

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET13 October 2022Report by Director of EnvironmentPLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Placed Based Investment Programme (PBIP) award from the Scottish Government and seek approval for schemes in 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- a) Approve the projects outlined in appendix 1 for 2022/23;
 - b) Delegate to the Director of Environment to make adjustments to the proposals depending upon the detailed costs of projects becoming available;
 - c) Note the progress of those projects funded in 2021/22 in appendix 2; and
 - d) Note that further reports will be submitted to the Cabinet in due course seeking approval for projects in future years.

BACKGROUND

3. 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.

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 Scottish Government ambitions for place, 20-minute neighbourhoods, town centre action, community led regeneration and community wealth building.

5. The Scottish Government confirmed the details of the allocation of the funds to each local authority in May 2021. The funds were allocated on a weighted formula based on the number of towns and population in a local authority area and deprivation indices.

6. East Renfrewshire Council was awarded £635,000 of capital grant funding for the financial year 2021/22. Based on a pro-rata calculation for subsequent years the Council will receive capital grants funding of £551,100 for this financial year 2022/2023 and £384,100 in each of the remaining 3 years of the programme. This represents a total funding programme for East Renfrewshire Council in the region of £2.34m over the 5-year period.

REPORT

7. The confirmation of a 5-year programme is a welcome development. It allows a more structured and better planned approach to consultation and the development and delivery of projects when compared to previous annual one off allocations for town centre funding.

8. The funding is now linked to the improvement of places including neighbourhoods rather than being simply focused on town centres.

9. The Scottish Government guidance issued with the grant offer is not prescriptive and makes it clear that it is up to each local authority to decide how to award funding in its own area. However, the guidance sets out the high-level expectations of the Scottish Government.

Objectives

10. 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 revitalisation, 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; and
- to accelerate ambitions for net zero, wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage, community involvement and ownership.

11. With regard to the grant of £551,100 for the financial year 2022/23 it is a Scottish Government requirement that any works contracts should be signed by 31 March 2023 at the latest.

12. The Scottish Government envisage that this new fund and its provision over a number of years will provide the long term structure to challenge, coordinate and target efforts for regeneration of towns and neighbourhoods. It is designed to make sure that all investments understand the place in which they are made, how their contribution will help deliver the changes needed, and how local communities shape their future.

13. The Council's Economic Development team issued a call for proposals in March 2022 to various stakeholders including community councils, local community groups, the third sector and relevant Council Departments.

14. The Economic Development team worked with partners to identify suitable projects. In prioritising the proposals, particular consideration was given to:

- The deliverability of the project within the tight timescale and have contracts signed by 31 March 2023 at the latest;
- The geographical spread of grant across the Council area; and
- The economic benefits and outcomes of each project.

15. Using the criteria set out above priority was given to a number of initiatives ranging in scale and content some of which would ensure "quick wins" and some that may take longer to realise economic impact.

16. Appendix 1 of this report lists those projects that we are seeking approval for and that will be funded from the 2022/23 grant allocation. Proposals include capital spend associated with Cowan Park Bandstand, Busby Play Park and Barrhead Waterworks, Glasgow Road. There are also two projects that due to timings and logistical reasons have been placed on the reserve list. It is expected that these two projects from Young Enterprise Scotland and East Renfrewshire Council, will be funded from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme in 2023.

17. Early discussions with the applicants for each of these projects gives officers a strong indication that the projects are sufficiently progressed and that the projects can be delivered, and the funds spent and/or committed within the required timescales.

18. It should be noted that, as with the town centre programme, project costs are at an indicative budget stage and it will be necessary to again give the Director of Environment delegation to act quickly and transfer funds where necessary amongst projects, whilst remaining within the total funding envelope of £551,100. This is especially necessary given the volatility of the current markets.

19. Given the tight timescales associated with this programme in terms of when the grant is awarded by the Scottish Government and the length of time it takes to develop projects, carry out feasibility studies, community engagement, options appraisal with outline costs, detailed design and competitive tendering, it was expected that many community-led type projects were unable to meet these deadlines for this particular year.

20. However, as this is a 5-year programme there is still opportunity for all our communities to apply for funding in future years. The Economic Development team have established a project pipeline approach for future funding opportunities and continue to work with community groups to develop their ideas into eligible “shovel ready” projects.

21. It is proposed that a bidding process as outlined above will continue to be used for the allocation of funding for future years. The details and outcome of each annual bidding process will be reported to Cabinet for approval in advance of each year’s programme.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

22. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Project implementation will be funded through the PBIP.

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

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

24. Consultation has taken place with a range of key stakeholders within the community.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

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

CONCLUSIONS

26. 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.

27. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

28. It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- a) Approve the projects outlined in appendix 1 for 2022/23;
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- c) Note the progress of those projects funded in 2021/22 in appendix 2; and
- d) Note that further reports will be submitted to the Cabinet in due course seeking approval for projects in future years.

Director of Environment

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September 2022

TOTAL BUDGET 2022/23 - £551,100

APPENDIX 1

Address/Project	Proposal	Cost £	Proposed by
Placed Based Green Hall	Replace and renew existing stage lighting with LED units at Clarkston Halls; upgrade cabling and sound systems to minimise energy consumption and create Green Arts opportunity, increased opportunity for place based arts initiatives in the heart of the community in Clarkston	£77,000	East Renfrewshire Culture & Leisure
Cowan Park Bandstand	The Bandstand structure in the Cowan Park is currently fenced off for health and safety as it's in a poor state of repair. The proposed works involve the refurbishment of this structure in order to bring it back to its former glory which would allow the local community to once again utilise this popular asset.	£100,000	East Renfrewshire Council – Environment Department
Town Centre Litter Bin Modernisation	Replacing smaller bins on Neilston, Thornliebank and Barrhead Main streets with larger bins. Implementing a more effective and efficient litter collection system. This will reduce how often the bins are emptied so reduces the carbon impact and work towards the councils net zero goals. 30 large bins at £500 each approx.	£15,000	East Renfrewshire Council – Environment Department
Busby Play Park	Busby Glen Park has been closed for 2 years due to ongoing Scottish Water work. Due to safety concerns the whole park has been shut and has therefore become overgrown and neglected. This funding is to provide new play equipment; a zip slide and all-inclusive roundabout. This will compliment separate ERC and Scottish Water investment to toddler equipment and greenspace in the park. This combined investment will ensure that the recreation area can once again be enjoyed by Busby residents and visitors.	£30,000	Busby Community Council
Town Centre Digital signs	Installing digital community notice boards in Barrhead, Giffnock, Clarkston, Busby and Eaglesham. This allows ERC to promote and raise awareness on a number of projects and matters concerning the community and beyond. This will benefit communities as messages will be visible to those living, working and visiting the towns. Currently there's no efficient method of displaying advertising in the community. We use advertising on bus shelters, but this represents a significant cost and is temporary, so these digital signs will provide the Council with a permanent and effective communication tool.	£61,219	East Renfrewshire Council – Communications team
The Avenue Shopping Centre	Funding is for new signage at The Avenue Shopping Centre to increase visibility of the range of retailers within. A range of different signs will be implemented including digital signs to ensure messaging is kept up to date and relevant to encourage customers to keep visiting and increase footfall. Further funding is to support the 'Mearns Workshop' concept to encourage small pop-up businesses to test out a presence in a physical environment with the hope that they make a success of it and long term deals are agreed. The workshop will also be used by public and third sector partners	£139,000	The Avenue Shopping Centre

	to promote their services and engage with local residents and businesses.		
ERA Outdoors - Barrhead Waterworks	This project is to develop and enhance a space at the Barrhead Waterworks, Glasgow Road for community benefit. Funding will allow creation of a fenced area to erect a "Polycrub" high quality, durable polytunnel which would act as a fruit and vegetable growing area and a meeting space for young people with additional support needs and their families and local groups. The space would also have a composting toilet with disabled access which would be inclusive for people with complex needs, solar electricity generation and associated storage cabins and meeting space.	£70,480	East Renfrewshire ASN Parents Action Group
Dunterlie Park Development Phase 1 (DPDP1)	Funding is sought from the PBIP to undertake Phase 1 of the development which is focussed on making Dunterlie Park fully accessible and safe for all with a more sustainable footprint. All works are focussed on upgrading and improving the public areas at the park and include access improvements to stand side of the ground, replace retaining walls which support the slabbing, refurbishment of the four level area to make safe and installing level, concrete surfacing and toilet refurbishment.	£58,401	Arthurlie Juniors Football Club
Total		£551,100	

RESERVE LIST PROJECTS

Address/Project	Proposal	Cost £	Proposed by
Young Enterprise Scotland, Rouken Glen Park	Funding is being sought to demolish the existing prefabricated 'Eastwood' classroom to build a purpose-built reception, classroom and shower room space. This would complement works being undertaken at present. Project will be funded via UKSPF in 2023.	£67,680	Young Enterprise Scotland
Upgrade of Carlibar Bridge, Barrhead	Funding is to refurbish the Historic iron bridge on Church Street Set within Barrhead Town Centre. The restored bridge will be a centre piece of the wider restoration works, reflecting local history and industrial heritage. It will also be a highly practical piece of infrastructure, providing the most direct walking link between town centre and train station. Project will be funded via UKSPF in 2023.	£63,000	East Renfrewshire Council – Environment Department
Total		£130,680	

PROGRESS OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2021/22

APPENDIX 2

Address/Project	Proposal	Cost £	Progress
Shop Front Improvements, Neilston	The Shopfront Improvement Scheme will improve the appearance of the ground floor frontages of commercial premises within the village of Neilston. This is an exciting opportunity to really improve the kerb appeal and prosperity of the shops on Neilston's Main Street. The scheme will complement the future capital investment including the new learning & wellbeing centres.	£280,000	The programme has funded 21 shop fronts. Works will be complete by end of September 2022.
Dunterlie Employability Hub, Barrhead	The hub is located in Dunterlie Resource Centre within the most economically disadvantaged neighbourhood in East Renfrewshire. It will provide support to build confidence and employability skills for people from Dunterlie and the surrounding area who want to be able to access employment opportunities and training.	£26,632	Project is now complete and scheduled to open at the end of August 2022.
Dunterlie Environmental Improvements - Car park	Resurfacing and lining car park at Dunterlie Resource Centre. Capital improvements in the MUGA and Employability Suite will increase footfall to the centre	£23,221	Project is now complete.
Westbourne Centre, Barrhead	The refurbishment and modernisation of the common areas within the Westbourne Business Centre, which provides essential office accommodation to both start up and established businesses in the town centre. Improved offering will attract local new start/growth businesses to the centre.	£152,500	Project is now complete.
Festive Lighting, Neilston	Tree lighting at Eastwood Toll and Kirkstyle Lane, Neilston. This project will enhance the distinctiveness and vibrancy of the town and neighbourhood centres during the dark months.	£20,000	Project is now complete

Young Enterprise Scotland, Rouken Glen Park	This project will develop a dedicated and highly supportive business start-up space for young people in East Renfrewshire. Located at the YE Scotland Rouken Glen Park Training Centre, Square Go will create a new business start-up space in East Renfrewshire with a highly approachable and encouraging ethos to provide young people with a place to develop business ideas, harness creativity and collaborate with like-minded people.	£121,000	Project is scheduled for completion at the end of September 2022.
Dunterlie MUGA Barrhead	Feasibility and design work to support a proposal to regenerate the Dunterlie Multi-use Games Area. The games facility in Dunterlie has been unusable for a number of years and is a blight on the community.	£11,647	The work required to upgrade the facility could not be accommodated within this round of the PBIP due to the escalating cost of materials and current market conditions. However, the project will be developed for alternative funding sources.
Total		£635,000	