

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 29 OCTOBER 2024

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANTS

REPORT BY ALISON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

1. ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the Committee to establish a Community Resilience Fund, using a combination of funding to provide grants to support communities in their preparedness for winter. It also seeks approval of the proposed scoring criteria. Furthermore, the report seeks approval to delegate authority to the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to consider applications and allocate funding from the Community Resilience Fund in accordance with the scoring criteria.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

- 2.1 Delivery of this fund will contribute to the following priorities in the Angus Council Plan 2023-2028:

Caring for our People

- Reduce inequalities in all our communities
- Create more opportunities for people to live well and achieve their personal goals
Improve physical, mental health and wellbeing

Caring for our Place

- Protect and enhance our natural and built environment
- Enable inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe communities across Angus
- Make our local services accessible
Improve connectivity in and around Angus

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Committee:-

- (i) agrees the establishment of a Community Resilience Fund as detailed in this report;
- (ii) notes the inclusion of £50,000 from one off Angus Council reserves for Climate Change, noted in paragraph 4.1; along with an allocation of £18,000 from an Angus Rural Partnership external grant and an allocation of £93,000 from an SSEN grant award, noted in paragraph 4.2;
- (iii) agrees the scoring criteria for the distribution of the Community Resilience Fund set out in paragraph 5.3; and
- (iv) delegates authority to the Director of Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth to consider applications and allocate funding from the Community Resilience Fund in accordance with the scoring criteria.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At the Special Meeting of 2 March 2023, Angus Council agreed the use of £1M of uncommitted reserves for the 2023/24 financial year to be allocated towards a fund to support climate change/net zero/biodiversity projects and initiatives ([Report 57/23](#) refers). At Communities

Committee on 23 May 2023, an approach was agreed on how to take forward the assessment of applications to the Climate Change, Net Zero and Biodiversity one-off investment fund ([Report 154/23](#)). The Communities Committee on 27 February 2024, approved £50,000 of the funding towards climate resilience grants ([Report 48/24](#))

- 4.2 The Vibrant Communities Community Development team secured additional external funding of £18,000 from Angus Rural Partnership and £93,000 from SSEN, to deliver community resilience support in Angus. Combined with the previously approved funding of £50,000, a total of £161,000 is available for a Community Resilience Community Grant Fund for 2024/25.
- 4.3 The Resilience team and the Vibrant Communities Community Development team have supported community resilience in Angus through the Community Resilience Forum for over six years. Initially, a community-led project to support communities in installing defibrillators led to the setup of resilience centres and community resilience roadshows, which resulted in community groups and organisations assisting their communities and others during weather-related emergencies. During the latest Community Learning and Development Plan Progress visit, this work was highlighted as an area of highly effective practice.
- 4.4 The 2023 flooding in Angus has highlighted the need for increased support for the communities that have been affected and may face future impacts. Community resilience is based on a culture of preparedness, where individuals, communities and organisations take responsibility for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies. In response to recent emergency events, efforts have been made to establish new Community Resilience groups and strengthen the existing Community Resilience Forum.
- 4.5 These groups play a vital role in developing action plans to address the specific needs of their communities, identifying the most beneficial protective measures required and determining how to effectively use them in times of emergency. They plan for all types of weather-related events, and during the recent floods, some communities were able to be self-sufficient thanks to established communication networks and resilience tools. This allowed Angus Council and emergency services to concentrate on areas where lives were at risk.
- 4.6 Many rural areas in Angus have been impacted by a combination of pluvial and fluvial flooding, with rivers exceeding records previously recorded and many tributaries exceeding capacity. Across Angus, in October 2023, over 500 properties and 52 businesses were impacted across a wide geographical area including: Strathmartine, Bridgefoot, Liff, Monifieth, Eassie, Newtyle, Finavon, Tannadice, Brechin, Edzell, Easthaven, Inchbare, Kinnaird, Arrats' Mill and Bridge of Dun, Logie Mill and Craigo.
- 4.7 Since Storm Babet, three further storms have impacted Angus with Storm Gerrit causing further damage to roads and infrastructure in December 2023. Several community resilience engagement events have been delivered since then including the flood mobile roadshows, held in Forfar, Brechin, Birkhill and Carnoustie. Residents gave positive feedback and indicated they would welcome support in forming and delivering through community resilience groups.
- 4.8 The Vibrant Communities Community Development Officer has been working with the community groups and the Community Resilience Forum to assess future needs and ensure the sustainability of these groups and organisations. The identified communities have received and will continue to receive workshops, one-to-one support, and training to form or strengthen local resilience groups. This support has been well-received, with several new groups now established and delivering community resilience in their communities.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 A dedicated fund has been developed based on the identified needs, enabling groups to purchase the necessary equipment to support future emergencies. In addition, to further strengthen community resilience, wrap-around support will be provided by Angus Council Vibrant Communities and Roads staff as well as the Scottish Flood Forum. This fund will target localities in Angus identified as highly impacted or most vulnerable from flooding and other emergencies.
- 5.2 The new proposed fund has two streams: one for general community resilience, totalling £50,000, and another for emergency resilience to flooding, totalling £111,000. Due to the nature of the funding, all funding must be fully claimed by successful applicants by 31 March 2025.

Both strands of funding aim to achieve the following outcomes:

- Enhanced capacity within local communities to manage emergency situations; and
- Improved individual and community resilience in responding to emergencies.

Aims of Fund

- To support the ongoing development of community resilience groups to deliver proactive emergency response in their locality.
- To raise awareness of individual household resilience in their community in partnership with Angus Council.
- To focus on areas in Angus identified as highly impacted or vulnerable to emergency events.
- To increase the community awareness of the need to be prepared and capable of dealing with emergency situations.
- To provide support through community resilience groups that aid recovery and reduce the impact on other emergency services.
- To increase partnership planning, working, evaluations and reporting.

Objectives of Fund

- Individuals are supported to contribute and participate in local Community Resilience groups.
- Groups are formed and develop plans and procedures to positively impact the response and recovery in an emergency.
- Groups are confident in communicating and partnering with appropriate agencies, which will improve and enable quick response in an emergency.
- Groups will successfully secure funding for flood protection in their localities.
- Groups will be inclusive and ensure their role is communicated with all community stakeholders.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants can apply to cover:

- Community information, leaflets and promotion of community resilience.
- Volunteer support, such as training and recruiting etc.
- Purchase of equipment to support emergency response, including storage.
- Public liability insurance.

5.3 It is proposed that each application be scored on the following criteria which members are being asked to approve. Assessment using these criteria, will be undertaken by an officer panel:

Scoring Assessment Criteria	Maximum Score
To plan and prepare	10
To respond	10
To recover	10
Connectivity and inclusiveness	10
Sustainability	5
Deliverability	5
Evidence of need	5
TOTAL	55

- 5.4 In order to ensure prompt decision making and allocation of funds, the committee is asked to delegate authority to the Director of Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth to consider applications and allocate funding from the Community Resilience Fund in accordance with the scoring criteria.
- 5.5 A communication plan has been drafted and subject to approval of this report, the funds will be advertised, and an initial workshop meeting set up with community groups and the Scottish Flood Forum to start developing resilience plans.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Committee is asked to note the following breakdown of funding and approve the establishment of a Community Resilience Fund using the combined total of £111,000.

Source of Fund	Total
One off reserve for Climate Change noted in paragraph 4.1, approved at Communities Committee 27 February 2024 Report 48/24	£50,000
Angus Rural Partnership Fund for Community Resilience Delivery - agreed	£18,000
SSEN Fund for Community Resilience Delivery - agreed	£93,000

- 6.2 There are no direct financial implications for the Council as the approved funding from the Climate Change monies and the external funding secured will provide revenue support for the delivery of community projects approved through this fund. There are no financial risks for the Council as if the funding is not claimed by 31 March 2025, it will be returned.
- 6.3 However, there are indirect resource implications for undertaking the required administration, reporting, and delivery of the funding and supporting the delivery of projects. Funding from SSEN already supports an element of staffing costs.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Where the Council is providing grant funding or facilitating provision by partners, there is a risk of underspend of the monies. The Council does not have full control over delivery in these circumstances which can lead to slippage in spending timelines.
- 7.2 The Community Development Officer and Manager – Vibrant Communities will be responsible for overseeing the fund and will work closely with project leads to support them to deliver within the fund timescales of 31 March 2025.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

10. CHILDRENS RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 A Childrens Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been carried out within the EIA.

11. CONSULTATION

- 11.1 The Director of Finance, Director of Legal, Governance and Change, Director of Infrastructure and Environment have been consulted on the contents of this report.
- 11.2 Engagement and consultation with the Angus Community Resilience Forum have contributed to the development of this fund.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment