Update for Clydesdale Area Committee

Participatory Budgeting – Update for Area Committee			
Service Area	Estate Improvement Budget/HIP Environmental Programme	Lead Officer	Pamela Newey Claire Frew

Stage 1: Pre-Consultation

- 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

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 limited in 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.

To date, five projects are being undertaken within the Clydesdale area in relation to:

- Improving parking at the Bank Terrace sheltered housing site in Forth.
- Undertaking a garden clear out at Limpetlaw flats in Lanark.
- Improving street and number signage at Patterson Drive in Law
- Installing fencing at Douglasdale Street in Rigside
- Re-lining the Albion Court car park in Biggar.

Housing Revenue Account budget for the 2023/24 - Housing Investment Programme

Engagement with tenants on the overall Housing Revenue Account budget for the 2023/24 period, and the proposed level and focus of the Housing Investment Programme, 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.

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.

To date, one participatory budgeting project has commenced in Glebe Gardens in Lesmahagow where tenants will be consulted on a series of environmental upgrades. The project remains at an early stage and the work will be completed in 2024/25.

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 £9983.85 from the Estate Improvement Budget was spent in the Clydesdale division during 2023/2024 on a range of tenant priorities.

- Following discussion at a sheltered housing tenants meeting in Bank Court, improvements were made to the car park by ensuring a designated parking space for emergency vehicles.
- In response to feedback from tenants sharing the communal garden at the Limpetlaw flats, the garden was cleared of rubbish to allow for regular maintenance going forward.
- From discussions with the local tenant and residents' group, a new gate and fencing were installed at Douglasdale Street in Rigside to prevent fly-tipping in the area.
- Following feedback from tenants in Albion Court in Biggar about parking problems, the car
 park was relined to maximise parking spaces.
- In response to conversations with the local tenant and residents' group about problems receiving mail and other deliveries in Patterson Drive in Law, it was agreed to instal new street signage and door numbers that had been removed in a previous fabric upgrade.

Glebe Gardens Sheltered Housing Site, Lesmahagow

Sheltered housing tenants have been involved in a consultation meeting to consider the plans for external upgrades. An update will be provided to the committee when plans and costings are finalised during 2024/25.

Officers from Housing and Technical Resources will continue to take forward opportunities within Clydesdale to ensure tenants and other customers can determine the outcome of budgets within the Environmental Programme and Estate Improvement Budget, with further updates provided to Committee.