



From mountain to sea

# Banff and Macduff

## Developing Excellence in Our North Coast Communities

December 2018



## Introduction

In September 2016, Banff Development Partnership and Macduff Development Partnership spearheaded the development of 5 year plans for their respective towns. These were agreed by Aberdeenshire Council and work is underway to initiate medium and long term change in the towns by the partnerships. This report features the highlights for this year and looks forward to the work ahead. Much of the activity to date has been about setting the building blocks to initiate change: developing community pride and tackling immediate problem areas such as The Smiddy in Banff and Shore Street in Macduff. Working in partnership we will harness this early momentum over the coming years to make Banff and Macduff great places to live, work, invest, visit, learn and play.

## Highlights to date

It has been a long time in the creation stages, but September 2018 saw the opening and launch of the Smiddy: A Centre for Excellence in Silversmithing and Jewellery in Banff. This exciting development is being driven by Vanilla Ink, a Glasgow based company expanding to Banff and employing a local silversmith and workshop coordinator to participate in the regeneration of silver and other crafts in Banff. We look forward to seeing how this new creative sector can drive opportunities for new businesses and visitors to the town with exciting plans to develop the programme of courses including targeted sessions for young people, training silversmiths to deliver workshops, liaising with distilleries on joint offerings and much more.



In Macduff, a key industrial and residential location, the focus has been on improving the visual appeal of Shore Street and Duff Street and on the longer-term development of key assets such as the aquarium and the harbour for visitors and future maritime supply chains. Through the Small Grants Scheme we have seen a derelict building brought back into use as the 'Home Bakery'.



The annual TURF Fits New event took place in May 2018 and was very well attended. The focus this year was on tourism, using workshops to look at the potential the cruise ship developments at Peterhead and Aberdeen will bring. The event was also the platform for the launch of the new two towns logo. This eye-catching design was created through a competition at Banff Academy where the pupils involved were awarded prizes.

Further building on the relationship between the two towns, the Banff and Macduff Heritage Trails have harnessed local knowledge and expertise to gather a bank of information about the area which is shared on interpretation boards around the two towns, a website and walking app.



Collaboration is a key component of regeneration, and the Enterprise Challenge Fund aims to support businesses to work together on new products and services. One example of successful joint working is the Craft Arts Vintage and Antique (CAVA) collective who produced a simple yet effective leaflet about their offering. The leaflet is not only improving circulation between these businesses but is bringing new visitors from throughout the region, ensuring sustainability and providing strength to the wider Banff offering.

Redundant buildings are a concern for communities and are a blight on the townscape. Property owners know the difficulties that persist in the property market, particularly in the renovation costs of vacant properties. The Property Investment Fund aims to facilitate the gap between the development costs and end value in bringing redundant buildings back into use. One example is 15 Boyndie Street, Banff which is being brought back into use by Anderson Accountancy Scotland Ltd for offices.

The Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) in Banff has been a great catalyst for physical improvements in the town having delivered the restoration of a number of prominent buildings this year, including the former Tolbooth Hotel and the former Candy Box premises in Bridge Street.

## Looking forward

Plans are in place to breathe new life back into the Glasshouse and associated buildings in Airlie Gardens in Banff for community use after a very successful consultation process during the Autumn. Robert Gordon's University are considering partnership opportunities to accelerate self-employment, and connectivity with the digital economy through increased utilisation of our libraries in the two towns and there will be further work to develop the business case for Macduff Harbour deepening, a key longer-term project to sustain our key industry and skill set in Macduff. There will also be a focus on Bridge Street in Banff with proposed plans for improvements to the streetscape being shared with the community for comment before external funding is sought to take these plans forward. Further buildings will come forward through the CARS scheme. The Banff and Macduff Heritage Trail website will continue to develop as more people make use of it and we will be looking for objects that tell the stories of the two towns.

What part will you play in our successful community? If you have an idea or want to contribute to any of these plans, please see the contact details at the end of this document.

## Financial Summary

Aberdeenshire Council has allocated £710,000 in Banff and £901,000 in Macduff in regeneration funds for the period 2016-2021. Council funding needs to work hard and it is important that this money is used to attract external funds. The tables below identify amounts committed to specific projects.

### Finances committed in Banff to date

Project	Amount Regeneration Funds	Total Project Costs	Outputs
Carried Forward from 2016/2017 report	£33,603	£33,603	Increased use of harbour area and celebration of Banff Marina, Bridge Street public realm design.
Bridge St Public Realm Design	£6,164	£6,164	Additional survey work to identify underground works.
Enterprise Challenge	£7,000	£7,000	8 businesses supported leading to increased footfall.
TURF Fits New Event	£107	£400	81 attendees. First steps in developing community capacity.
Silversmith Project Development	£7,000	£7,000	Capacity Building grant to social enterprise.
Silversmith Operational Support	£42,750	£117,374	Increased specialist visitors to Banff. New enterprise created and skills development.
Bridge Street Development	£119,700	£470,120*	Creation of 3 town houses and bringing a redundant building back into use, dependent on match funding.
Marina Slipway Extension & Boat Hoist	£137,500	£275,000*	Development and increased utilisation of key asset.
Banff Heritage Trail Phase 2	£16,243	£47,000	Improved circulation between towns.
Banff & Macduff Promotional Video	£4,800	£4,800	Developing business and residential profile to attract professionals and highlighting business opportunities.
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£374,867</b>	<b>£968,461</b>	

**Finances committed in Macduff to date**

Project	Amount Regeneration Funds	Total Project Costs	Outputs
Carried Forward from 2016/2017 report	£139,400	£163,800	Improved properties. Improvements to visual amenity and civic pride.
Macduff Heritage Trail Phase 2	£16,243	£47,000	Improved circulation between towns.
TURF Fits New Event	£107	£400	81 attendees. First steps in developing community capacity.
Enterprise Challenge	£7,000	£7,000	New products & services developed.
Macduff Revival Fieldshare	£4,000	£14,300	Community art project.
Macduff Harbour Technical Appraisals	£14,200	£14,200	Development of key asset.
Macduff Ice Plant	£93,800	£372,200	Efficiency improvements to fishing sector.
Employability Project	£10,000	£20,000	1 business supported to bring vacant property back into use.
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£284,750</b>	<b>£638,900</b>	

The full Action Plans and Annual Reports from previous years for Banff and Macduff can be viewed at [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/regeneration](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/regeneration)

**Key Contacts**

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