

REPORT TO BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 16 APRIL 2024

BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2023/2024 – FOOD GROWING AND GREEN SPACES FUND: YEAR END UPDATE AND OUTCOMES

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The purpose of this report is to (a) seek Members' consideration of the 2023/24 application of the Food Growing and Green Spaces Fund, as part of the Area Committee budget; (b) consider and comment on the revised project criteria; and (c) have the continuation of the scheme confirmed.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 consider the outcomes of the 2023/24 Food Growing and Green Spaces Fund as detailed in paragraph 3.2 below;

1.2.2 confirm the project criteria, as detailed in Appendix 1; and

1.2.3 continue, as previously agreed, to support this fund in 2024/25.

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 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.

2.2 At its meeting on 12 September 2023, (Item 12), the Area Committee agreed to establish the Green Space and Food Growing Fund. The scheme was approved in principle for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The initial allocation was to have been £10,000, but at the meeting Members agreed to vire money from this new fund to pay in full all Tranche 3 Area Initiative Fund applications. The residual amount for Green Space and Food Growing for 2023/24 was therefore £4,515.83, with the proviso that any funds returned unspent, or savings from Area Initiative Fund projects coming in under budget, would revert in the first instance to the Green Space and Food Growing pot.

3 Discussion

3.1 The total amount allocated in 2023/24, once funds had been moved to pay all Tranche 3 AIF applications, was £4,515.83. Since then, although active applications have been received from six groups, only one has been able to provide confirmed costings allowing the release of funds.

3.2 Funds of £930 have been paid to Doocot View's Food Growing project. This leaves a fund underspend of £3,585.83.

- 3.3 As per instruction from Senior Leadership Team on 27 March 2024, anything not paid through the ledger by 31st March will be an underspend. Community groups/ projects will have to reapply for 2024/25 funding.
- 3.4 If the Committee do not alter their previous decision that the scheme runs in 2024/25, there are five projects worked up, waiting for the receipt of quotations, to which the funding could be released in early course. It should also be noted that the timing of any funding allocation in April fits more appropriately with growing seasons which may facilitate the advancement of projects.
- 3.5 A suggested revised criteria is appended, and it is proposed that this be adopted for the financial year 2024/25.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 The projects 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 As previously advised, the criteria for Following the Public Pound (FPP) have been altered. The current threshold for is now £10,000. Officers will continue to be alert to cumulative grants, which would include any new funding options detailed above. 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 Council's criteria for the award of monies to the area committees for which no discriminatory impacts have been identified. The Council's budget setting on 22 February 2024, (Item 4) was supported by appropriate IIAs, but no negative impact was identified relating to the Area Committee Budgets.

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.

LAURENCE FINDLAY
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Date: 27 March 2024

Appendix 1: Proposed Food Growing and Green Space Criteria / Guidance