

Proposed Revised Criteria for the Banff and Buchan Coastal Communities Fund

Fund Eligibility:

- The site of the project or the community is within one mile of Aberdeenshire's coastline.
- Eligible settlements are; Sandend, Fordyce, Portsoy, Whitehills, Boyndie, Banff, Macduff, Gardenstown, Crovie, Pennan, New Aberdour, Rosehearty, Sandhaven, Fraserburgh and Inverallochy/Cairnbulg.
- As **sites** are specifically included, it is possible that applications will be received for projects taking place at coastal locations outwith any settlement.
- Such applications may come from groups or organisations representing communities of interest as well as of place (for example wildlife or environmental, arts or well-being groups).
- Projects must be led by public or third sector parties and have a tangible link to the coast and/or the sea.

This is subjective but, for example, it has been indicated that town centre public realm improvements will not be eligible unless they can be demonstrated to improve access to the foreshore, beach or harbour.

Examples of what is meant by a tangible link to the coast or sea are:

- > Projects that help people to develop skills related to coastal or seafaring pursuits, activities or enterprises, for example sailing, fishing, or boatbuilding
 - > Projects that celebrate the heritage of coastal and seagoing communities of place and interest. For example, a coastal or fishing village or township, historic boatbuilding, or relevant clubs or organisations
 - > Projects that improve access to coastal areas. For example, paths and viewpoints
 - > Projects that improve the coastal environment. For example, applications to establish and support community groups looking after their coastline
 - > Projects that improve community-controlled infrastructure such as harbours, boathouses and buildings.
- Projects must contribute to **at least** one of Aberdeenshire Council's priorities:

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Health and Wellbeing
Our Environment	Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy and Enterprise

- Grants must be a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £25,000.
- There must be a minimum of 10% match funding, which can be in-kind. Funding of up to 90% of projects will support deliverability within the timescale.
- Applications from organisations with an annual turnover of more than £250,000 will not be considered, **unless applications are being submitted by the Council on behalf of community groups, or by other bodies whose annual turnover is not directly related to the local initiative under consideration.**
- Funding for core activities such as staffing, and overheads will not be eligible. **In some instances, funding for consultancy work, or for seasonal posts, may be considered.**
- **Third party** applicants will be required to submit a copy of their most recent, independently examined set of accounts, including their current bank balance, **demonstrated by three most recent bank statements**, and **identify** any funds therein which have been ringfenced for other projects.
- Applicants will be required to provide information on related funding applications, whether they have been successful and, if so, how much funding they have received.
- Groups require to be properly constituted and submit a copy of their Constitution or Memorandum of **Understanding/ Articles of Association**. **(This may not apply when Aberdeenshire Council is making applications on behalf of others).**
- **Groups will be expected to provide, for the purposes of Following the Public Pound, copies of their insurance documents.**
- Applications which are solely, or substantially, for individual benefit will not be considered.

- Groups must be able to give an assurance that they will be able to complete their projects and have receipts submitted in time for the end of the financial year (31st March).
- Payment will be made retrospectively on receipt of invoices or other confirmation that the money has been spent in accordance with the proposals applied for. Payment will be made by BACS transfer to a group's bank account, **or, where the Council is acting on behalf of a group, by internal transfer.**
- The use of the budget or project must not commit the Council to recurring expenditure or maintenance.