

REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 23 APRIL 2024

CROWN ESTATE SCOTLAND FUND – BUCHAN COASTAL COMMUNITIES COMMISSIONING STRATEGY (2022-2027) UPDATE AND YEAR 3

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report updates Buchan Area Committee on the Crown Estate Scotland Fund for Aberdeenshire Council. It requests the Committee note the projects commissioned in year two of the strategy (2023-2024) and the funding available for year three (2024-2025). The Committee is asked to agree the recommended priority commissions for year three and to continue to delegate the award of further commissions.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Note the additional funding allocation of £94,404 for 2023-2024 from the Scottish Crown Estate (Marine) Coastal Communities Fund and the agreed option provided by Scottish Government to extend the spend of this allocation to 2024-2025; and

1.2.2 Note the report (Appendix 1) of projects commissioned in year two of the Buchan Coastal Communities Commissioning Strategy 2022-2027 (Appendix 3)

1.2.3 Discuss and agree the priority projects for year three of the strategy (Appendix 2); and

1.2.4 Agree to delegate the allocation of £5000 to the Area Manager to support events in coastal communities

1.2.5 Agree to continue to delegate award of further individual commissions, with the exception of those supported under recommendation 1.2.4, to the Buchan Area Manager following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Buchan Area Committee

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 On 11 March 2021 Infrastructure Services Committee agreed a framework for the future use of Crown Estate Scotland funding allocated to Aberdeenshire Council - [Aberdeenshire Council - Committees and Meetings](#) (Item 12). This agreement followed a consultation process with Area Committees and Buchan Area Committee considered the proposed framework on 1 December 2020 - [Aberdeenshire Council - Committees and Meetings](#) (Item 9).

- 2.2 On 19th April 2022 the Buchan Coastal Communities Commissioning Strategy 2022-2027 was agreed along with recommended projects for year one of the strategy and the delegation of individual commissioning decisions to the Area Manager in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Buchan Area Committee.
- 2.3 On 9th May 2023 committee agreed priority projects for year two of the strategy and continued the delegation of further individual commissioning decisions to the Area Manager in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Buchan Area Committee.
- 2.4 On 30 November 2023 Aberdeenshire Council received the latest tranche of funding (£755,232) from the Scottish Crown Estate (Marine) Coastal Communities Fund for 2023-2024.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 Crown Estate Scotland generates income from a range of marine assets (aquaculture, offshore renewables, moorings, and other coastal income). Aberdeenshire Council receives a proportion of this income annually to be used for coastal community benefit such as support for local projects or initiatives.
- 3.2 A framework agreed by Infrastructure Services Committee in March 2021 establishes priorities, eligibility criteria, processes and arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Since the adoption of the framework, the following allocations of funding have been received

Allocation 3 (2021/22) – £716,469.98

Allocation 4 (2022/23) – £669,136.11

Total - £1,385,606.09
- 3.3 Notification of Allocation 5 (2023/24) - £755,232 was received from the Scottish Government on 30 November 2023, indicating a preference for spend by 31 March 2024. However, an option to defer the allocation for spend in 2024-2025 has been exercised in order to maximise the time for delivery and ensure best value in the use of the funds.
- 3.4 Buchan Area Committee agreed a strategy for commissioning projects to fulfil the criteria of the fund from 2022 – 2027. The strategy (Appendix 3) sets out the priorities, criteria and eligible locations.
- 3.5 Commissioning may involve delivery through Council Services and/or the procurement of goods, works or services in line with the Council's procurement procedures. Commissioning may also involve the awarding of grants. Areas may also choose to work collaboratively and jointly commission activity which crosses Area boundaries.
- 3.6 In year 2 of the strategy the Buchan Area was initially allocated £71,402.93 to distribute from the 2022-23 allocation by Marine Scotland. In December 2023

the Area Manager for Buchan was advised that an additional £11,121.59 has been allocated for distribution in Buchan.

- 3.7 Funding in year two of the strategy was fully committed to a total of 14 projects.
- 3.8 A report of the funding awards made from the Buchan 2022-2023 allocation, year two of the strategy, is attached at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.9 Buchan Area Committee agreed six priority projects on 9th May 2023. Three of these projects, Longhaven Play Equipment, Peterhead Place Vision and Peterhead Sustainable Tourism and Economic Development - Town Centre redesign, were continued from year one of the strategy. Three additional priority projects, Peterhead Interchange Mural, Scotstown Beach Environmental Improvements and Seasonal Access Ranger – Buchan were also agreed for year two.
- 3.10 Eight additional projects were identified during year three and brought forward under the agreed delegation to the Area Manager, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair, to support the delivery of the strategy outcomes. Of these, five projects were led by community or third sector groups in Buchan and three were led by Aberdeenshire Council services. A summary of all year two projects can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.11 In year three Buchan Area Committee has £94,404 to commission projects that meet the aims of the strategy.
- 3.12 The Area Manager's Team through discussions with community groups and Council Services continue to identify a range of projects that meet the criteria of the strategy to 2027. An Expression of Interest form and guidance has been developed to help inform this process.
- 3.13 Six priority commissions for year three of the strategy have been identified and are summarised in Appendix 2 to this report. Allocations of funding to the priority projects total £18,000.
- 3.14 Two priority commissions complete a project started in year two. These are the Cruden Bay Community Assets project and Scotstown Beach Environmental Improvements.
- 3.15 Three commissions are additional phases of projects that have been previously supported. These are East Buchan Beaches – Interpretation, Peterhead Reform Tower Scoping or Condition Report, Seasonal Access Ranger – Buchan.
- 3.16 The Seasonal Access Ranger – Buchan commission is subject to match funding being agreed and the proportionate cost to Buchan will be determined once match funding is known. The minimum realistic post to progress is 0.6 full time equivalent (FTE). However, not all costs will be pro-rata, for example vehicle hire. Particular outcomes for this commission will be monitoring impact of works to Scotstown Beach access car park.

- 3.17 The Peterhead Reform Tower Scoping or Condition Report commission will be subject to discussion with community groups and subject to an Expression of Interest being agreed.
- 3.18 Events in coastal communities can be important drivers of economic development and sustainable tourism. In order to support this a commission of £5000 has been included to be awarded as small grants (up to £1000) by the Area Manager in support of events in Buchan’s coastal settlements.
- 3.19 £76,404 remains to be allocated within the 2024 -2025 financial year.
- 3.20 The Buchan Area Manger expects to receive an Expression of Interest from the Peterhead Cultural Quarter project team where the is alignment between the strategy aims and the project’s objectives. This may be commissioned in partnership with Banff and Buchan if there is alignment with the wider aims of the Cultural Tides project across both Peterhead and Macduff.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 Subject to the commissions agreed in year three of the strategy, this report may help to deliver the following Council priorities:

Our People: Learning for Life and Health & Wellbeing
 Our Environment: Climate Change and Resilient Communities
 Our Economy: Economic Growth and Infrastructure and public assets

- 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 [IIA attached as Appendix 4]		
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing	x [IIA attached as Appendix 4]		
Climate Change and Sustainability	x [IIA attached as Appendix 4]		
Health and Wellbeing	x [IIA attached as Appendix 4]		
Town Centre First	x [IIA attached as Appendix 4]		

- 4.4 The financial implications of this Report are that there would be an element of financial risk to the Council in commissioning services from external organisations. This would be mitigated by following the Scheme of Governance Part 3 Financial Regulations.
- 4.5 The staffing implications are that, if agreed, one of the proposed commissions makes a contribution to staffing costs with outcomes that align to the strategy.
- 4.6 An integrated impact assessment was carried out as part of the development of the strategy referenced above. There has been no change to the impact assessment as the strategy is unchanged. The integrated impact assessment for the strategy is included as Appendix 4 and no negative impacts have been identified. Depending on the projects finally commissioned the following positive impacts are possible:
- Communities, partners and services can seek funding to develop projects that encourage active travel or create or enhance community, leisure and recreational facilities. This potential positive impact is relevant to: Children's Rights to be active; people with the protected characteristics of Age (younger and older) and Disability; and health inequality by supporting exercise and physical activity.
 - Communities, partners and services can seek funding to develop projects that encourage active travel or create or enhance community, leisure and recreational facilities which may increase physical activeness and promote positive mental wellbeing. This potential positive impact is relevant to: Children's Rights to be healthy and mental health.
 - Children's right to be included may be supported by the ability to support projects focused on young people and arising from feedback from young people.
 - Area deprivation and low income may be positively impacted because some coastal areas of Buchan (particularly Peterhead Harbour intermediate zone) experience less favourable outcomes relative to the rest of Buchan, Aberdeenshire and Scotland, in these terms. These areas are included in a Locality Plan and are eligible for this fund under the geographical criteria. In addition, the commissions funded may increase/enhance social and recreational facilities in coastal communities. There may be increased employment and local spend.
 - There are also potential environmental impacts that may be positive in coastal communities. Commission may support: identifying and adapting to alternative sources of energy for physical assets or increasing energy efficiency and reducing consumption of energy; safeguard, restoring or enhancing the coastal environment; increasing community resilience; developing the coastal economy/ sustainable tourism; and creating or enhancing community, leisure and recreational facilities in terms in terms of social, economic and low carbon transition.

- 4.7 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a [Corporate Level](#):

ACORP001 – Budget Pressures

ACORP005 - Working with other organisations (e.g., supply chains, outsourcing and partnership working)

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

BSSR003 - New ring-fenced funding restricts flexibility. Crown Estate funds are restricted. Proper use of funds is enabled by taking appropriate advice and following guidance. [Business Services Risk Register](#).

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 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.1.2 of the [List of Committee Powers in Part 2A](#) of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to agreeing outcomes and areas of focus for the funding of projects which will result in recommendations to services and organisations on matters impacting the Buchan area.

Rob Simpson, Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Eleanor Morris, Area Project Officer

28 March 2024

List of Appendices –

Appendix 1 – Impact report year two commissions

Appendix 2 – Summary of recommended projects year three

Appendix 3 – Coastal Commissioning Strategy Buchan 2022 - 2027

Appendix 4 – Integrated Impact Assessment