

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET16 June 2022Report by Director of EnvironmentPLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2021/22**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the progress being made with the Placed Based Investment Programme (PBIP) and advise members on the decision to fund 2 replacement projects from the 2021/22 grant allocation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- a) Note the progress made to date on the implementation of the programme to date; and
 - b) Note the decision to approve the substitution of the Dunterlie Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) project with the projects from Young Enterprise Scotland and the Neilston Shop Front Improvement Scheme as outlined in the report.

BACKGROUND

3. A report was submitted to the Cabinet on 25 November 2021 which informed members of the new Placed Based Investment Programme (PBIP) award from the Scottish Government and sought approval of 7 projects which totalled £635,000 for 2021/22.

4. The report advised that the Scottish Government 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. East Renfrewshire Council were awarded £635,000 for the financial year 2021/2022, £551,100 in 2022/2023 and £384,100 in each of the remaining 3 years of the programme thereby providing a funding programme in the region of £2.34m over the 5-year period. The high level main objectives of the Place Based Investment Programme are:

- to link and align place based initiatives and establish a coherent local framework to implement the Place Principle;
- to support place policy ambitions such as town centre revitalization, community led regeneration, 20 minute neighbourhoods and Community Wealth Building;
- to ensure that all place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities;
- to accelerate ambitions for net zero, wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage, community involvement and ownership.

5. The confirmation of a 5-year programme allows a more structured approach to the preparation, allocation and delivery of projects when compared to previous annual allocations for town centre funding.

REPORT

6. With regard to the grant of £635,000 for the financial year 2021/22 it is a Scottish Government requirement that any works contracts should be **signed by 31 March 2022 at the latest**.

7. The Dunterlie MUGA project was awarded £250,000 at the Cabinet meeting of 25 November 2021. The project would replace the existing derelict MUGA at Dunterlie Resource Centre, Barrhead.

8. The tender for this project has resulted in potential contract costs of £450,200 compared with the original estimate of £250,000. Only one tender was submitted in a recent tendering exercise. This meant that should the project proceed the Council would have had to find an additional £200,000 from its own resources to cover the shortfall between the total cost and the grant funding awarded.

9. Given the circumstances regarding substantial cost increases related to this project a decision was made by the Director of Environment not to proceed with this project at this time at least until market conditions have stabilised or improved. The Council's Economic Development team will work with Procurement and Property and Technical Services to explore more financially viable options that could be considered for future years funding.

10. As stated above all contracts require to be let by 31 March 2022. In order to avoid the potential loss of £250,000 Scottish Government grant to the programme, the Council's Environment Department have been in discussion with the Scottish Government who have advised that no new activity can be funded from this round of grant funding for 2021/22. However, helpfully they also advised that any uncommitted funds could be allocated even at this late stage to existing Placed Based Investment Programme projects provided the contracts could be let by 31 March 2022.

11. There were two projects within the existing programme approved by the Cabinet in November 2021 that could be expanded quickly in terms of scope and size. These were:

- **Neilston Shop Front Improvement Scheme.** It was possible to award a further £180,000 to the Neilston Shop Front Improvement scheme which would mean a further 13 shops being in scope. The project ties in with the overall regeneration of Neilston and will add value and complement works already planned for the village including the Education Campus and Neilston Leisure Centre; and
- **Young Enterprise Scotland (YES) premises at Rouken Glen Park Training Centre.** This project was a substitution project already agreed by the Cabinet in March 2022. It was possible to enhance the existing project to create additional new business start-up space on the site as well as increased event space at a further cost of £60,000. This would involve further classrooms being installed with bandstand/events space resulting in YES being able to expand its employability offer to young people in East Renfrewshire.

12. Both projects combined result in £240,000 being redirected to two priority regeneration projects already approved by the Cabinet and would mean only £10,000 grant being lost to the programme in 2021/22.

13. Both projects align with the Place Based Investment Programme criteria, our approach to place based regeneration and 20 minute neighbourhoods. The YES project is aligned with the East Renfrewshire employability strategy and the Scottish Youth Guarantee Programme in terms of reducing unemployment for young people in ER.

14. There are no planning issues to be addressed with either project.

15. Those remaining projects approved by the Cabinet on 25 November 2021 are making good progress and will be completed by end of September 2022.

16. Normally any new proposals or proposals to amend the previously approved projects would be submitted to the Cabinet for approval. However, due to the short time remaining for contracts to be signed and the lack of a suitable Cabinet meeting to consider the proposal, the decision was taken by the Director of Environment to seek urgent approval for the substitution projects outlined above. In terms of emergency powers Councillors Buchanan and Bamforth were consulted over the change and were supportive of this approach.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

17. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Project implementation will be funded through the Place Based Investment Programme.

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

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

19. Consultation has taken place with a range of key stakeholders including Legal and Procurement colleagues.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

20. There are no equalities, IT or staffing implications associated with this report.

CONCLUSIONS

21. The PBIP programme provides 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.

22. The decision taken has ensured that the Council has retained £240,000 of Scottish Government funding in relation to the Place Based Investment Programme report for 2021/22 for implementation during 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
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 - b) Note the decision to approve the substitution of the Dunterlie Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) project with the projects from Young Enterprise Scotland and the Neilston Shop Front Improvement Scheme as outlined in the report.

Director of Environment

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