

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 Capital Programme 2020/2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seek approval for the proposals for the allocation of the Capital Programme Funds for town centres, approved by delegated authority as part of the Council Agenda on 25 March 2020

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the proposals for allocating additional funds, as set out in paragraph 5.2 of this report, be approved; and
- (2) that the outcome of the application process be reported to this Committee on 24 November 2020.

3. Background

3.1. Following South Lanarkshire Council's allocation of £2,506,000 from the Scotland-wide £50m Town Centre Capital Grants fund to invest in town centres, reports were presented to Committee on the criteria and bidding for the funding for the 22 eligible South Lanarkshire towns in June and September 2019. An update on the Scottish Government Town Centre Capital Grants fund is the subject of a separate report on this agenda which explains that the timeframe to spend that money has been extended by one year, and must now be committed by March 2021 and spent by September 2021.

3.2. Following the interest in the Scottish Government scheme and to enable as many towns in South Lanarkshire to benefit from capital investment, by delegated authority as part of the Council Agenda at its meeting on 25 March 2020 approved an allocation of £500,000 to augment the Scottish Government - funded programme of projects in town centres from the Council's own Capital Programme. This report makes recommendations on how the Council funding could be allocated to supplement and complement the Scottish Government funded scheme.

4. Current position

4.1. During the initial call for projects following the announcement of the Scottish Government funding in the Summer of 2019, many excellent projects in the early stages of development were submitted but were not ready to be considered for that funding because of the timescales laid down at that time. In the meantime, economic development officers, as a result of other town centre activity and networking, have maintained contact with a number of groups and organisations keen to bid for the

funding and have informed them of the timetable for bids. Hence, they have been able to prepare and work up schemes which will be ready to proceed if their bids are successful and, in turn, the Council capital funding should enable some of these schemes to proceed.

- 4.2. Since the funding streams have become available, it has become clear that the economic impact of COVID-19 will have a lasting economic impact and plans and strategies have been reviewed in order to look at economic recovery. For town centres, this will require a wider range of interventions to encourage people to return to and make best use of their local towns. To achieve this, it will be vital to capture and build on renewed goodwill and the opportunities it presents for town centres and their businesses to re-establish themselves at the heart of their communities by encouraging residents to shop local.

5. Proposed allocation of funds

- 5.1. Members will recall that there were several options regarding how the Scottish Government's Town Centre Capital Grants Fund could be allocated, all with advantages and disadvantages. Nonetheless, the agreed allocation, resulted in a substantial range of projects being brought forward, with 10 being approved. Therefore, based on that experience and outcome, it is considered that the previous allocation method be adopted for these funds, as set out in the following paragraphs.

- 5.2. Following on from the above, it is proposed that:-

- a £50k minimum figure for any individual project is maintained
- the aim is to allocate funding for up to 8 schemes
- a maximum award per project is 150k and applicants are encouraged not to exceed 100k
- bids are invited from the same 22 towns, (as listed in Appendix 1 of this report)
- additional weighting is given to towns who did not benefit from the Scottish Government scheme

- 5.3. Should Committee approve the proposals set out in this report, it is proposed that an application process be commenced by officers in Economic Development Services immediately with a period of 4 weeks to return bids. This time period is necessary to enable Committee to give approval at its meeting on 24 November 2020. As explained in Section 4 above, schemes will already be in preparation and so the 4 week timescale is not likely to be an impediment, especially as every assistance will be given to bidders by Economic Development Officers.

6. Next steps

- 6.1. Based on the above, a timescale as follows will be implemented for the bidding and assessment process.

- Scheme publicised immediately following Committee meeting
- Online application to go live on 21 September 2020
- Applications to remain open for 4 weeks – closes 19 October 2020
- Officer support to applicants throughout the process
- FAQs will be issued to applicants based on information prepared for the Scottish Government scheme
- Assessment completed by 30 October 2020
- Update report to Committee for consideration and approval, 24 November 2020
- Awards to successful groups week beginning 30 November 2020
- Project delivery through 2021 with completion targeted no later than 31 March 2022.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. 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.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. The funds were brought into the Council's General Services Capital Programme and will be subject to the normal monitoring and financial processes.
- 8.2. To ensure transparency of payment, officers will monitor and manage the claim and payment process through the Grantvisor system.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 9.1. The successful projects following the outcome of the bidding process will, where appropriate be delivered using a range of sustainable techniques and models, having regard to best practice and current construction industry guidance

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. There are no implications for risk in terms of the information contained within this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 11.1. 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.
- 11.2. 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 inclusive growth
- ◆ Improve health care and wellbeing

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

Appendix 1- List of 22 South Lanarkshire towns, identified by Scottish Government as eligible for its Town Centre Capital Grants Fund.

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

22 Towns with population greater than 1000

Settlement Name	Population All Ages
East Kilbride	75,120
Hamilton	54,080
Rutherglen	31,190
Cambuslang	29,100
Blantyre	16,900
Larkhall	14,740
Carluke	13,320
Lanark	9,050
Strathaven	7,350
Bothwell	6,380
Uddingston	6,370
Stonehouse	5,500
Kirkmuirhill and Blackwood	4,440
Lesmahagow	4,350
Law	3,220
Biggar	2,420
Forth	2,190
Douglas	1,490
Ashgill	1,460
Carnwath	1,410
Coalburn	1,220
Kirkfieldbank*	990

*Included as only 10 people below the 1,000 threshold