

Banff and Buchan Coastal Communities Fund

Funding Criteria

Aberdeenshire Council has received £100,000 funds from Moray Offshore Wind Farm (East) Limited that will benefit Banff and Buchan Coastal Communities. The funds are available for applications from January 2026 and must be allocated by January 2028.

Applications will be invited in accordance with the following eligibility criteria:

Fund eligibility criteria:

- The eligible area will be Aberdeenshire's [Coastal Zone](#), as defined in the Local Development Plan, and any settlement which sits within or borders with this. Projects taking place outside of this area up to two miles from the coastline may also be considered. Projects should contribute towards community priorities and where possible demonstrate a link with the coast or sea. Such applications may come from groups or organisations representing 'communities of interest', for example wildlife or environmental, arts or well-being groups, as well as of place. Projects can benefit more than one settlement.
- Groups must be properly constituted and will be required to submit a copy of their Constitution or Memorandum & Articles of Association at the point of application.
- Groups must be able to give assurance that they will be able to complete their project within 10 months of receiving confirmation of the grant award.
- Projects must be led by constituted groups and be able to demonstrate a tangible link to their community, coast or the sea, for example;
- the coast or the sea (see examples below):
 - helping people to develop skills related to coastal or seafaring pursuits, activities or enterprises, for example sailing, fishing or boatbuilding;
 - celebrating the heritage of rural and coastal communities of a place and interest, for example a coastal or fishing village or township, historic boatbuilding, or relevant clubs or organisations;
 - improving access to coastal areas or rural pathways, for example upgrades to paths and viewpoints;
 - improving the coastal environment, for example applications to establish and support community groups looking after their coastline;
 - improving community-controlled infrastructure such as harbours, boathouses and community-used buildings or open spaces.

(continued)

- Projects should reflect the different needs and requirements of each Place and support activities that contribute to the [Place and Wellbeing Outcomes](#):



- Funding applications up to a maximum of £25,000 can be submitted. Grants are available for 100% of project costs up to £5,000. Thereafter 90% up to the total amount requested. Both capital and revenue projects may be supported.
- Funding requirements must be set out clearly on the project application form and money claimed timeously with the provision of an invoice and/or receipt.
- The use of the budget or project must not commit the Council to recurring expenditure or maintenance.
- Projects must deliver against at least one of the [Council priorities](#).
- Applicants will be required to provide an update on the project outcomes within 8 weeks of the project's completion.

This funding must be used for the benefit of eligible communities and can support projects linked to the following themes:

- 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.

Examples of eligible expenditure might include:

- Project development costs including feasibility studies, professional or statutory fees, or services that will enable the development of a project in a coastal community or a community two miles from the coast.
- Creating, repairing and upgrading of community facilities and amenities including coastal paths and connections to and from rural or coastal paths.
- Materials and equipment including safety equipment.
- Training and development for volunteers (training for staff may also be considered if there is strong justification).
- Creating publications, videos or other types of materials or content.

The following will not be considered:

- Applications from organisations with an annual turnover of more than £250,000.
- Funding for core activities such as staffing and overheads.
- Applications which are solely or substantially for individual benefit.

How to apply:

The Council is required to ensure that there is proper accountability for public funds used in delivering services. Therefore, in order to comply with the “Follow the Public Pound” procedures applicants will be required to submit:

- a copy of their Constitution or Memorandum and Articles
- a copy of their most recent, independently examined set of accounts
- a copy of their three most recent bank statements
- evidence that the bank account has a minimum of two signatories
- provide detailed information on any funds which have been ring-fenced for other projects
- quotations for proposed works or goods
- Insurance certificate
- Information on related funding applications, whether they have been successful and, if so, how much funding you have received.

To apply please email your completed application form along with the supporting documents to banffandbuchanamo@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Payments:

Payment will be made following the provision of proof of purchase, invoices and/or receipts.

Payment will be made by BACS transfer to a group's bank account.

Contact: Please contact banffandbuchanamo@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or phone the Area Office on **01467 530700** for further information.