Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Budget 2026/27 - Reduction/Removal of Grant Budget (Area Committee)

Assessment ID	IIA-003419
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Approved By	Angela Keith
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1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Impact of Reduction or removal of Grant Budget applicable at Area level.

During screening 9 of 12 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 4 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Town Centres First

In total there are 0 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 28 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 2 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by angela.keith@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	Yes
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO_2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and / or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy relate to budget proposals?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on consumers of Council services?	No

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Not Required
Climate Change and Sustainability	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Town Centre's First	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated

4. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

4.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)			Yes	
Age (Older)			Yes	
Disability			Yes	
Race			Yes	
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

4.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income			Yes	
Low wealth			Yes	
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation			Yes	
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

4.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Age (Older)	This budget provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include conversation cafes, Men's Sheds, healthy walking groups and community spaces that provide activities .	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Signposting groups to alternative funding streams however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Older)	This budget provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include conversation cafes, Men's Sheds, healthy walking groups and community spaces that provide activities .
	Can be mitigated — Yes
	Mitigation — Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale — Ongoing
Age (Younger)	This budget provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include youth spaces, youth engagement, support for parent groups and holiday **activities**.
	Can be mitigated — Yes
	Mitigation — Signposting groups to alternative funding streams however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale — Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Age (Younger)	This budget provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include youth spaces, youth engagement, support for parent groups and holiday activities.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing
Disability	This budget provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include accessible play equipment, enhancing access to facilities and conversation cafes	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Signposting groups to alternative funding streams however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing
Disability	This budget provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include accessible play equipment, enhancing access to facilities and conversation cafes	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Race	This budget provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include events supporting community cohesion and, interpretation and translation	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Signposting groups to alternative funding streams however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing
Race	This budget provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include events supporting community cohesion and, interpretation and translation	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Area deprivation	This budget provide an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include providing funding to enhance community spaces such as community kitchens and larders to be set up or add affordable heating to allow the space to be used by local groups or as outreach spaces by partners. Funding is also often requested to support successful asset transfer.

Can be mitigated	Yes
Mitigation	Community groups can be signposted to alternative funding streams that may be available through other organisations however it is recognised that other public sector/ government funding schemes are also reducing.
Timescale	Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Area deprivation	These budgets, in particular the Area Committee budget, provide an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include providing funding to enhance community spaces such as kitchens to enable community kitchens and larders to be set up or add affordable heating to allow the space to be used by local groups or as outreach spaces by partners. Funding is also often requested to support successful asset transfer.

Can be mitigated	Yes
Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
Timescale	Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Area deprivation	Area deprivation and the PCs: For financial year 2023-24 each of the six area committees received £81500 as an area committee budget to administer and manage. Each AC determines how to administer and manage but the approach across the six areas is that it is aimed at community organisations that are delivering projects that in turn deliver the priorities in the Local Area Community plan or Community Action Plans - a place based approach. Projects are not generally 100% funded so the ACB is used to leverage other funding into the area, building community wealth along with capacity. Across the six areas, a wide variety and large number of community projects have been supported.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	ongoing
Area deprivation	Reduction or removal of the budget will have an impact on place and community organisations ability to be empowered and have capacity to influence, shape and deliver their ambitions for their place	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Low income	This budget provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include providing funding to enhance community assets such as hall kitchens to enable community kitchens and larders to be set up, support flexible, affordable childcare or enhance green space.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups can be signposted to alternative funding streams that may be available through other organisations however it is recognised that other public sector/ government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing
Low income	This budget provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community. Examples of projects include providing funding to enhance community spaces such as kitchens to enable community kitchens and larders to be set up or provide flexible, affordable childcare.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Low wealth	This budget provide an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups can be signposted to alternative funding streams that may be available through other organisations. however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing
Low wealth	These budgets, in particular the Area Committee budget, provide an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community planning priorities. It can help leverage in larger funding sources or can provide the majority of funding for a smaller project that can support different protected characteristics within the community.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. however it is recognised that other public sector/government funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Funding Applications	Funding applications are submitted across the 6 areas each year. Requests can be for as little as £200 up to £10,000 and often phases of projects can be identified - from feasibility right through to delivery and continuous improvement. In 2023/2024 over 120 community organisations received support with grants awarded helping to leverage funds of more than £1million and over the past 4 years more than 350 different community groups have been awarded funding.	There is a need for funding at local level to help communities develop capacity and deliver on projects important to them.
External Consultation	Community Groups in receipt of grants	Community groups are obliged to update area committees on the impact of the grants	From the reports, videos, photos and presentations community groups confirm the grants help achieve the priorities that important locally and also help to access larger funding pots
Internal Data	Funding applications	Funding applications confirm the total cost of a project and how much the Area Committee is being asked for	Although it will differ across areas, on average, every £1 of area committee budget awarded, a further £3 is leveraged in.
External Data	Local Community Plans	Local Community Plans identify the priorities within the local area, reflecting the Aberdeenshire LOIP priorities and those identified through the area strategic needs assessment and local data, evidence and knowledge	Local Community Plans all identify poverty, mental health and wellbeing and healthy lives (eating/activity) as areas of focus.

4.5. Engagement with affected groups

Whilst no specific engagement there has been ongoing discussions with groups across Aberdeenshire to understand the funding streams they access and where this funding fits.

4.6. Evidence of engagement

There have been discussions with groups in receipt of funding across Aberdeenshire to understand the funding streams they access and where this funding fits.

4.7. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations.

However there is likely to be inequality in this approach as many funding streams have thematic or geographic parameters. In addition many groups have been able to use Area Committee budget grants as match funding/leverage for higher value funding awards. The removal of Area Committee Budget in whole or part may increase the challenges for less experienced or able groups to meet the match requirements of larger funding applications and will challenge our place ambitions for communities.

Through support from the Third Sector Interface, Rural Partnerships and other bodies designed to provide advice and support to community groups such as SCDC and DTAS alongside support from Area Teams and Councillors, community groups will still have the option to seek other funding sources.

4.8. Improving Relations

Area teams and Councillors will continue to provide support to local community organisations to help them identify, articulate and deliver on projects that will lead to positive outcomes for local communities

4.9. Opportunities of Equality

The Area Committee budget is an easily accessed funding stream for community groups - application is simple and support is available to ensure community groups have the best chance of being successful in their application. Projects that have benefited from a grant share their story to help promote the budget as widely as possible.

5. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

5.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating			Yes	
Exercise and physical activity			Yes	
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol		Yes		
Substance use – drugs		Yes		
Mental health			Yes	

5.2. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Exercise and physical activity	This budget can support community groups such as local sports and wellbeing groups access funding to improve facilities such as pitches, halls or paths or fund training and skills. A reduction in the budget may reduce accessible, low cost exercise and activity.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups can be signposted to alternative funding streams however it is recognised that other external funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing
Healthy eating	This budget can support community groups with community growing projects such as allotments, community orchards, community food outlets and cooking skills. A reduction in budget could reduce the number of communities benefiting from projects that enable access to fresh fruit and veg or low cost quality ingredients that support health eating	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups can be signposted to alternative funding streams however it is recognised that other external funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Mental health	This budget can support community groups with projects and activities that support mental health and wellbeing - community cafes, physical exercise, improved facilities for people to attend for example. A reduction in the budget may impact on access to mental health and wellbeing projects within local communities	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups can be signposted to alternative funding streams however it is recognised that other external funding schemes are also reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing

5.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Funding applications	Funding applications are submitted across the 6 areas each year. Requests can be for as little as £200 up to £10,000 and often phases of projects can be identified - from feasibility right through to delivery and continuous improvement.	There is a need for funding at local level to help communities develop capacity and deliver on projects important to them.
Internal Data	Applications	Funding applications confirm the total cost of a project and how much the Area Committee is being asked for	Although it will differ across areas, in Buchan, every £1 of area committee budget awarded, a further £3 is leveraged in
External Data	Local Community Plans	Local Community Plans identify the priorities within the local area, reflecting the Aberdeenshire LOIP priorities and those identified through the area strategic needs assessment and local data, evidence and knowledge	Local Community Plans all identify poverty, mental health and wellbeing and healthy lives (eating/activity) as areas of focus.
External Consultation	Community Groups in receipt of grants	Community groups are obliged to update area committees on the impact of the grants	From the reports, videos, photos and presentations community groups confirm the grants help achieve the priorities that important locally and also help to access larger funding pots

5.4. Overall Outcome
All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations.

However there is likely to be inequality in this approach as many funding streams have thematic or geographic parameters. In addition many groups have been able to use these grants as match funding/leverage for higher value funding awards. The removal of these budgets in whole or part may increase the challenges for less experienced or able groups to meet the match requirements of larger funding applications.

6. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

6.1. Emissions and Resources

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Consumption of energy		Yes		
Energy efficiency			Yes	
Energy source			Yes	
Low carbon transition			Yes	
Consumption of physical resources		Yes		
Waste and circularity		Yes		
Circular economy transition		Yes		
Economic and social transition		Yes		

6.2. Biodiversity and Resilience

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Quality of environment			Yes	
Quantity of environment		Yes		
Wildlife and biodiversity			Yes	
Infrastructure resilience		Yes		
Council resilience		Yes		
Community resilience			Yes	
Adaptation		Yes		

6.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Quality of environment	These budgets provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community priorities. Reduction in funding may make it more difficult for community/third sector groups to support greening ambitions, improve public spaces or enhance paths	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. It is recognised that the availability of other funding streams may also be reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Community resilience	These budgets provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community priorities. Reduction in funding may make it more difficult for community/third sector groups to support resilience through community cohesion (events, community spaces) provide information or practical support such as warm packs.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. It is recognised that the availability of other funding streams may also be reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing
Wildlife and biodiversity	These budgets provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community priorities. Reduction in funding may make it more difficult for community/third sector groups to plant trees, create community growing spaces etc.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. It is recognised that the availability of other funding streams may also be reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing
Energy efficiency	These budgets provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community priorities. Reduction in funding may make it more difficult for community/third sector groups to address inefficient assets such as replacement windows/insultation/lighting.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. It is recognised that the availability of other funding streams may also be reducing.
	Timescale	ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Energy source	These budgets provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community priorities. Reduction in funding may make it more difficult for community/third sector groups to transition to more efficient/ carbon neutral energy sources	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. It is recognised that the availability of other funding streams may also be reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing
Low carbon transition	These budgets provides an opportunity for community groups to access funding to develop and deliver projects that are in alignment with the council priorities or local community priorities. Reduction in funding may make it more difficult for community/third sector groups to transition to more efficient/ carbon neutral energy sources	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations. It is recognised that the availability of other funding streams may also be reducing.
	Timescale	Ongoing

6.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Brighter Villages and Greening Grants	Over 50 groups focused on environmental improvements within settlements and neighbourhoods have benefited from funding that supports improving their local environment - this includes planting, tools and capacity to undertake tasks directly	Community groups are interested in biodiversity, greening and environmental improvements

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Funding applications	Funding applications are submitted across the 6 areas each year. Requests can be for as little as £200 up to £10,000 and often phases of projects can be identified - from feasibility right through to delivery and continuous improvement. Each year applications are received to improve the fabric of community assets to imp[rove efficiency or to help transition to renewable energy sources.	Community groups are keen to improve energy efficiency and transition to net zero to sustain community assets.

6.5. Information Gaps

There has not yet been engagement with previous or potential recipients of Area Committee Budget grants

6.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
Engagement with community groups to understand potential impact and requirement for capacity building to identify/apply for other funding pots.	March-June 2024

6.7. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations.
However there is likely to be inequality in this approach as many funding streams have thematic or geographic parameters. In addition many groups have been able to use these grants as match funding/leverage for higher value funding awards. The removal of t in whole or part may increase the challenges for less experienced or able groups to meet the match requirements of larger funding applications.

Through support from the Third Sector Interface, Rural Partnerships and other bodies designed to provide advice and support to community groups such as SCDC and DTAS alongside support from Area Teams and Councillors, community groups will still have the option to seek other funding sources.

7. Town Centre's First Impact Assessment

7.1. Local Factors

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Town centre assets		Yes		
Footfall		Yes		
Changes to road layouts		Yes		
Parking		Yes		
Infrastructure changes		Yes		
Aesthetics of the town centre			Yes	
Tourism		Yes		
Public safety		Yes		
Town centre business		Yes		
Cultural heritage and identity			Yes	
Social and cultural aspects			Yes	

7.2. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Aesthetics of the town centre	Community groups have previously accessed the grant fund to support projects within town centres and a reduced budget may impact on the success of groups to access funding.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Signpost groups to alternative funding streams however it is recognised that external funding streams are reducing as well
	Timescale	Ongoing
Cultural heritage and identity	Community groups have previously accessed the grant fund to support projects within town centres and a reduced budget may impact on the success of groups to access funding.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Signpost groups to alternative funding streams Signpost groups to alternative funding streams however it is recognised that external funding streams are reducing as well
	Timescale	Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Social and cultural aspects	Community groups have previously accessed the grant fund to support projects within town centres and a reduced budget may impact on the success of groups to access funding.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Signpost groups to alternative funding streams Signpost groups to alternative funding streams however it is recognised that external funding streams are reducing as well
	Timescale	Ongoing

7.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Funding Applications	Funding applications are submitted across the 6 areas each year. Requests can be for as little as £200 up to £10,000 and often phases of projects can be identified - from feasibility right through to delivery and continuous improvement.	There is a need for funding at local level to help communities develop capacity and deliver on projects important to them.
Internal Data	Funding Applications	Funding applications confirm the total cost of a project and how much the Area Committee is being asked for	Although it will differ across areas, in Buchan, every £1 of area committee budget awarded, a further £3 is leveraged in.
External Data	Community Groups in receipt of grants	Community groups are obliged to update area committees on the impact of the grants	From the reports, videos, photos and presentations community groups confirm the grants help achieve the priorities that important locally and also help to access larger funding pots
External Data	Local Community Plans	Local Community Plans identify the priorities within the local area, reflecting the Aberdeenshire LOIP priorities and those identified through the area strategic needs assessment and local data, evidence and knowledge	Local community plans all identify that economic growth is important

7.4. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Community groups could be supported to identify/apply for other funding streams to support them achieve their aspirations.
However there is likely to be inequality in this approach as many funding streams have thematic

or geographic parameters. In addition many groups have been able to use Area Committee budget grants as match funding/leverage for higher value funding awards. The removal of Area Committee Budget in whole or part may increase the challenges for less experienced or able groups to meet the match requirements of larger funding applications.

Through support from the Third Sector Interface, Rural Partnerships and other bodies designed to provide advice and support to community groups such as SCDC and DTAS alongside support from Area Teams and Councillors, community groups will still have the option to seek other funding sources.

8. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details	
Through community planning officers and others, ensure council, community planning and partner (eg AVA, Rural Partnerships) websites and social media provide information on funding sources that may be open to community groups depending on project, activity, location.	**Lead Officer**	Amanda Roe
	Repeating Activity	Yes
	Frequency	Monthly
	Duration	Ongoing
	Expected Outcome	Community groups are aware of funding they can potentially access.
	Resource Implications	Within existing resources
Through community planning, rural partnerships, etc ensure community groups are aware of NESCAN which provides seed funding and highlights funding available for sustainability projects - https://www.nescan.org/	**Lead Officer**	Amanda Roe
	Repeating Activity	Yes
	Frequency	Quarterly
	Duration	Ongoing
	Expected Outcome	Community groups are aware of funding opportunities
	Resource Implications	Within existing resures