



REPORT TO: ECONOMIC, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 6 FEBRUARY 2024

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT: SSEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUNDING

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of Grant Funding received from Scottish Southern Electrical Network (SSEN) to Moray Council.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (F) (32) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to Emergency Planning and Home Defence.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A number of significant storms have caused damage and disruption in the Grampian area between 2021 and 2023. In response to these events SSEN awarded each of the 3 Grampian Local Authorities grant funding to spend on supporting the authorities in developing Community Resilience and Resilience infrastructure. Moray Council received £200,000 of this funding.
- 2.2 Before awarding the grant funding, SSEN required each authority to submit a proposal with allocated spend against each of its proposed projects. The table below provides details of the projects Moray Council proposed, with estimated spend, which was approved by SSEN who awarded the £200,000. The actions in the table relate to needs identified through the ongoing work by the Community Support Unit and Emergency Planning Officer to develop Community Resilience across Moray

Project	Aim	Resilience Theme & Area Enhanced	Costs	Progress
Household resilience Leaflets– Mailshot	<p>Provide Moray Council and co-branded SSEN Household Resilience leaflets delivered to every address in Moray. Blanket coverage designed to ensure that all 42,000 households regardless of circumstance had access to a minimum level of information (Appendix A).</p> <p>This will capture all vulnerable persons in Moray but also raise awareness of requirements for all.</p>	<p>Individual & Family Resilience Household Resilience Community Resilience</p> <p>Skills & Knowledge Information</p>	£7,500	£5599.19 has been spent on the Household Resilience Booklet. Each household in Moray received a Booklet in December 2023. A copy of the booklet is attached as Appendix A
Annual Community Resilience Conference	<p>Funding is available for a Community Resilience conference in 2023, 2024 and 2025. The conference will facilitate sharing of ideas and experiences, good practice and learning to develop plans, practice, and activities to reduce vulnerability in the community.</p> <p>To assist in developing mutual aid support delivery between Communities resilience groups in regard to volunteering and equipment usage.</p>	<p>Individual & Family Resilience Household Resilience Community Resilience</p> <p>Skills & Knowledge Information Equipment Facilities</p> <p>Community Cohesion</p>	£7,500	£985 was spent on the second Annual Community Resilience Conference held in Lhanbryde in September 2023.
Battery Pack Loan Scheme	<p>Provision of battery generator packs to support the most vulnerable individuals who need to use power reliant medical equipment within their own property during a power outage.</p> <p>HSCM will own the battery generator packs and loan these out to vulnerable individuals whose reliance of the medical equipment is critical.</p>	<p>Individual Resilience Household Resilience Health and wellbeing</p> <p>Equipment</p>	£18,000	HSCM are in the process of identifying a suitable Battery Pack for use in support of home issued medical equipment, and these will be purchased when this is completed. HSCM will then administer and deliver the Battery Pack Loan scheme.
Community Information and Co-ordination hubs	<p>Moray has a diverse topography with the population being spread across large and small towns and remote rural and coastal communities which can often become exposed to severe weather conditions. This leads to complexities in service delivery in times of emergency and challenges in co-ordination and communication between category 1 and 2 responders and as well as local community groups and residents being able to access support.</p>	<p>Individual & Family Resilience Household Resilience Community Resilience</p> <p>Skills & Knowledge Information Equipment</p>	£160,000 approx.	A project team has been established to deliver on the power supply requirements of the Community Information and Co-ordination hubs. With the aim to have these hubs fully power resilient and capable of

Project	Aim	Resilience Theme & Area Enhanced	Costs	Progress
	<p>Funding for the provision of diesel generators to three schools managed by Moray Council. That will be used as Community Information and Co-ordination hubs –in times of power outages and or Major incidents.</p> <p>The areas being put forward for the creation of the 3 Community information and Co-ordination hubs are Aberlour – Buckie and Forres</p> <p>Moray Council has a location in Elgin that is already power resilient to make up a 4th Community Information Co-ordination hub that would cover Elgin and surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Facilities</p> <p>Community Cohesion</p> <p>Safe Place</p> <p>Educational development opportunity</p>		<p>operational delivery by the end of 2024.</p>
<p>Community Resilience group Tabletop exercises</p>	<p>Community Resilience Tabletop exercises for established groups to allow them to stress test their plans and identify areas of development to ensure they maximise response capabilities to support community needs.</p> <p>These will be delivered by Moray Councils Emergency planning department and Community Support Unit. Blue light Services will be invited to take part as will SSEN and the Red Cross.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elgin 2. Forres, Findhorn, Kinloss, Finnerne 3. Strathisla, Keith 4. Lossie, Hopeman, Burghead & Cummington 5. Fochabers (Milnes area, incl Inchberry) 6. Speyside, Glenlivet, Tomintoul 7. Buckie, Cullen & Deskford, Portgordon, (Findochty/ Portknockie) 8. Community Resilience Co-ordinators Major Incident Exercise 	<p>Individual Resilience</p> <p>Household Resilience</p> <p>Family Resilience</p> <p>Community Resilience</p> <p>Skills & Knowledge</p> <p>Partnership working development</p>	<p>£4000</p>	<p>Community Resilience group Tabletop exercises will be progressed by the emergency planning officer and education and communities support officer throughout 2024.</p>
<p>Household Emergency packs</p>	<p>Develop a stock of equipment that can be distributed across Moray and consisting of (for example – not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind up torches • Wind up radios • General personal resilience products <p>These would be distributed on a needs basis as part of general emergency preparation and given out when an emergency occurs. This can help develop individual resilience for those who may be financially vulnerable.</p>	<p>Individual Resilience</p> <p>Household Resilience</p> <p>Family Resilience</p> <p>Community Resilience</p> <p>Equipment</p>	<p>£3000</p>	<p>Household Emergency packs equipment will be purchased by end of April 2024 and passed to the established community resilience groups to manage and distribute at point of need.</p>

- 2.3 Progress has been made on several of the proposed projects and details of this progress is provided in table above.
- 2.4 SSEN have agreed that if a project stream has an underspend, then this can be used in another agreed project stream. Any spend out with the project streams agreed would need to be presented to and agreed with by SSEN.

3. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

Empowering and connecting communities.

(b) Policy and Legal The Council is required to respond to an emergency in accordance with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2005

(c) Financial implications

There will be ongoing maintenance costs for the Generator equipment situated at the 3 identified Community Information and Co-ordination hubs. The project spend is looking to incorporate the first 3 years of Maintenance costs of around £13500 for all 3 locations. Ongoing maintenance costs will be absorbed by Education RM budget.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

The projects identified are being supported and delivered by staff from within the Council, specifically, Consultancy, Education and Communities and Housing and finance.

(f) Property

3 Education and Community properties will act as the Community Information and Co-ordination hubs. The location of each Hub will be agreed in consultation with Property and Education Services.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

Where possible sustainable resilience actions have been identified. Also generators will be stored at the required location to reduce the need for transportation.

(i) Consultations

Depute Chief Executive (Economy Environment and Finance), Head of Environmental and Commercial Services, Acting Head of ERC, Chief Financial Officer, Legal Services Manager, Equal Opportunities Officer, Committee Services Officer and Asset Manager Property have been consulted and their comments incorporated into the report.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Moray Council has received grant funding of £200,000 from SSEN to help the council support resilience in the community.

4.2 A number of projects have been identified to support community resilience in Moray, during disruptive events.

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Background Papers:

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