

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET14 August 2025Report by Director of EnvironmentPLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2025/26**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the Placed Based Investment Programme (PBIP) award from the Scottish Government and seek approval for projects to receive grant award in 2025/26.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (a) Note the financial allocation and new payment instalments to East Renfrewshire Council for the programme period 2025/26;
 - (b) Approve the projects outlined in Appendix 1 for 2025/26;
 - (c) Delegate to the Director of Environment to make adjustments to the proposals depending upon the detailed costs of projects becoming available; and
 - (d) Delegate to the Director of Environment to approve those projects from the reserve list that can be accommodated if any underspends or adjustments arise during the 2025/26 financial year.

BACKGROUND

3. The Scottish Government announced in its Programme for Government in February 2021 that a new Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) would be introduced over the five-year period of the next parliament.

4. The aim of the PBIP is to ensure that all place-based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and accelerate the delivery of improved connectivity, more town centre action, community led regeneration and community wealth building. Project applicants were also asked to demonstrate how their project proposals aligned with the East Renfrewshire A Place to Grow vision and this formed part of the scoring criterion. Proposals considered represent investment in our town centres, parks and communities.

5. At a national level, the Scottish Government allocated a total of £140m capital investment to the PBIP for the period 2021-2026. Local Government expected to receive the following amounts over the five-year period: £38m in 2021/22; £33m in 2022/23; £23m in 2023/24; £23m in 2024/25; and £23m in 2025/26. The funds were allocated on a weighted formula based on the population of a local authority area, the number of towns and deprivation indices.

6. East Renfrewshire Council was awarded £635,000 of capital grant funding for the financial year 2021/22. Based on the annual pro-rata calculation, for subsequent years the Council received capital grant funding of £551,100 for 2022/23, £385,000 in 2023/24 and £385,000 was due in each of the remaining two years of the programme. This represented a total funding programme for East Renfrewshire Council of £2.34m over the five-year period.

7. The Scottish Government contacted Local Authority Chief Executives on 11 July 2024 confirming that there was ongoing uncertainty around PBIP funding allocations for 2024/25 and no awards were subsequently made to Local Authorities.

8. The total expected 2025/26 PBIP allocation for Local Government across Scotland is £23 million. Approval for partial release of the majority of the budget has been made now, enabling project planning and outcome delivery. The remainder of the budget, subject to the Scottish budget position, is planned for release during 2025. The Scottish Government confirmed in June 2025 that East Renfrewshire Council will receive a funding allocation of £385,000 for 2025/26 and this will be split into two tranches. Tranche 1 allocation is £301,455 and tranche 2 allocation is £83,545. No date has been confirmed for tranche 2 payment.

9. The Council issued a call for PBIP proposals in February 2025 to community councils, local community groups, the third sector and relevant Council Departments. The deadline for submissions was 4 April 2025. Applicants were asked to submit an initial Expression of Interest form prior to submitting a full application for funding.

10. Appendix 1 lists nine projects being recommended for approval by Cabinet. This is split between those projects that can be accommodated in the tranche 1 allocation of £301,455 and then those that would be supported in the tranche 2 allocation of £83,545 once confirmed by the Scottish Government. Five projects in tranche 1 have been prioritised in terms of quicker timescales for delivery and budget constraints with four projects to be supported via the tranche 2 allocation. It is proposed that one project, Barrhead Town Centre Improvements, is supported over the two allocations. In addition, approval is sought for four reserve projects should funds become available or other sources of funding identified. Six projects are not recommended for approval and three projects were withdrawn. 22 proposals in total were received.

11. The Scottish Government guidance notes state that projects must have their capital contracts in place by end of March 2026 and spend must be completed by end of September 2026.

12. Appendix 2 of the report provides examples of those projects funded in 2023/24.

REPORT

13. The objectives of the PBIP are to:

- Ensure a place based approach to regeneration;
- Support town centre regeneration;
- Support community led regeneration;
- Support living well locally; and
- Ensure that all place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities

14. Applicants were required to demonstrate how their proposal complemented various Council led strategies and in particular the Council's A Place to Grow Vision. Applicants

were also required to demonstrate how their proposals had community involvement and support. The Economic Development team worked with partners to identify suitable projects. In prioritising the proposals, particular consideration was given to:

- deliverability of the project within the tight timescale and have contracts signed by 31 March 2026 at the latest;
- geographical spread of grant across the Council area; economic benefits and outcomes of each project; and
- strategic fit of proposals.

15. The Council's Economic Development Assessment Panel, which is made up of officers, carried out an initial pass/fail sift on submitted projects. This included eligibility of capital works and how it met with the objectives of the PBIP. Full applications were then scored against three main groupings: fit with the PBIP aims and objectives, local strategic fit and deliverability. Those projects that were not recommended for approval were returned with feedback and the offer of further support.

16. Early discussions with the applicants for each of the projects recommended for approval have provided a strong indication that the projects are sufficiently progressed and that the projects can be delivered, and funds be spent within the required timescales. Projects have been discussed with Property & Technical Services, Estates, Neighbourhood Services, Procurement and Legal teams in terms of deliverability and no issues have been raised.

17. Given the timing of grant funding from the Scottish Government it will be necessary to give the Director of Environment delegation to act quickly and transfer funds, where necessary, amongst projects, whilst remaining within the total funding envelope of £385,000 and ensuring full spend of the fund.

18. The Economic Development team have established a project pipeline approach for future funding opportunities and continue to work with stakeholders to develop their ideas into eligible projects that can be commenced at short notice, when funds become available.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

19. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Project implementation will be funded through the PBIP. All revenue implications have been considered and discussed with applicants prior to approval. Future maintenance regimes have been agreed with applicants and this will also be made a condition of grant.

20. The Council must comply with the conditions of the grant, as set out in Scottish Government guidelines.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

21. Consultation has taken place with a range of key stakeholders within the community and across Council services.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

22. There are no staffing, property, legal, IT, Subsidy Control, equalities, sustainability and climate change implications associated with this report. A full Equality, Fairness and Rights Impact Assessment has been carried out and identified; four positive impacts for protected characteristics, one positive impact for socioeconomic disadvantage and two

positive impacts for children and young people. The full impact assessment is available at: <https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/7313>

CONCLUSIONS

23. The PBIP programme continues to provide an excellent opportunity to deliver further investment to key areas of East Renfrewshire and has been a catalyst for community and stakeholder engagement which will help provide direction for future investment and collaborative working.

24. Appendix 1 provides a list of those projects which are considered best placed to deliver the most benefit to a spread of areas, in accordance with the guidance accompanying the Scottish Government grant offer.

25. This programme continues to play a crucial role in delivering local economic regeneration outcomes across East Renfrewshire in recent years and has supported numerous projects which have brought significant benefits to local communities. These projects have helped bring buildings or areas of land that have been subject to decades of decay and decline back into use, across East Renfrewshire's most deprived and vulnerable communities. The Economic Development team will continue to work with partners on approaches to placemaking.

RECOMMENDATIONS

26. It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- (a) Note the financial allocation and new payment instalments to East Renfrewshire Council for the programme period 2025/26;
- (b) Approve the projects outlined in Appendix 1 for 2025/26;
- (c) Delegate to the Director of Environment to make adjustments to the proposals depending upon the detailed costs of projects becoming available; and
- (d) Delegate to the Director of Environment to approve those projects from the reserve list that can be accommodated if any underspends or adjustments arise during the 2025/26 financial year.

Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place, 0141 577 3116
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August 2025

APPENDIX 1

Placed Based Investment Programme 2025-26

Total award: £385,000

Total requests submitted: £921,362

Tranche 1 Allocation - £301,455					
Project Name	Applicant	Project Summary	Amount	Panel Comments	Ward
1. Clarkston Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme	East Renfrewshire Council	<p>Shop front improvement grant scheme in Clarkston, 100% funding to upgrade windows/shutters/signage/exterior painting etc to improve the appearance of Busby Road</p> <p>This will be phase 1 of an ongoing programme subject to funding becoming available/approved.</p>	£69,755	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme of town centre regeneration. • Has been identified as a priority through the preparation of the Clarkston Local Action Plan. • Will provide improvements to the town centre. • Design guide to be approved by East Renfrewshire Council. • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of our places being attractive. 	Ward 4 - Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood
2. Overlee Pump Track	East Renfrewshire Council	Creation of a pump track for cycling activities in Overlee Park. Project has been developed in partnership with the Netherlee and Stamperland Community Council. A pump track is a hard surfaced and undulating circuit, used for cycling, skateboarding and scooting.	£68,800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme where place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities. • Has been identified as a priority in the Clarkston 	Ward 4 - Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood

				<p>Local Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of having access to high quality sports and physical activity facilities. • Project was approved to proceed by Cabinet on 06 March 2025 with indicative £52,138 PBIF detailed. Revised amount to accommodate increased costs. • Awaiting outcome of funding applications to Sport Scotland and ERREF. 	
3. Lighting at Wraes View	East Renfrewshire Council	Installation of lighting at Wraes View , Barrhead which would improve lighting, access, improved security and safety and links to green network	£25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme place based where investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and living well locally. • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of having accessible and connected networks. • Will provide safer links to local green network. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
4. Rouken Glen - Event Area	East Renfrewshire	Improvements to events space area at Rouken Glen. This	£73,135	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the 	Ward 3 - Giffnock and Thornliebank

Improvements to enable multi-purpose use for all	Council	<p>would enable a multi-purpose use of the area, allowing more access for community groups throughout the year, as well as assisting larger events to use the area more sustainably.</p> <p>Will provide a hard standing area, including access point to the area for activities when the grass is too wet. Works include new tarred roadway into events area, all associated drainage connecting into existing drain and renewal of crossover drains.</p> <p>The events area is currently lacking drainage and the storms and extended periods of rain in recent years has resulted in the area being extremely boggy and demonstrating it is not equipped for future climate change.</p>		<p>programme where place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and living well locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of our places being attractive and connected. 	
5. Barrhead Town Centre Improvements	East Renfrewshire Council	A wide range of town centre improvements including public realm works, larger bins, planters and trees.	<p>£64,765 initial allocation from Tranche 1 with a subsequent £10,827 being awarded via Tranche 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme of town centre regeneration. • Has been identified as a priority through the preparation of the Barrhead Local Action Plan and complements the draft Brighter Barrhead Masterplan. • Will complement other 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor

			monies once confirmed	recent town centre investments including new accessible pathway and new planters along central reservation. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Links with a Place to Grow objectives of attractive and safe places as well as the Council's draft Litter Strategy.	
Sub-Total			£301,455		
Tranche 2 Allocation - £83,545					
Project Name	Applicant	Project Summary	Amount	Panel Comments	Ward
6. Zero Waste, Thriving Nature: Our School's Journey to Biodiversity	Barrhead High School	Funding will support two hot composters to ensure zero waste from school kitchens, canteen, and Home Economics Department. The compost will then be used to develop the school gardens to encourage pupils and staff to use outdoor learning areas.	£5,691	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme of place based where investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities, community led regeneration using a placed based approach.• Complements other regeneration projects taking place in Barrhead and Cowan Park.• Links with a Place to Grow objectives of being prepared for climate change.	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
7. Dunterlie Resource Centre	Dunterlie Action Group	The Dunterlie Resource Centre – Mural and External Improvements	£29,407	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fits with the aims and objectives of the	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor

– Mural and External Improvements		project is part of wider work Dunterlie Action Group is doing in the community to build community, reduce poverty and support local people. Funding will support: repairing, washing and repainting exterior roughcasting; repairing roof fascias and installing plastic coverings; community mural design workshops; Community consultation event and installation 2 community murals with local young people		programme where place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and community led regeneration using a placed based approach. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of being attractive and safe. 	
8. Renewal of muddy movers area	St Cadoc's Primary School and Nursery Class	<p>The project develops a Muddy Movers and Outdoor Learning Area that will provide a rich, stimulating environment for all children in our school, and aged 3-12, while also being accessible to voluntary groups, out-of-school care, and the wider community.</p> <p>The improvements will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muddy Movers Course: A structured outdoor movement space; • Polytunnel & Planters: Providing hands-on experiences in planting and growing, linking to science and sustainability education; • Fire Pit: A key feature that will serve as a central learning tool for storytelling, science 	£22,620	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme where place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities, community led regeneration using a placed based approach. • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of improving achievement for all. 	Ward 5 - Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham

		experiments, and community-building activities; and • Flexible Learning Zones: Adaptable spaces that will serve as intervention areas for literacy and numeracy support.			
9. South Park Avenue Redundant Space Revamp	Barrhead Housing Association	Funding to revamp a redundant space in South Park Avenue in Barrhead which will implement the community vision and improve the environmental space to be enjoyed by community members and local residents.	£15,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme where place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and community led regeneration using a placed based approach. Links with a Place to Grow objectives of being attractive and safe and draft Brighter Barrhead Masterplan. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
5. Barrhead Town Centre Improvements (Tranche 2)	East Renfrewshire Council	A wide range of town centre improvements including public realm works, planters and upgrades to central reservation and roundabouts	£10,827	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme of town centre regeneration. Has been identified as a priority through the preparation of the Clarkston Local Action Plan. Links with a Place to Grow objectives of our places being attractive and draft Brighter Barrhead Masterplan. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor

Sub total			£83,545		
Reserve List projects					
10. CCTV Cowan Park	East Renfrewshire Council	Increased CCTV camera at Cowan Park	£9,434	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. Links with a Place to Grow objectives of being attractive and safe and draft Brighter Barrhead Masterplan. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
11. Disability Access for Sport	East Renfrewshire Cricket Club	Pedestrian pathway around the park at Woodfarm Cricket grounds to increase accessibility for all people including those using wheelchairs. The project aims to reduce and remove those barriers physically and mentally that previously would have restricted access to sport.	£30,560	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. Further community consultation and planning permission required. Links with a Place to Grow objectives of being empowered to make healthy choices and have access to high quality sports and physical activity facilities. 	Ward 3 - Giffnock and Thornliebank
12. Barrhead Gateway Greening Project – Station Planters for Placemaking	All About Barrhead Business Improvement District	<p>This project proposes the installation of two large, high-quality planters at the entrance to Barrhead train station, creating a more attractive and welcoming gateway to the town.</p> <p>As a key point of arrival for both</p>	£12,284	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. Future revenue costs would be the responsibility of the All About Barrhead 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor

		residents and visitors, the station currently lacks visual appeal and wayfinding support. By enhancing this space, we aim to improve first impressions of Barrhead and strengthen connectivity between the station and the wider town centre.		<p>Business Improvement District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of our places being attractive. 	
13. Thornliebank Library Lane, Carriageway and Footway improvements	East Renfrewshire Council	Resurfacing of Library Lane in Thornliebank, which complements the wider regeneration of the town centre, including upgrading lanes, improving shopfronts, and developing a new play area.	£26,746	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of our places being attractive. • Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. • Land ownership to be confirmed. • No maintenance regime confirmed. 	Ward 3 - Giffnock and Thornliebank
Sub-Total			£79,024		
Not recommend for approval					
14. Fraser Hall Electricity and Heating Improvements	Retail Trust	Further improvements to community hall at Retail Trust Hugh Fraser Estate.	£55,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail Trust have received significant funds from PBIP and ERREF over last few years, so this project has not been prioritised. • Reliant on a number of funders to match fund and uncertainty if all other grant applications would be successful. • Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been 	Ward 2 - Newton Mearns North and Neilston

				advised.	
15. Saunders Court Revamp	Barrhead Housing Association	Community garden space at redundant space at Saunders Court, Barrhead	£50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
16. BSL Accessible Films	Historical Adventures Ltd	Equipment to assist BSL film making project	£8,929	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. 	All wards
17. Installation of Ladies Disabled Toilet and upgrade of ladies toilet facilities	Eaglesham Bowling Club	Installation of ladies disabled toilet and upgrade of ladies toilet facilities	£27,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. Limited wider community use. 	Ward 5 - Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham
18. Playground Improvement Project	Carolside Primary School	Playground improvements at Carolside Primary School	£125,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires significant investment and other sources of funding required. Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. 	Ward 4 - Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood
19. Barrhead Heritage Trail	East Renfrewshire Council	The project is a digital heritage and art trail to be situated within the town and neighbourhood centres of Barrhead, encouraging local residents and visitors to follow the trail.	£25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
Sub-total			£290,929		
Projects Withdrawn					
20. Improvements to Whitecraigs	Whitecraigs Rugby Club	Creation of female changing facilities, creation of 'padel'	£100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires significant investment and other 	Ward 2 - Newton Mearns North and Neilston

Rugby Club		courts, parking and bike sheds.		sources of funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. • Project withdrawn. 	
21. Improvements to Muirend Playing Fields	East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure	Improving the standard of (goals, nets and pins) available for 7-aside / 9-aside games at Muirend Playing Fields	£6,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. • Project withdrawn. 	Ward 3 - Giffnock and Thornliebank
22. New Public Space CCTV Cameras	East Renfrewshire Council	In partnership with Police Scotland, an exercise was undertaken in 2023 to identify new locations where communities would benefit from CCTV cameras. This resulted in a list of 10 location with the top 2 being identified below and subject of this application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auchenback / Barrhead South - Aurs Rd @ Springfield Rd. • Newton Mearns - Maidenhill @ Southern Glasgow Orbital. 	£60,409	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is able to be supported via Developer Contributions. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor Ward 5 - Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham
Sub total			£166,409		
Totals submitted			£921,362		

Appendix 2 – PBIP projects supported in 2023/24

Project: Newton Avenue Play Park

Applicant: Barrhead Housing Association (BHA)

PBIP Grant Award: £80,000

Creation of new playpark in Newton Avenue, Barrhead. Barrhead Housing Association had consulted tenants on the design and type of play equipment that should be installed. A Barrhead Housing Tenant said: *“I live across from the play park and it’s great to see something done with the space as there was just nothing there before. Now my children have been in there every day playing. It’s great to see.”*



Project: Netherlee to Stamperland Walkway
Applicant: East Renfrewshire Council
PBIP Grant Award: £65,700

Upgrade path that is part of the national core path network. Set within the White Cart valley green space it connects Netherlee to Busby, links to an area of exceptional beauty - Stamperland Walkway Park. Used by a large cross section of the local population including families travelling to primary school, dog walkers, cyclists, joggers and people out enjoying nature. The path also connects to Linn Park and onward from there to Glasgow city centre. This project has been highlighted as a priority in the Local Action Plan.



Project: Off Grid Community Food Growing Project & Learning Spaces
Applicant: Off Grid Community SCIO
PBIP Grant Award: £18,300

Improvements and expansion to current site in Clarkston. Off Grid Kids provides outdoor learning space for young people, the site is used by a wide range of groups and schools including those with additional support needs. Accessible pathways to allow wheelchair access, construction of Geodome and greenhouse to enable community growing project.



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