**Edintore Community Benefit Fund**

**Decision Making Panel Meeting**

Tuesday 8th October 2024

7.00pm at Keith Golf Club, Keith

**Present:** Georgie Wordie**,** Karen Pryce-Iddon, Steve Hickin,James Mark (Chair), Callum Stuart, Neil Kidd (Vice Chair), Alan Mathewson (Koehler Energy Director) and Faye Winter (minutes).

1. **Welcome and apologies**

James welcomed everyone to the meeting, no apologies.

Minutes from DMP meeting 26th September 2023 proposed by Karen Pryce-Iddon and seconded by Steve Hickin.

1. **Financial Report**

At the time of the panel information packs being issued the bank balance was **£67,106.79.** Bank balance changed at point of meeting, with added interest **£67,134.29.**

No underspends have been reported.

All projects have reported back or are in the process.

1. **Declaration of interests**

James Mark – Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust

Steve Hickin – Keith’s Men’s Shed, Keith Community Council

Callum Stuart – Keith Community Council

Neil Kidd – Keith Community Council

1. **Assessment of applications**

Seventeen applications were submitted to the panel for discussion. One was withdrawn as already funded from another community benefit fund. Ten applications were from the primary area and six were from the secondary area of benefit. The panel agreed to look through all the primary applications as preference before awarding any secondary applicants.

**Primary applications**

**E2/2024 Strathisla Pipeband – Ongoing kit replacement £5,604.70**

Awarded in full.

The panel felt this was a worthwhile use of the funds and awarded in full. No quotations from the Drum Tutor. The panel agreed they would class this as running costs and would not fund this in future rounds.

**E4/2024 Keith & District Silver Band – Instrument upgrade £10,000**

Awarded in full.

The panel was indecisive with this application, as it was an expensive application for one item. The panel discussed at length and in the end took a vote, 4 yes and 2 no.

**E5/2024 Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust – Traffic calming in the Village £8,136.50**

Awarded in Full.

This application was discussed at length. The panel wanted to make sure that this project was advertised in the community, that it was funded by Edintore. Alan Mathewson suggested he could provide signage that the project was funded by Edintore. James Mark would update the community members through the newsletter. The panel agreed this would support the funds for the project.

**E7/2024 Keith Football Club – External PA system £3,747**

Declined.

The panel agreed this was a well written application but did not benefit the whole community and not a good use of the Edintore Funds.

**E8/2024 The Loft Project– Carry on Christmas £993.00**

Partially funded £317 for the karaoke machine.

The panel agreed that they would partially fund this project. They felt the selection boxes for the Christmas party was not sufficient use of the funds.

**E10/2024 Keith Men’s shed – Completion of workshop £10,593.17**

Awarded in Full.

The project was discussed at length and was agreed it was a well written application and a worthy project for the use of the Edintore Funds.

**E11/2024 Longmore Community Hall – Hall refurbishment £10,000**

Declined application.

The panel discussed the application at length. Concerns were raised of how the charity was being run. The panel have requested to see AGM minutes for the last couple of years before funding any other future projects. This includes list of committee members.

**ACTION:** Faye to look up OSCR website for the charity’s status and request AGM minutes and list of committee members.

**E14/2024 Keith & Strathisla Regeneration partnership – Public toilet energy saving with solar panels £3,500**

Conditionally awarded.

The panel commented that this was a good use of the fund’s money and would benefit the whole community and visitors alike. However, it was raised that they received funding already from Statkraft and wanted confirmation of the funding amount before Edintore funds were awarded. The panel wanted to know what part of the project Edintore would fund.

**ACTION:** Faye to relay this to the applicant and to inform the panel.

**E15/2024 REAP – Grow Keith £13,213.08**

Declined.

The panel felt this a good idea in principle, but the location of the garden raised concerns. The stability of the riverbank was noted and the amount of Hogweed in the area was also of concern. This is a well-known area for youth to congregate and the garden could be potentially vandalised. Access to the site also raised a concern. The panel also noted that the gardeners wage had also been declined at the Statkraft community benefit fund.

**ACTION**: Faye to let REAP manager know the panels concerns and invite him to Keith Community council meetings.

**E17/2024 Keith Community Council – Replacement Community Utility Vehicle £16,744**

Awarded in full.

The panel discussed the application at length and agreed this project would benefit many more groups and charities in Keith. The fundraising and the 50% additional funds that the applicant would contribute to the project was also appreciated.

Secondary area

**E2/2024 Rothiemay Primary School – P7 Transition to Keith Grammar School £999.99**

Declined.

The panel felt this project was classed as ‘running costs’ and would not support applications like this in the future.

**E6/2024 Grange Community Association – Refurbish curtains & blinds for King Memorial Hall £9,397.40**

Awarded in Full.

The panel discussed the application at length. The panel agreed this project would benefit the community of the Grange and beyond.

**E9/2024 Outfit Moray – EnerG Keith project £5,760**

Declined.

The panel considered this project as part of 'operating expenses' and would not support similar applications in the future.

**E10/2024 Milnes High School - ASN trampolining £4,934.44**

Declined.

The panel deemed this project as falling under ‘running costs’ and expressed that they would not be able to support similar applications in the future.

**E12/2024 Glass Community Association – Re purposing old glass hall toilets into storeroom £23,329.97**

Declined.

The panel deemed this project as a worthy project but due to pressure on the funds was unsuccessful this time.

**E16/2024 Event First Aid Service – Ambulance replacement £20,000**

Declined.

The panel discussed that the vehicle is operating outwith the primary area and Edintore had funded a similar vehicle for the applicant in 2022. Declined due to pressure on the fund. Next application would also need like for like quotes to be further considered.

1. **Any Other Business**

Decision panel members length of time on the panel

Discussion about amending the constitution arose after concerns were raised regarding the length of time panel members serve, before resigning, at the AGM in March. The panel agreed that panel members could stay on the panel indefinitely, until they wished to resign. Encouraging other members of their councils to attend panel meetings is strained and the panel felt they worked together well for the greater good of the community.

**ACTION:** Faye to ask Koehler to amend the constitution.

Strathbogie Community Council may fold

George Wordie informed the panel that Strathbogie Community Council did not have enough members to continue. He believed that Aberdeenshire council may want to remove all community councils in their area. He will keep the panel informed of further developments.

It was agreed by the panel that since George was the last elected member from Strathbogie Community Council he could stay on the decision-making panel.

Next Decision panel meeting

It was discussed that the decision-making meeting may need to be delayed in 2025 due to Moray Community Council elections due in the period between deadline and applications being sent out to panel members. This will be discussed at AGM.

1. **Dates of next meetings**

AGM to be held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at the Keith Golf Club.

The next funding round deadline date will be set at the AGM.

James thanked everyone for attending and giving up time and Neil Kidd thanked REAP for the administration work. Meeting closed at 21.15pm.