

Update for Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee

Participatory Budgeting – Update for Area Committee			
Service Area	Estate Improvement Budget/HIP Environmental Programme	Lead Officer	Claire Frew
Stage 1: Pre-Consultation			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are we asking the public for their view on (what service is it / description etc)? • How much funding are we asking about? • Who are we asking, • How are we doing this? • When are we doing this? • When will we report back? 			
Estate Improvement Budget			
<p>The Estate Improvement Budget totals £40,000 and is split across the 4 housing divisions of South Lanarkshire. Each Local Housing Management Team can direct the funding towards projects or improvements highlighted as a priority by customers of Housing and Property Services. Although not a significant value, the budget is ideally suited for conversion to a participatory budgeting approach as often it funds a number of smaller projects that have been highlighted as a priority by customers. Examples of recent exercises include customer engagement on options for the type and design of new fencing and lighting.</p> <p>To date, four projects are being undertaken within the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving vacant land at Trinity Drive and Woodland Crescent. • Removing Hawthorn bushes at Avonbank Road. • Improving drying green and surrounding pathways at Craigard Place and Inverclyde Gardens. 			
Kirkriggs and Dunure Sheltered Housing Sites, Rutherglen			
<p>Engagement with tenants on the overall Housing Revenue Account budget for the 2022/23 period, and the proposed level and focus of the Housing Investment Programme within this took place as part of the annual resource budgetary consultation process. The Environmental aspect of the Housing Investment Programme (the 'Environmental Programme') is a significant budget area that covers a wide range of projects that seek to improve the quality and energy efficiency of the council's domestic housing stock.</p> <p>Examples of projects within this budget area can include replacement doors and windows within properties, or redevelopment of communal areas in multi-storey buildings or sheltered housing facilities. Not all projects included within this budget area are suitable for inclusion of a participatory budgeting approach, however, for those that are, officers will ensure the required element of choice and voting opportunities are offered to customers and appropriately recorded.</p> <p>To date, two participatory budgeting projects have been completed within the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area at Kirkriggs and Dunure Court Sheltered Housing sites in Rutherglen. As part of a programme of environmental improvements, residents received consultation packs and were offered the opportunity to discuss the plans with Senior Housing Officers.</p>			
Whitlawburn Community Endowment Fund			
<p>The Whitlawburn Community Endowment Fund consisted of £50,000 provided by the council's contractor, CCG Homes Ltd to provide community benefits. Council tenants allocated a new property in the Whitlawburn area were consulted through individual discussions and a survey delivered to each home, to ensure that the allocation of the fund aligned with local priorities.</p>			

Stage 2: Post Consultation

- The outcome of the PB activity
- What happens next?
- Further reporting requirements (eg required Committee approval)

Estate Improvement Budget

A total of £8,673.01 from the Estate Improvement Budget was spent in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen division during 2022/2023 on a range of tenant priorities.

- Following complaints from local tenants and residents the vacant land at Trinity Drive and Woodland Crescent is being rotovated and raked over before the planting of wildflowers.
- In response to complaints about dog fouling, the Hawthorn bushes at Avonbank Road are being removed.
- Following feedback from local residents, the drying green and surrounding pathways at 1-8 Craigard Place are being demossed.
- Following feedback from local residents, the drying green and surrounding pathways at 1-9 Inverclyde Gardens are being demossed.

Kirkriggs and Dunure Sheltered Housing Sites, Rutherglen

A total of 52 households took part in the exercise to inform the final proposals for landscaping and the installation of benches at the complexes following new roofs being installed and the completion of roughcasting. Following the conclusion of the consultation with tenants, the work will be carried out during 2023-24.

Whitlawburn Community Endowment Fund

170 households contributed to the consultation on the allocation of the Whitlawburn Community Endowment Fund across a range of initiatives.

To date £20,000 has been spent on:

- £17,000 to give £100 food shopping voucher to 170 council tenants to in response to the cost-of-living crisis.
- £1,000 donation to two local primary schools to support festive activities.
- £2,000 donation to the organisers of Cambuslang Summerfest, with the annual event open for all tenants and residents to enjoy.

Plans are underway to spend the remaining £30,000 on:

- £14,000 donation to the local Our Place Our Plan group to support regeneration priorities set by residents of Springhall and Whitlawburn through participatory budgeting.
- £6,000 to give £100 food shopping voucher to 60 new West Whitlawburn Housing Cooperative tenants in response to the cost-of-living crisis.
- £5,000 donation towards the WWHC led food pantry to enable them to continue providing free fruit, vegetables, and other provisions to the community. The pantry is open to all who live in the Whitlawburn area, including council tenants.
- £3,000 for a new bench and commemorative plaque for the central open area of the development, purchased and installed by CCG Homes Ltd.
- £1,000 retained for use towards the set-up and running costs of a family fun day within the development.
- £1,000 set aside for the establishment of a new Tenants and Residents' association for the Whitlawburn area.

Officers from Housing and Technical Resources will continue to take forward opportunities within Cambuslang and Rutherglen to ensure tenants and other customers can determine the outcome of budgets within the Environmental Programme and Community Safety Partnership Commissioning Budget, with further updates provided to Committee.