

Appendix 2 - UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Application Summary

1. Greyhope Bay Phase 2 Feasibility Project - £79, 506 request

Greyhope Bay exists to connect and engage communities with the marine world – they have successfully built a café and community centre on the historic site of Torry Battery offering panoramic views of Aberdeen’s coast, community-led programming, and the best place in the UK to spot bottlenose dolphins.

They are making a request to fund a 9-month strategic master planning and feasibility project for phase 2 of the Greyhope Bay project: co-designing a sustainable future for Greyhope Bay and the monument of Torry Battery that meets the need of the community of Torry and Aberdeen.

Greyhope Bay in its current form includes the operation of the Greyhope Bay Centre which opened in April of 2022 and has since received over 40,000 visitors to the café and community space. This phase has been granted 5 years planning permission (Aberdeen City Council) and scheduled Monument Consent (Historic Environment Scotland) for the purpose and opportunity to establish the monument of Torry Battery as a destination for connecting communities with our coastal and built heritage and to demonstrate the viability of a permanent facility at this location. With the 5-year time limit the project now has two significant programmes of work:

1. Operations of the centre, including café management, community events, workshops and education programme delivery and building revenue models and capacity to take advantage of growing opportunity
2. Strategy and master planning/feasibility design work of what a permanent solution for the monument could be post 5 years, informed by operations, and continued identified opportunities and needs of the community. This would also include the establishment of partnerships for delivery of phase two.

The small team at Greyhope Bay do not currently have the capacity to run both programmes of work and are focused on operating the centre. Funding from the UK Shared Prosperity fund will allow Greyhope Bay to resources the second programme of work to ensure there is an informed, strategic and progressed plan for the growth of the project and its role in placemaking and designing a sustainable future for Torry Battery.

To do this they want to:

- Fund a strategic growth and partnership manager withing the Greyhope Bay team with remit to lead a 9-month project that will deliver a strategic growth plan and feasibility and study for phase 2. This role would work closely with the Operations Manager to inform development and strategy work based on response to and requirements of programmes and operations on the ground
- Fund the development of a concept design and associated feasibility for phase 2

- Deliver a dedicated open participatory process and engagement events where conversations and responses will shape the plans for phase two of the development

Outcomes

- Developed conceptual design and masterplan for phase 2 informed by programming and operations and direct engagement with their community
- Established Partnerships and Development Group for phase 2
- A cost estimate to deliver on the concept designs
- Identified Funding/Funders to progress phase 2 development
- A developed revenue model for operations

2. Benholms Tower - £167,112 request

The overall project vision is to revitalise the derelict Benholm's Tower by community ownership and developing it into a facility with a community café on the ground floor, a multipurpose meeting/exhibition hall on the first floor and flexible workshop/office space on the upper floor. The hall will be available for hires, community groups, events etc and the office space is intended for small business start-ups or artists to be able to have affordable workspaces within the community, helping to develop the local economy.

The area around the tower will be developed to include a sensory, all-inclusive play trail – the first of its kind in the North of Scotland. By opening the Tower and providing facilities within Seaton Park this also allows the community and visitors to remain in the park area for longer and to make use of the greenspace and the proposed sensory play trail equipment.

At this point funding is sought for the development of the Great Hall, this middle floor restoration will create a meeting and event space within the tower which will be bookable and available to the community as desired. This flexible space will allow events such as exhibitions, celebrations or meeting to take place within the community and taking advantage of the catering in the café downstairs. Meeting rooms within the Tillydrone area are currently heavily oversubscribed so the addition will compliment other facilities in the area while providing a unique venue. Works to develop the rest of the plans will require separate funding but the trust have already successfully achieved funding for the ground floor café facility. This proposal has been developed by Tillydrone Community Development Trust over several years and has attracted significant media and community interest resulting in letters of support from Tillydrone and Old Aberdeen Community Councils, Donside Village, Friends of Seaton Park, The University of Aberdeen and St Machar's Cathedral. A community Asset Transfer application has been submitted and while it has been significantly delayed, a positive outcome is expected this year.

The Tower is now on a main arterial route since the opening of the Diamond Bridge and given the high traffic past the site this is very much a Place-making opportunity with the intent to help Benholms Tower identify the community of Tillydrone, help in economic regeneration and define the area as a destination, not just a transit corridor.

