

## **Buchan Coastal Communities Commissioning Strategy 2022-2027**

*An annual allocation will be made to each coastal Administrative Area. Each Area will develop a plan or commissioning strategy to identify specific projects or initiatives which they would like to see taken forward, with Area Committees approving this. Commissioning may involve delivery through Council Services and/or the procurement of goods or services in line with the Council's procurement procedures. Areas may also jointly commission activity which crosses Area boundaries.*

### **1 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

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 and allocates Buchan Area Committee approximately £90,000 annually to be used for coastal community benefit such as support for local projects or initiatives.

This framework aims to set out principles and outline processes for the use of this funding for the period 2022-2027.

#### **1.2 Eligible Buchan Localities**

The eligible area is based on the Aberdeenshire's [Coastal Zone](#), as defined in the Local Development Plan, and any settlement which borders this. Projects taking place outside of this area and up to two miles from the coastline may be considered where they can demonstrate a strong and tangible link with the coast or sea. Within Buchan, the eligible area is identified in Appendix 1 using maps 14-19 from supplementary guidance section 4 of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017. Settlements within or on the edge of the coastal zone include:

- Boddam
- Crimond
- Cruden Bay
- Longhaven
- Peterhead
- St Combs
- St Fergus

#### **1.3 Outcomes to Be Delivered**

Through a commissioning approach, Buchan Area Committee is seeking to achieve the following outcomes in line with the Coastal Communities programme:

- People will have access to active travel routes along, to and from the coastline will be developed
- The coastal economy and sustainable tourism will be improved
- Community, leisure, and recreational facilities will be created or enhanced to provide more opportunities
- The coastal environment will be safeguarded, restored, or enhanced

Projects must demonstrate a tangible link to the coast (either by location or theme).

#### **1.4 Buchan Priorities**

In line with the Aberdeenshire Council Crown Estate Scotland Framework, Buchan Area Committee has prioritised:

- Supporting the development of active travel routes along, to and from the coastline
- Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism
- Creating or enhancing community, leisure, and recreational facilities
- Safeguarding, restoring, or enhancing the coastal environment

In addition, Buchan Area Committee is seeking to support relevant priorities within the Buchan Community Plan, including but not limited to:

- Priority 1.2 Support teenagers to build confidence and self-esteem to improve their outcomes and reduce social isolation
- Priority 1.3 Support the development of activities for families and young people, including sporting activities
- Priority 2.1 Identify initiatives and tools to raise awareness of the support that is available to help improve mental wellbeing
- Priority 2.2 Explore and develop initiatives to reduce social isolation including through physical activities
- Priority 2.3 Work to ensure there is affordable and reliable transport available in our communities
- Priority 2.4 Work to ensure there is secure access to food and the skills needed to maintain a healthy diet
- Priority 3.1 Support safety initiatives in our communities
- Priority 3.3 To reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour through developing initiatives or activities
- Priority 3.5 Support Active Travel
- Priority 4.2 Develop a Community Wealth Building approach
- Priority 4.3 Support projects and initiatives for regeneration of our communities

## 1.5 Links to Other Areas

Projects that incorporate the boundaries of other coastal Aberdeenshire Areas (Banff & Buchan, Formartine, Kincardine & Mearns) in whole or part may be considered for funding.

## 1.6 Eligibility

Any of the following organisations will be considered as potential commissioning partners:

- SMEs (limited companies, partnerships, or sole traders)
- Public sector organisations
- Co-operatives
- Charities registered in Scotland
- Constituted community groups

## 2 COMMISSIONING PLAN - DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES

### 2.1 Funding

The budget available annually is approximately £90,000 (based on 25% of the Area allocation – 50% of the total Crown Estate Scotland Aberdeenshire Council allocation).

The budget may be subject to change in years 2022/23 onwards.

Funding may be awarded on a non-recurring basis (one off grant) or recurring over a maximum of 3 financial years, subject to funding settlements in future years.

### 2.2 Criteria

The following criteria will be considered when determining commissioning arrangements:

- 1) **Strategic Fit** – To what extent does the project align with the priorities of the framework, Buchan Area Plan (Council), Buchan Community Plan (Partnership), or Buchan Community Action Plans (Community)
- 2) **Cross-Cutting Themes** – Can the project demonstrate a neutral or positive contribution to the following themes?
  - a. Equalities
  - b. Fairer Scotland Duty
  - c. Town Centre First Principle

- d. Sustainability
  - e. Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing
- 3) **Legacy and Sustainability** – Will the project deliver a legacy beyond its lifetime and be sustainable once grant funding has ended?
  - 4) **Project Need and Demand** – Is there sufficient evidence that the project will meet an unmet demand?

### 2.3 Commissioning

Both capital and revenue projects may be supported. Commissions will be negotiated individually, and appropriate commissioning mechanism will be utilised in line with Financial Regulations.

Commissions will be authorised by the Buchan Area Manager following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition spokesperson.

This multi-year commissioning strategy offers the opportunity to use a degree of flexibility in approving commissions reflecting the uncertainty and risks in developing and delivering projects across multiple years. Projects may, therefore, be accelerated or deferred as necessary within the five-year plan while ensuring that the overall strategy meets the programme aims.

### 2.4 Year One Focus

Year one of the commissioning strategy project plan (Appendix 2) includes projects that will deliver against all four priorities, but the following are areas of specific focus:

- Supporting the development of active travel routes along, to and from the coastline
- Creating or enhancing community, leisure, and recreational facilities

With an emphasis placed on projects that support the wellbeing, including mental well-being of Buchan's Coastal communities.

In addition, year one includes support for events promoting sustainable tourism and the coastal economy and safeguarding the natural environment of Buchan's extensive beaches.

### 2.5 Year Two Onwards

To be agreed by Buchan Area Committee. It is noted that feasibility studies funded in year one could enable further projects and future years of the Fund may be used to further develop and deliver those projects.

## **2.6 Governance / Decision Making Process**

Buchan Area Committee will agree the outcomes and areas of focus for the Coastal Communities Fund on an annual basis.

Services/Organisations will deliver the outcomes and areas of focus will be identified by the Buchan Area Management Team (in collaboration with other Areas as appropriate).

An appropriate procurement process will be used (if external supplier) to commission the activity and a partnership agreement, service level agreement or equivalent will be used to monitor and evaluate delivery. All commissioning will be in accordance with Aberdeenshire Scheme of Governance [Part 3 Financial Regulations](#).

An annual report will be presented to Buchan Area Committee.

## **2.7 Monitoring and Evaluation**

The following outputs and outcomes will be monitored:

- Number of new facilities created
- Number of existing facilities enhanced
- Number of jobs created (in Full Time Equivalent @ 37 hours)
- Number of new products/services created
- Number of volunteer opportunities created
- Length of active travel routes enhanced or created
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Increase in biodiversity
- Increase in revenue to sustain and grow the organisation

Any assets funded by the project grant must be maintained in good condition, adequately insured, and used for the purposes set out in the grant agreement for a minimum of 5 years after the project end date

## Appendix 1 Coastal Zone, Buchan

