will be made by BACS transfer to a group's bank account.
- The use of the budget or project must not commit the Council to recurring expenditure or maintenance.