

REPORT TO BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 16 APRIL 2024

BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2024/25

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' consideration of the allocation of Area Committee Budget for 2024/2025.

1.2 **The Committee is recommended, having considered the separate reports on the current three grant schemes as included on this agenda to:**

1.2.1 note the confirmed Area Committee Budget of £71,200 for the financial year 2024/25;

1.2.2 consider whether a mechanism could be developed to allow applicants greater and more realistic timescale to implement any grant awarded projects; and

1.2.3 consider the officers' proposal that the Area Committee Budget be split as follows:

Area Initiatives Fund	£46,920
Food Growing and Green Space Fund	£10,000
Towns & Villages Improvement & Amenity Fund	£14,280

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 The report seeks the agreement of the Banff and Buchan Area Committee for the allocation of the Banff and Buchan Area budget for 2024/25 which has been set at £71,200.

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 the meeting of 12 September 2023, (Item 12) , Committee agreed a mid-year split in allocation of the funding, which had previously been awarded to community projects via the Area Initiatives Fund. Two new streams were added, a Food Growing and Green Spaces fund, (£10,000) and a Towns & Villages Improvement & Amenities scheme (£14,280).

2.4 At Council on 22 February 2024 (Item 4), the Area Committee budget for 2024/25 was confirmed as £71,200.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 In order to assist the Area Committee consider how the budget of £71,200 should be structured in 2024/25, update reports have been added to the agenda on each of the funding streams: Area Initiatives Fund, Food Growing and Green Spaces, and Towns & Villages Improvement & Amenity Fund.
- 3.2 It should be noted that, for the latter two schemes, the mid-year start impacted on ability of groups to progress successful applications, or even take up the funding allocated. It is thought that a complete year would be more effective.
- 3.3 At the meeting on 12 September 2023, (Item 12), the Committee agreed in principle that the Food Growing and Green Spaces and Towns and Villages Improvement and Amenity Fund would be in place for 2023/24 and 2024/25, to allow the schemes to become established.
- 3.4 Given the evidence that some communities are struggling to progress grant work at present, with the current requirement of financial in-year completion and invoicing, Members may wish to consider, and instruct officers to investigate, whether an extended period of completion could be established, or whether any awards should be completed a calendar year from their award, and disconnected from the financial year.
- 3.5 Officers propose that the £71,200 be split as follows:

Area Initiatives Fund	£46,920
Food Growing and Green Space Fund	£10,000
Towns & Villages Improvement & Amenity Fund	£14,280

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 funding schemes 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 for any award of Area Committee funding will be shared with colleagues in Strategic Finance in order to assess conformity, where required, with the principles of Following the Public Pound (FPP). The requirements of FPP having been reviewed means that this may no longer apply to lower-level grants; although attention will be paid to the cumulative effect of successful funding applications across the Council. 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 funding schemes are for projects outwith the Council's management and will conform with the criteria for each project, which Members will have considered in the separate reports on today's agenda, 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: 28 March 2024