

**BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE  
PROJECT GRANT SCHEME 2025/2026**

**Criteria for Application**

Aberdeenshire Council's Buchan Area Committee will distribute £20,500 through the Area Committee Project Grant Scheme. The fund is available for community projects that can demonstrate wide community benefits that are sustainable and are of significant benefit to their local area.

There will be two rounds for applications – deadlines are Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 and Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2025. You will be notified if you have been successful by 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**Please note:** - Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with a member of the Buchan Area Managers Team prior to submitting the application form. For further information please contact [buchan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:buchan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or 01467 530917.

Applications should be submitted to: [buchan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:buchan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**About your organisation:**

- Applications must be submitted by a constituted group with a bank account.
- A copy of your Constitution and two most recent bank statements must be submitted with your application.
- In particular, prioritisation will be given to new groups coming forward who have not previously made a bid under this initiative or groups who did not receive funding from this grant scheme in the last financial year
- Groups with sufficient reserves will be required to explain why they are unable to use their reserves

**Fund eligibility:**

- Communities across Buchan can apply for up to 80% of the total cost of a project –

Up to a maximum of £5,000 if the group can demonstrate that the project will deliver wide community benefit and can enhance their local area. The funding can be used to support a range of improvements - such as boosting the appearance of towns and villages, supporting the health and wellbeing of residents, reducing social isolation, help groups develop their halls or parks, explore Asset Transfer possibilities, improve the sustainability of their assets through renewable energy or carbon footprint reducing measures, addressing emerging priorities where evidence supports the need, as well as supporting community businesses and social enterprises.

- Your project must contribute to at least one of Aberdeenshire Council's 6 priorities (overleaf)

- Projects that tie-in with 'Aberdeenshire Council's Route Map 2030 and Beyond' in terms of energy efficiency, climate change, economic growth, environmental benefits and sustainability will be favoured by the Committee for funding

#### **Financial notes:**

- Maximum grant is £5,000 or 80% of the final total project cost (whichever is lesser) (Note – you will be required to submit evidence of spend, by way of copy receipts or copy bank statements, totalling the final cost as applied for, ie total project cost equals £5,000 and your group are awarded £4,000 (being 80%), the evidence of spend submitted must total £5,000. Should the groups final total cost be less than anticipated, then the grant payment will reduce to 80% of final total project cost.)
- Your project must have a minimum of 20% match funding (this can include in-kind contributions)
- Grants will be paid retrospectively (subject to satisfactory evidence being submitted to support all claims, ie copy receipts or bank statements). In the event of a group finding it difficult to make upfront payments, the grant may be paid on receipt of a copy invoice (subject to evidence of spend being provided as soon as is available) or an interim grant payment may be made; such financial agreements to be at the discretion of the Area Manager. Groups with limited funds are encouraged to make contact and discuss their potential application
- To ensure that the grant fund is fully utilised, groups will be advised that by 30th November 2025 they must be able to demonstrate their ability to complete their project and draw down their grant award by 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026. In the event of a group advising that they will be unable to draw down their grant award, the unclaimed funds may be transferred back into the Area Committee Project Grant Scheme for redistribution
- You must submit evidence of the costs of your project (for example quotes for items or services you will purchase, or cost breakdowns of staff and running costs)
- We cannot fund costs already incurred or activities that will take place prior to decision, ie retrospective funding.

(**Note** – The Buchan Area Committee wish to support local businesses, so applications will be stronger if goods or services are sourced in Buchan, or if this is not practicable, as close to your project as possible.)

#### **Consents and permissions:**

- If your project takes place on a site you do not own or control you must confirm you have permission and provide information/evidence of a lease agreement for the site.
- If your project involves building works you must have the relevant planning permission and/or building warrant (or be able to confirm they are not required) unless your application is for fees to obtain such consents as part of your project development

#### **Examples of projects that may be eligible for funding:**

- Projects contributing towards community resilience, eg the repair or renovation of local facilities such as village halls, allotments, harbours.
- Contributions towards energy costs/climate issues, eg community/public halls

- Skills development and engagement activities including transport costs.
- Start-up funding for groups where their aims are consistent with the Councils objectives\*.
- Set up costs of a new recurring event or costs for a one-off event which is consistent with council objectives\*
- Projects that improve access to the outdoors including paths, benches, signage
- Professional Services for projects that bring substantial local benefit e.g. feasibility studies

**\* applications for start-up funding and events would have to provide evidence of longer-term financial sustainability and provide evidence that all other avenues have been exhausted.**

**Note:** - Your application must evidence how your project meets the criteria and priorities. Depending on the type of project, some criteria and priorities may be more relevant and some will only be pertinent to the Council.

**Council Priorities:** Aberdeenshire Council Plan 2024 to 2029 is centred around -

### **A Sustainable Economy**

We will support a strong and diverse economy by attracting people of working age to our region, complementing our highly skilled local workforce.

### **Connected Communities**

We will work with communities and partners to enhance the sense of connection among our places. This includes supporting communities to come up with innovative solutions to ensure our places are resilient and vibrant.

### **Living Well Locally**

We will encourage and support our residents to lead healthy and active lives and contribute meaningfully to their communities. We will make proactive choices that will allow us to cater to the needs of our increasingly ageing population.

The table below gives an indication of how common projects fit within the council priorities framework -

<b>Project Aims</b>	<b>Strategic Priority Fit</b>
To support community mental and physical health and well-being e.g Mensheds	Living Well Locally
Provide young people's activities or skills development events.	Connected Communities
Maintain village halls (or other facilities) to a high standard	A Sustainable Economy