



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

TOWN CENTRE FUND CAPITAL GRANT 2019/20 - APPLICATIONS

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to set out proposals for the delivery and operation of the Town Centre Fund Capital Grant 2019/20 underspend in the wards of Armadale and Blackridge, Fauldhouse and Breich Valley and the Whitburn and Blackburn wards totalling £18,896.98. The funding is part of the Town Centre Capital Grant Fund which has been allocated to the council.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Executive:

1. agrees on the distribution of the unallocated sum to be used for projects in any settlement in the ward.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	To be assessed on an individual project basis but it is not anticipated that any proposals will require to be the subject of specific assessments.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 1 – We make West Lothian an attractive place to do business. Outcome 10 – We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the services we need.

Outcome 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)

A total of £1.826 million will be allocated to the Capital Fund through Scottish Government Grant Settlement.

VII Consideration at PDSP

Not applicable.

VIII Other consultations

Council Executive; Capital Asset Management Board; Local Area Committees

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D1 Background

In February 2019 the Scottish Government announced, as part of its budget, a new Town Centre Fund. The fund is a ring fenced capital allocation of £50 million for 2019/20. The fund is based on the Scotland's Town Partnership working definition of a town being a place with a population of 1,000 or more, which equates to 484 towns across Scotland, 23 for West Lothian. This allocation for West Lothian is £1.826 million.

The means of inviting application and disbursing funds to projects was agreed by Council Executive at its meeting on 12 June. That agreement set out a three stage process as follows.

It was agreed that Local Area Committees would make decisions on the applications and that as far as possible the money allocated to communities in each ward area is used in the ward. All applications were to be presented to the relevant Local Area Committee for consideration.

After the initial round of allocations within each settlement, any balance remaining was to be allocated to applications in other settlements in the ward which had not been funded, partly or fully, at the first allocation. Where a balance remaining after the second stage it was agreed that it was for Council Executive to decide how and where all remaining balances should be spent across the whole council area.

Applications across the 23 towns have now been considered by Local Area Committees considered at the appropriate Local Area Committee and a balance of £18,896.98 is available for allocation to projects. A breakdown of the unallocated funding on a ward basis is set out in the following table.

Ward	Underspend
Armada and Blackridge	£344.21
Whitburn and Blackburn	£4,139.75
Fauldhouse and Breich Valley	£14,413.02
Total Underspend	£18,896.98

As per the decision of Council Executive on 12 June it is for Council Executive to allocate this funding to projects.

E. CONCLUSION

There is an unallocated amount of £18,896.98 of Town Centre Capital Grant Fund 2019/20 across three wards. Council Executive is asked to agree for the unallocated underspend of the Town Centre – Capital Fund 2019/20.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Armada and Blackridge Local Area Committee (1 October 2019)
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Local Area Committee (1 October 2019)
Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee (3 October 2019)
Council Executive, 11 June 2019
<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments>.

Appendices/Attachments: One: List of unfunded projects

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