

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 September 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Town Centre Funding Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update Committee on the full range of funding secured by the Council and its partners in relation to Town Centres and COVID-19 recovery

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the update on funding and delivery of projects be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The reaction from all levels of Government to the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on business has been swift and extensive. This has included financial support for businesses and individuals which has been, in the most part, administered by local authorities.

3.2. Town centres had been experiencing many challenges prior to the COVID lockdown and the crisis has further exacerbated these. As a response to these short and medium term challenges, a number of funds have recently been made available to local authorities and their partners. The purpose of this report is to update members on all of these funds and the initiatives they will support.

3.3. To provide members with an overview of town centre funding, the report includes existing funds which have been the subject of separate reports to this Committee.

4. Town Centre Funds and Allocation

4.1. Most of the funding available has come from a number of Scottish Government backed initiatives along with a contribution from the Council's Capital Programme. While there are specific objectives for each funding source, they all support the role and function of our town centres and, when considered as a whole, should ensure that the Council is in a strong position to assist our towns their businesses and communities through these challenging times. This is summarised in Appendix 1.

4.2. Committee is asked to note the funds secured and the positive effect this is having on our town centres by encouraging people to shop local and increasing footfall. Further updates on the delivery of projects through these sources will be provided in the first quarter of 2021.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. The development and implementation of the projects will be supported by officers within Economic Development Services, in consultation and with support of other Council Resources, as appropriate.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The 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 the requirements of the Scottish Government to report on progress and identify spend.

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. Businesses and services in town centres are facing increased risks as a result of the reduction of footfall and spend as people make fewer visits as a result of COVID-19. The range of complementary initiatives set out above provides a package of support which gives our town centres a greater resilience to come through these challenges.

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 which 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.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

26 August 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for growth, improving skills and employability
- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity
- ◆ Partnership working, community leadership and engagement

Previous References

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, 4 June 2019 – Town Centre Capital Grant Fund
- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, 3 September 2019 – Town Centre Capital Grant Fund Update
- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, 4 February 2020 – Town Centre Capital Grant Fund Update
- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, 25 March 2020 – Town Centre Capital Grant Fund Update

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Appendix 1

Fund	Applicant/Fund Holder	Award Application	Project summary
Scottish Government Town Centre Capital Fund	South Lanarkshire Council	£2,506,000 (awarded)	Update report provided earlier in this agenda
South Lanarkshire Council Capital Programme 2020/2021	South Lanarkshire Council	£500,000 (approved)	Update report provided earlier in this agenda
Scotland's Towns Partnership (STP) BID Resilience fund - £1m fund available for BIDs to allow BIDs to support the towns they serve.	Hamilton BID	£25,000 (awarded)	<p>Hamilton BID are setting up an online buying platform which is being piloted in Hamilton but will be rolled out to businesses in a wider area of South Lanarkshire to enable them to have an online presence for no cost for a period of 6 months. The system will be reviewed at that point and future funding options considered.</p> <p>Lanark BID have secured funding for a town centre app called Loyal Free which is already used by several towns across the UK. This encourages businesses to advertise their goods and services on line to encourage residents to use their local shops. The funding allows Lanark to get the app up and running and will allow Carluke to take up the opportunity to also have the app.</p>
	Lanark BID	£25,000 (awarded)	
STP Towns Resilience Fund – £1m funding similar to that above, targeted to non-BID towns	South Lanarkshire Council	£75,000 (awarded)	<p>The funds will be used to further develop the marketing campaign already running promoting shop local and visit local. This will complement the national campaign. Modest top up funding can be provided to business community representative organisations for PPE supplies and funding is provided to assist more SLC towns to access the app being developed through the Town Centre Capital Grant Fund money.</p> <p>Biggar have secured funding to reopen the community run public toilets</p>
	Biggar CC	£2,120 (awarded)	

	East Kilbride Town Centre	£10,000 (awarded)	East Kilbride have secured funding to support their marketing campaign around shop local.
SUSTRANS (Spaces for People)	South Lanarkshire Council	£100,000 (awarded) Part of larger fund being administered by Roads and Transportation Services.	The funds allow for a variety of physical and information/marketing interventions to assist compliance with the requirements of the COVID-19 route map to recovery.