

## REPORT TO BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2022

### BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2022/2023 - AREA INITIATIVE FUND APPLICATIONS

#### **1 Executive Summary/Recommendations**

**1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the applications received in the second tranche for funding from the Banff and Buchan Area Initiatives Fund 2022/2023.

#### **1.2 The Committee is recommended to:**

**1.2.1** consider the applications received in relation to the second tranche of Area Initiative Fund, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report, and determine whether, and to what extent, to award funding;

**1.2.2** agree that a third tranche of Area Initiative Fund will be advertised with a closing date of 21 October 2022, with an informal meeting to take place on 8 November 2022 to allow Members to consider applications to the fund before formal consideration at Banff & Buchan Area Committee on the 15 November 2022; and

**1.2.3** should the budget not be fully committed in the third tranche, that Members consider alternative ways to allocate the budget to be spent before 31 March 2023 and that, following this consultation with Members, the Area Manager be granted delegated authority to make awards as appropriate.

#### **2 Decision-Making Route**

**2.1** The general purpose of this report is to seek the agreement of the Banff and Buchan Area Committee for the allocation of the Banff and Buchan Area Initiatives Fund 2022/2023 which has been set at £81,200.

**2.2** The recommendations within this report are in line with the criteria for the use of the funds as agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee on 19 April 2007.

**2.3** At its meeting on 31 March 2022 the Area Committee agreed to allocate the Banff and Buchan Area Committee Budget 2022/2023 of £81,200, to the Banff and Buchan Area Initiatives Fund, in line with the eligibility criteria outlined in the report, to promote the development of community-based initiatives supporting the delivery of the following themes:

- Changing Aberdeenshire's relationship with alcohol
- Reducing child poverty
- Connected and cohesive communities
- Improving the appearance and maintenance of towns and villages within Banff and Buchan
- Stronger communities
- Safer communities
- Supporting health and active communities
- Tackling poverty and inequality
- Transport and connectivity

2.4 Applicants for the Area Initiatives Fund were informed that the budget would contribute up to 80% towards the total cost of a project up to a maximum of £5,000, or a maximum of £10,000 where the work has been identified and prioritised by the community through a Community Action Plan (or an equivalent).

### **3 Discussion**

3.1 In order to assist the Area Committee to prioritise the applications, all applications have been assessed against the criteria which were agreed by the Area Committee on 30 March 2021, and comments from the Area Manager's team have been provided on each application.

3.2 To comply with the requirements of the internal auditor, groups have been required to submit a copy of their constitution or Memorandum and Articles, and their most recently independently examined accounts.

3.3 To enable Members to have a greater understanding of the status of the groups in terms of governance, sustainability, finance, and the ability to finalise projects by the end of the financial year 2022/2023, a copy of each of the application forms has been made available to them. A list of the applications received to the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche is attached at Appendix 1.

3.4 Payment will be made retrospectively when receipts have been obtained as proof that the money has been spent in accordance with the proposals submitted. Grants must be claimed before 31 March 2023 and groups which are unable to provide receipts before then will not receive their award.

3.5 The first tranche of funding committed was £40,614. The second tranche applications amount to £30,109, should all current applications be awarded, leaving an uncommitted balance of £10,477. It is therefore recommended that a third tranche of applications be sought, with a closing date of 21 October 2022. These applications will be reported to Committee on 15 November 2022.

3.6 There is a strict deadline for all projects to be completed and receipts submitted by 31 March 2023. It is appreciated that some groups may be unable to adhere to this deadline, and this may be exacerbated by the

recognised shortage in some material and equipment. It is therefore requested that Members of the Committee, at an informal session, identify contingency projects which could benefit from any money that was unable to be spent before 31 March 2023, and delegate authority to the Area Manager to allocate this money.

#### 4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 The project supported will help to deliver the following Council Priorities:

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Resilient Communities

Underpinning the Priorities are a number of key principles. They are: right people, right places, right time; responsible finances; climate and sustainability; Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plans; human rights and public protection; tackling poverty and inequalities; digital infrastructure and economy.

The range of applications submitted for Members' consideration contribute, to varying extents, to the delivery of these priorities and principles.

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 and Fairer Duty Scotland		x	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		x	
Climate Change and Sustainability		x	
Health and Wellbeing		x	
Town Centre First			x

4.3 All applications have been shared with colleagues in Strategic Finance in order to assess conformity, where required, with the principles of Following the Public Pound (FPP). No award will be released until, and unless, the applications are confirmed as complying with any requirements.

4.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken as the proposed awards are for projects outwith the Council's management and conform with the Initiative Fund criteria for which no discriminatory impacts have been identified.

- 4.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:  
ACORP001 Budget Pressures;  
ACORP005 Working with Other Organisations (Link to [Corporate Risk Register](#)).

No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level.  
([Link to risk register page on website](#))

## 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 have been incorporated. They 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.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, and Section B.2c of the list of Officer Powers in Part 2B of the Scheme of Governance in relation to delegation to the Area Manager.

### **LAURENCE FINDLAY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Report prepared by: Angela Keith  
Area Manager (Banff and Buchan)  
Date: 3 August 2022

Appendix 1: List of Applications

## APPENDIX 1

Organisation	Project	Total project cost (£)	Amount requested (£)	Previous Awards
Aberdour Parish Hall	Boundary fence	4,750	3,800	<b>2020 – 2021</b> - £5,000 - New hall door and stair to Clock Tower
Fordyce Community Association	Improvements to Community Hall (gable works)	23,965	5,000	<b>2021 – 2022</b> - £3,400 - Surfacing of rear access to hall <b>2020 – 2021</b> - £833 - Replacement of seating in the Community Woodlands <b>2019 – 2020</b> - £3,067 - Insulation, Timber Cladding & Roofing external store at Community Hall
Gardenstown Public Hall	Ceiling Repairs	8,064	6,000	None
Macduff Lions	Football Equipment (goals, balls, bibs and cones)	2,989	2,391	None
Portsoy Community Council	Benches	1,530	1,224	<b>2022-2023</b> - £1,307 - purchase of 2 picnic benches <b>2020 -2021</b> - £640 - defibrillator box and pads <b>2021-2022</b> - £940 - benches at Portsoy Harbour <b>2020-2021</b> - £3,337 interpretation boards

Portsoy Community Council	Compost and Planters	289	231	<p><b>2022-2023</b> - £1,307 - purchase of 2 picnic benches</p> <p><b>2020 -2021</b> - £640 - defibrillator box and pads</p> <p><b>2021-2022</b> - £940 - benches at Portsoy Harbour</p> <p><b>2020-2021</b> - £3,337 interpretation boards</p>
Sandend Amenities Council	Trim Trail Projector and Associated Equipment	10,000 2,000	5,000 1,600	<b>2020-21</b> - £4,598 - Refurbish ladies' toilets
Y Suffer in Silence	Training, Desk Top Computer, Data Base and CCTV equipment	6,078	4,863	None
<b>Total</b>			<b>30,109</b>	