

## **REPORT TO BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE 16 APRIL 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; (b) request Members' consideration of applications for the funds; and (c) consider the establishment of a delegation to the Area Manager, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Opposition Spokesperson, to respond to applications in emergency and to facilitate the prompt release of funds in the later part of the financial year.

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

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

**1.2.2 consider the applications from (a) Crovie Preservation Society (CPS) in the sum £13,709.52 for car park repairs at Crovie; and (b) for Aberdeenshire Council, Outdoor Access & Countryside Team, in the sum of £25,000 for coastal path works from Sandend to Findlater Castle Viewpoint;**

**1.2.3 note the above applications, if approved in full, will leave a balance of funding from the 2023/24 financial year, to be spent by 31 March 2025, of £45,694.48;**

**1.2.4 note amended criteria for the scheme as detailed in Appendix 3; and**

**1.2.5 consider the delegation to the Area Manager, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Opposition Spokesperson, to respond to applications in emergency and to facilitate the prompt release of funds in the later part of the financial year.**

#### **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.

- 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.
- 2.4 At the meeting of 19 December 2023, (Item 6), it was reported that funding for 2023/24 was likely to be £94,404, subject to the application of the established formula for sharing funds across Aberdeenshire.
- 2.5 On 12 March 2024, (Item 10), it was confirmed that Banff and Buchan's share of funding for 2023/24 would be £94,404.
- 2.6 At today's meeting, the Committee will have considered and approved a revised set of criteria for the scheme.

### **3. Discussion**

- 3.1 The current Banff and Buchan allocation of Crown Estate funding for 2023/24 has been confirmed to be £94,404. Scottish Government have agreed to extend this funding to March 2025.
- 3.2 At the meeting 12 March 2024, (Item 10), £10,000 was awarded to the Foyer for the installation of storage at the Vinery, Banff, leaving £84,404 to be allocated from the 2023/24 funding, to be spent by 31 March 2025.
- 3.3 The application, detailed in Appendix 1 hereto, from Crovie Preservation Society (CPS) seeks funding of £13,709.52 for works to the car park, including repairs to a deteriorating current surface, slippery in wet weather; the replacement of a perimeter fence, acting as a safety barrier preventing people from falling over the cliff; and the installation of erosion protection to maintain the integrity of the car park.
- 3.4 The application, detailed in Appendix 2, submitted by Aberdeenshire Council's Outdoor Access & Countryside Team, is for a contribution of £25,000 towards the delivery of construction works to upgrade the coastal path from Sandend to Findlater Castle Viewpoint, including realignment of the path to maximise accessibility and make the path sustainable and easier to maintain.

It should be noted that on 22 August 2023, (Item 11), the Committee agreed funding for coastal path works including "Findlater to Sandend – upgrade, re-route and design of the coastal and core path – in particular produce path specification; undertake procurement process; manage construction contract; and issue communications to relevant stakeholders on the progress of the works. (£5,000)".

This part of the previously agreed project has not been able to be delivered as yet.

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

Report prepared by: Angela Keith  
Date: 2 April 2024

- Appendix 1 Crovie Preservation Society: Application for consideration  
Appendix 2 Aberdeenshire Council, Outdoor Access & Countryside Team:  
Application for consideration  
Appendix 3 Revised Criteria