

BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE PROJECT GRANT SCHEME 2026/2027

Application Criteria

Aberdeenshire Council's Buchan Area Committee will distribute £13,300 through the Area Committee Project Grant Scheme. The funding will be available for projects that can demonstrate wide community benefits, can enhance local areas, are sustainable and will help deliver towards Council priorities and/or local Community Action Plans.

The deadline for applications is 31st July 2026. Successful applicants will be notified by 18th September 2026. Applications should be submitted to buchan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Applicants are welcome to discuss their project with a member of the Buchan Area Managers Team prior to submitting their application form. For further information please contact buchan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or Theresa Wood on 01467-530917.

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:

- Community groups across Buchan can apply for the total cost of a project – up to a maximum of £2,000 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 to 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 £2,000 (please note – **grants will be paid retrospectively**, subject to satisfactory evidence of spend being submitted to support all claims, ie copy receipts or copy 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 Buchan 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, successful groups must be able to complete their project and draw down their grant award by 31st January 2027. In the event of a group advising that they will be unable to draw down their grant award, the unclaimed funds will be transferred back to the Buchan Area Manager for redistribution.
- Evidence of project costs must be submitted with applications (for example quotes for items or services or cost breakdowns of staff and running costs).
- Costs already incurred or activities that will take place prior to a decision being made, ie retrospective funding, cannot be supported.

(Note – The Buchan Area Committee wish to support local businesses, therefore applications will be stronger if goods or services are sourced in Buchan; if this is not practicable, then 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.