

REPORT TO BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE 12 MARCH 2024

BANFF AND BUCHAN COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND 2023/24

1. Executive Summary/Recommendations

The purpose of this report is to (a) update Members on the Coastal Communities funding for 2023/24 from Crown Estate, Marine Scotland funding; and (b) request Members' consideration of an application from the Foyer from the funds for 2023/24.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 note the 2023/24 Banff and Buchan funding allocation from the Crown Estate has been confirmed as £94,404; and

1.2.2 consider the application, as detailed in Appendix 2, submitted by the Foyer, for £10,000 towards the purchase and installation of a grass-roofed storage container for equipment storage from the 2023/2024 allocation and note that, if approved in full, would leave £84,404 to be disbursed by 31 March 2025.

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 Infrastructure Services Committee, (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. 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. This flexibility has continued.

2.3 At its meeting of 11 October 2022, (Item 8) the Area Committee considered the criteria and funding limits for the Coastal Community Fund, agreeing the increase of grant limit to £25,000, as detailed in Appendix 1.

3. Discussion

3.1 The budget allocation for Banff and Buchan for 2023/24, to be spent by 31 March 2025, has been confirmed as £94,404.

3.2 The 2023/24 application from the Foyer, attached as Appendix 2, requests consideration of an application for funding of £10,000 towards the provision of

a grass-roofed container, for use as an equipment store by the groups who meet at the Vinery at Banff. This, if approved in full, would leave a balance of 2023/24 monies of £84,404 to be allocated and implemented in 2024/25. It should be noted that any award made would be subject to the Following the Public Pound process, and also that the Foyer, operating as a not-for-profit organisation, has substantial funds in their bank account. They have advised of their Reserves Policy which requires them to have a minimum of three months cash reserves at any time.

The project for which the Coastal Communities Fund is sought was not envisaged in the original concept of public use of the Vinery, so has not been included in any of the Foyer's financial planning to date. The need was identified in the context of the expanding use of the premises by a variety of groups, many of whom have some requirement for access to onsite storage.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 The approved application will assist in delivering the Economy Pillar of the Council priorities, as detailed below:

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
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Date: 5 March 2024

Appendix 1 Amended Criteria October 2022
Appendix 2 2023/24 Application for Consideration – The Foyer