

# Report

Report to:	<b>Community and Enterprise Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>9 August 2022</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Town Centre and Place Based Investment Programme Update and Funding Award 2022/2023</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the year one Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP)
- ◆ update members on the allocation of the year 2 PBIP.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the progress in the year one project delivery of the PBIP be noted; and
- (2) that the outcome of the year 2 application and assessment process to date be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. 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. The funding is targeted at addressing some of the challenges faced by Scotland's places across the country. The Government confirmed the details of the allocation of the funds to each local authority in a letter dated 10 May 2021 which included its proposal to allocate the funds on a weighted formula based on the number of towns and population in a local authority area and deprivation indices.
- 3.2. The Council PBIP award of £2.003m for the first financial year 2021/2022 is fully committed and projects are in the process of being completed (Appendix 1).
- 3.3. The Council has now received the PBIP allocation totalling £1.74m for the second financial years 2022/2023. The Council has also received confirmation of £1.213m in each of the remaining 3 years of the programme, thereby providing a funding programme in the region of £7.382m over the 5-year period
- 3.4. The objectives of the fund are linked to the improvement of places rather than being focussed on town centres. Nonetheless, it is important to note that the constraints around completing spend within the relevant financial year remain, and, therefore, year

2 funding approximately £1.74m must be spent and/or fully committed by 31 March 2023 with future years following a similar structure.

- 3.5. The Place-Based funding allocation widened the eligible centres with the fund now covering all towns, villages and settlements in South Lanarkshire. This includes neighbourhood centres which were not previously eligible and has allowed the appraisal process to recognise areas and assets beyond designated town centres, which are valued and supported by local communities. This may have to be revisited and widened further in future years as more communities are successful in obtaining funding and reflecting on any lessons learned. However, for year 2 the criteria will remain the same. Any changes in this will be reported to a future Committee for consideration and approval.

#### **4. Current Position and Next Steps**

- 4.1. Following Committee approval of June 2021, officers in Economic Development have engaged with the individual year one project leads to progress projects. This has resulted in a series of projects which are in the final stages of delivery (Appendix 1).
- 4.2. The Committee approval of June 2021 agreed that due to local elections in 2022, it was necessary to launch the year 2 PBIP application process and make awards via delegated powers granted to the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources). This allowed groups the maximum time to have the required information to successfully complete their projects and that the agreed bidding process be used for the largest part of the funding, mirroring that used for the Town Centre funding over 2019 and 2020.
- 4.3. The approved year 2 project list summary is attached at Appendix 2. All applicants both successful and unsuccessful have been notified of the decision and an offer of grant letter issued.
- 4.4. Officers from Economic Development Services will work with each of the successful groups to complete the projects in line with their project plans and agreed timescale. This will include the initial baseline surveys requested by the Scottish Government to ensure the monitoring of the projects is accurate and in line with fund requirements.
- 4.5. Economic Development Officers will process external claims through the Grantvisor system, internal projects will be managed as per existing capital project arrangements with other services. All projects will be managed in consultation with colleagues in Finance and Corporate Resources.
- 4.6. Economic Development Officers will update this Committee with 6 monthly reviews, annual reports, and project end review in line with the Scottish Government requirements. This will also form the basis of 6 monthly Committee updates.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. The continued development and implementation of this and future years of the PBIP will be taken forward by officers within Economic Development Services, in consultation with colleagues across all other Council resources and CPP partners as appropriate.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. The year 2 funds, where appropriate, will be brought into the Council's General Services Capital Programme and will be subject to the normal monitoring and financial

processes. This will feed into requirements of the Scottish Government to report on progress and identify spend.

- 6.2. The proposals in this paper will allow the Capital Programme funding allocation application process for year 2 of the PBIF to be launched as per the terms and conditions set out at approval in June 2021.
- 6.3. In respect of the size of the applications many of the groups involved will not have the cash flow to finance their planned project and may request advance funding to allow their project to progress. Officers have been clear that forward funding of projects is not available.

## **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. The projects and initiatives identified in this report will be delivered using a range of sustainable techniques and models, having regard to best practice and current construction industry guidance. It is also noted that many of the projects will result in the redevelopment of vacant buildings and land.

## **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. Due to the diverse portfolio of projects, the timescales within which projects have been developed and the capacity of groups involved assessed, however, there is a risk that some projects may not proceed in the way envisaged and fail to meet the timescales required.
- 8.2. Ultimately, this could result in grant not being expended in the relevant time frame and opportunities to implement these specific projects will not be maximised. This may result in project funding being withdrawn.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no Impact Assessment is required.
- 9.2. Consultations have been co-ordinated by Economic Development Services with a range of other Council Services who have an ongoing role in delivering services and initiatives in our Town Centres. This consultation and co-operation will continue throughout the duration of the initiative.

**David Booth**

**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

25 July 2022

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Ambitious, self-aware and improving
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable
- ◆ Excellent employer
- ◆ We will work to put people first and reduce inequality
- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places

- ◆ We will work to recover, progress and improve
- ◆ Our children and young people thrive
- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Thriving business, fair jobs and vibrant town centres
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities
- ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible
- ◆ Inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, 29 June 2021 – Place Based Investment Programme

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Application Guidance
- ◆ Weekly FAQ reports

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:- Iain Ross Project Manager, Economic Development Services

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