

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET25 November 2021Report by Director of EnvironmentPLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2021/22**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the new Scottish Government Placed Based Investment Programme (PBIP) award from the Scottish Government and seek approval for schemes for 2021/22.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- a) Approve the projects outlined in appendix 1 for 2021/22;
 - b) Delegate to the Director of Environment to make adjustments to the proposals depending upon the detailed costs of projects becoming available; and
 - c) Note that further reports will be submitted to the Cabinet in due course seeking approval for projects in future years.

BACKGROUND

3. The Scottish Government announced in their Programme for Government in February 2021 that they proposed to implement a Place Based Investment Programme over the 5-year period of the next parliament.

4. They have now established a Place-Based Investment Programme (PBIP) scheme, linking and aligning all of their place-based funding initiatives. The aim of the PBIP is to ensure that all place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and accelerate Scottish Government ambitions for place, 20-minute neighbourhoods, town centre action, community led regeneration and community wealth building.

5. The Scottish Government confirmed the details of the allocation of the funds to each local authority in May 2021. The funds were allocated on a weighted formula based on the number of towns and population in a local authority area and deprivation indices.

6. East Renfrewshire Council has been awarded £635,000 of capital grant funding for the financial year 2021/2022.

7. The Scottish government has also indicated the overall amount of funding across Scotland for the 5-year programme. Based on a pro rata calculation for subsequent years, the Council is likely to receive capital grant funding of approximately £551,100 in financial year 2022/2023 and £384,100 in each of the remaining 3 years of the programme. This

represents a total funding programme for East Renfrewshire Council in the region of £2.34m over the 5-year period.

REPORT

8. The confirmation of a 5-year programme is a welcome development. It allows a more structured and better planned approach to consultation and the development and delivery of projects when compared to previous annual one off allocations for town centre funding.

9. The ways in which the funding can be used are broader than the previous objectives of town centre funding awarded in 2019 in 2020 and is now linked to the improvement of places including neighbourhoods rather than being simply focused on town centres.

10. The Scottish Government guidance issued with the grant offer is not prescriptive and makes it clear that it is up to each local authority to decide how to award funding in its own area. However, the guidance sets out the high-level expectations of the Scottish Government.

Objectives

11. The high level main objectives of the Place Based Investment Programme are:

- to link and align place based initiatives and establish a coherent local framework to implement the Place Principle;
- to support place policy ambitions such as town centre revitalisation, community led regeneration, 20 minute neighbourhoods and Community Wealth Building;
- to ensure that all place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities;
- to accelerate ambitions for net zero, wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage, community involvement and ownership.

12. Grant may also be used to fund third party capital expenditure either directly or through the provision of grants to third parties (public sector bodies, private sector bodies or individuals).

13. With regard to the grant of £635,000 for the financial year 2021/22 it is a Scottish Government requirement that any works contracts should be signed by 31 March 2022 at the latest.

14. The Scottish Government envisage that this new fund and its provision over a number of years will provide the long term structure to challenge, coordinate and target efforts for regeneration of towns and neighbourhoods. It is designed to make sure that all investments understand the place in which they are made, how their contribution will help deliver the changes needed, and how local communities shape their future.

15. The Council's Economic Development team issued a call for proposals in June 2021 to various stakeholders including community councils, local community groups, the third sector and relevant Council Departments.

16. The Economic Development team worked with partners to identify suitable projects. In prioritising the proposals, particular consideration was given to:

- The deliverability of the project within the tight timescale and have contracts signed by 31 March 2022 at the latest;
- The geographical spread of grant across the Council area; and
- The economic benefits and outcomes of each project.

17. Using the criteria set out above priority was given to a number of initiatives ranging in scale and content some of which would ensure “quick wins” and some that may take longer to realise economic impact.

18. Appendix 1 of this report lists those projects that recommended for approval and that to be funded from the 2021/22 grant allocation of £635,000. Proposals include capital spend associated with a new Multi-Use Games Area and an Employability Suite in Dunterlie, a shop front improvement scheme in Neilston and improvements at Clarkston Halls.

19. Early discussions with the leads for each of these projects gave officers a strong indication as to whether the projects were sufficiently progressed and could be delivered, and the funds spent and/or committed within the required timescales.

20. It should be noted that, as was the case with the town centre funding programs programme, project costs are at an indicative budget stage and it will be necessary to again give the Director of Environment delegation to act quickly and transfer funds where necessary amongst projects, whilst remaining within the total funding envelope of £635,000.

21. Given the tight timescales associated with the PBIP in terms of when the grant was awarded by the Scottish Government and the length of time it takes to develop projects, including carrying out feasibility studies, undertaking community engagement, carrying out options appraisal developing outline costs, progressing detailed design and competitive tendering, it was expected that many community-led type projects would be unable to meet these deadlines for this particular year.

22. However, as this is a 5-year programme there is still opportunity for all our communities to apply for funding in future years. The Economic Development team have established a project pipeline approach for future funding opportunities and will work with community groups to develop their ideas into eligible “shovel ready” projects.

23. It is proposed that a bidding process as outlined above will continue to be used for the allocation of funding for future years. The details and outcome of each annual bidding process will be reported to Cabinet for approval in advance of each year’s programme.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

24. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Project implementation will be funded through the PBIP.

25. The Council must comply with the conditions of the grant, as set out in Scottish Government guidelines.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

26. Consultation has taken place with a range of key stakeholders within the community.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

27. There are no equalities, IT or staffing implications associated with this report. It has been confirmed with the Scottish Government that there are no state aid implications.

CONCLUSIONS

28. The PBIP programme provides an excellent opportunity to deliver further investment to key areas of East Renfrewshire and has been a catalyst for community and stakeholder engagement which will help provide direction for future investment and collaborative working.

29. Appendix 1 provides a list of those projects which are considered best placed to deliver the most benefit to a spread of areas in accordance with the guidance accompanying the Scottish Government grant offer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Director of Environment

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November 2021

Total budget - £635,000

Address/Project	Proposal	Cost £	Proposed by
Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), Dunterlie, Barrhead	Capital spend associated with the creation of a new MUGA at the Dunterlie Resource Centre. Project would be the first of a number of projects to assist with the regeneration of an area of deprivation. Very strong local community support for this scheme.	£250,000	East Renfrewshire Council - Environment Department
Shop Front Improvements, Neilston	The aim of the proposed Shopfront Improvement Scheme is to improve the appearance of the ground floor frontages of commercial premises both occupied and vacant within the village of Neilston. This is an exciting opportunity to really improve the kerb appeal and prosperity of the shops on Neilston's Main Street. The scheme will complement the future capital investment - learning & wellbeing centres.	£100,000	East Renfrewshire Council – Environment Department
Dunterlie Employability Hub, Barrhead	The hub will be located in Dunterlie Resource Centre within the most economically disadvantaged neighbourhood in East Renfrewshire. It will provide support to build confidence and skills for people from Dunterlie and the surrounding area who want to be able to access employment opportunities and training.	£50,000	East Renfrewshire Council – Environment Department
Dunterlie Environmental Improvements - Car park	Resurfacing and lining car park at Dunterlie Resource Centre. Capital improvements in the MUGA and Employability Suite will increase footfall to the centre. Very strong local community support for this scheme.	£20,000	East Renfrewshire Council – Environment Department
Westbourne Centre Barrhead	The refurbishment and modernisation of the common areas within the Westbourne Business Centre, which provides essential office accommodation to both start up and established businesses in the town centre. Improved offering will attract local new start/growth businesses to the centre. Future vacancies from the Centre will be advertised via the Council's employability team.	£125,000	Moorgarth Property Investments LTD
Placed Based Green Hall	Replace and renew existing stage lighting with LED units at Clarkston Halls; upgrade cabling and sound systems to minimise energy consumption and create Green Arts opportunity, increased opportunity for place based arts initiatives in the heart of the community in Clarkston.	£77,000	East Renfrewshire Culture & Leisure

Total budget - £635,000

Festive Lighting	Tree lighting at Eastwood Toll and Kirkstyle Lane, Neilston. This project will enhance the distinctiveness and vibrancy of the town and neighbourhood centres during the dark months.	£12,000	East Renfrewshire Council – Environment Department
Total		£634,000	