

REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 31st January 2023

AREA COMMITTEE GRANT SCHEME 2022/2023 – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING – Buchan Community Farm

1. Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report requests Members' consideration of an application from Buchan Community Farm for funding from the Area Committee Grant Scheme.

1.2 Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to

1.2.1 consider the application from Buchan Community Farm who are seeking funding towards purchasing an accessible carriage; in determining the application, the Committee is asked to note the recommendation of Buchan Development Partnership (BDP) to award £5,000 as applied for

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 BDP.

2.2 On 28th June 2022 (Item 9) the Buchan Area Committee considered 11 applications for funding from the scheme. Nine of the 11 applications were awarded grant funding totalling £35,551, leaving a balance of £25,949.

2.3 At the meeting of 28th June 2022, it was also agreed to make no award to two further applications that were before Committee for consideration and that both be deferred for further information – (1) Strichen Town House for 'demolition of toilets' and (2) Apex Church for 'purchase of a generator and associated electrical works', this application was deferred pending the outcome of a grant funding application to SSEN. A verbal update will be provided at Committee on both applications.

2.4 A further 5 applications were considered and agreed on 27th September 2022 (Item 8), then one further application on 22nd November 2022 (Item 9), leaving a balance of £8,052.

- 2.5 Staff at BDP have recently been advised that the application submitted by The Sanctuary - and successfully awarded £5,000 by Committee on 28th June 2022 towards a kitchen installation - is no longer required as the group are not in a position to move forward with their project at this time. As a result the remaining balance has increased to £13,052.
- 2.6 Should Committee agree to make an award of £5,000 to Buchan Community Farm, as recommended by BDP, the balance will reduce back to £8,052.

3. Discussion

- 3.1 This report deals specifically with the application from Buchan Community Farm who want to purchase an accessible carriage to allow the people they support to experience carriage driving at the Farm. Currently they have two driving ponies and a carriage, which can be used by able-bodied people, however, many of the people supported have mobility issues; including some in wheelchairs. The carriage will allow everyone to experience the fun of carriage driving. Buchan Community Farm has tracks and large fields on the farm where they will be able to offer a safe and pleasant experience for everyone.
- 3.2 Buchan Community Farm has spoken to: the people they support, care managers and children's social workers who all feel it would be a beneficial service to offer. They offer day services for adults (16 and above for adults with learning difficulties and mental health needs). They are on the framework for Children's Services and Learning Pathways Plus, working with children who struggle to engage in education on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. They also offer respite service for children every other Saturday.
- 3.3 The Farm encourages people to be active outdoors and encourages healthy lifestyles. Being outdoors and interacting with animals has proven mental health and wellbeing benefits for all: reduced stress levels, decreased symptoms of depression and anxiety and improved social functioning and community sense.
- 3.4 The total project cost is £8,054. If the application is successful in receiving the requested amount of £5,000, the balance will be met from the groups existing funds and donations.
- 3.5 Detail of the application received, total cost and recommended award are included within the appendix attached to this report. The application has been fully assessed by BDP and meets the criteria.
- 3.6 Any award is 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, BDP will work with these groups to help them identify the gap funding required.
- 3.7 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.

- 3.8 The help and support of Buchan Development Partnership has been fundamental in the development of this application.

4. Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 The application helps deliver our Council Priorities –

Our People – Education, Health & Wellbeing

Our Environment – Infrastructure, Resilient Communities

Further information can be found at –

<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 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 : 18th January 2022

List of Appendices –
Appendix 1 – Summary of Application from Buchan Community Farm



Group Name	Buchan Community Farm	Charity No.	
Description of Organisation	<p>Buchan Community Farm is a company limited by guarantee, a not-for-profit social enterprise. Governance is provided by a Board of voluntary Directors (registered with Companies House). The Directors are drawn bring a mix of relevant experience and knowledge of social care and local authority-commissioned provision of services, mental health, farming, animal husbandry, agriculture, business acumen, and risk management.</p>		
Unrestricted Reserves		Annual Income	
Total Project Cost	£8045	Amount Requested	£5000
Minimum for Impact	£5000 The balance will be met from existing funds and donations.		
Previous Applications	None		
Purpose of Grant	<p>BCF want to purchase an accessible carriage to allow the people they support to experience carriage driving at the farm. Currently they have two driving ponies and a carriage, which can be used by able-bodied people, however, many of the people supported have mobility issues; including some in wheelchairs. The carriage will allow everyone to experience the fun of carriage driving. BCF have tracks and large fields on the farm where they will be able to offer a safe, pleasant experience for everyone.</p>		
Need/Support for Project and Grant	<p>BCF have spoken to: the people they support, care managers and children's social workers who all feel it would be a beneficial service to offer. BDF offers day services for adults (16 and above for adults with learning difficulties and mental health needs). They are also on the framework for Children's services and learning pathways plus, working with children who struggle to engage in education on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. They also offer respite service for children every other Saturday.</p>		
Impact/Outcomes	<p>This project meets the Health and Well Being and Resilient Communities priorities as the park encourages people to be active outdoors, encouraging healthy lifestyles. Being outdoors and interacting with animals have proven mental health and well being benefits for all: reduced stress levels, decreased symptoms of depression and anxiety and improved social functioning and community sense.</p>		
Recommendation	£5000		
Conditions	None		