



BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS – REALLOCATION OF FUNDING IN DECHMONT

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is confirm the realignment of Village Improvements Funding awarded to Dechmont Community Council.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the local area committee notes the realignment of funding between projects in Dechmont as agreed.

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)	The project meets the funding eligibility criteria. There is no requirement for a strategic environmental assessment and the project does not raise any equality or health issue.
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 £1.65m capital fund is available for projects and the proposal can be met from within this budget.

VII Consideration at PDSP

This project has not been considered by a PDSP. The overall Villages Improvement Fund was considered by Development & Transport PDSP.

VIII Other consultations

None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 West Lothian Council's approach

In 2012 the Council Executive agreed the eligibility criteria for a West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund (WLVIF). Funding of £1.65m is available to support eligible schemes with the funding phased over five years. The fund has the following two work streams:

1) A shop frontage/shop improvement scheme, to which local independent retailers can apply. This operates in a similar way to the shop frontage improvement schemes for traditional town centres i.e. a grant of up to £750 and no more than 50% of the cost of the shop front improvement.

2) Small scale village improvements and initiatives, this can include a number of types of investment, including both physical improvements to the streetscape and investment in community provision:

- Provision of street furniture such as seating, cycle stands and direction signs.
- Improved village gateways (e.g.; through planting, landscaping and/or signage).
- Improved sense of place in village centres through hard landscaping, planting and soft landscape improvements.
- Tidying and landscaping of gap sites within villages.
- Access improvements in and around villages.
- Investment in projects that engage and support young people.
- Investment in other local community facilities.

Three villages within the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward are eligible under the scheme. Distribution of funding is based on village size. In April 2014 Council Executive agreed to full allocations to each village to add to the monies already announced for 2013-14 the following represent the full money allocated to each of the eligible villages in the ward and the amount remaining:

- Dechmont - £55,000 (£0 remaining)
- Eccelsmachan/Oatridge - £20,000 (£0 remaining)
- Winchburgh - £55,000 (£1,030.22 remaining)

D2. Realignment of project funding in Dechmont

Dechmont Community Council has received funding through the Village Improvement Fund of £46,500.06 covering four separate projects (five projects in total over the course of the fund):

1. £9,729.06 – Installation of defibrillator/Planters including filler materials/Memorial garden inc. sandstone paving etc./ plaque for memorial/ Two memorial benches;
2. £17,000 - Village signs/ Post office area improvements;
3. £2,500 - Hanging baskets (supply and installation); and
4. £17,271 - Sculptures from Ratho Byres Forge.

These have all been agreed by the LAC separately and as such sit as separate projects. The Community Council has indicated that they no longer wished to pursue the village signs project (£17,000), as it had become clear that this could no longer be delivered as originally envisaged. As a consequence the applicant requested a re-allocation of the surplus funds to add to the other three projects. This would mainly support additional funding for the sculptures project but the other two have come in slightly over. In terms of the sculpture the additional funding would allow for a bigger project to install a pair of related pieces.

The Local Area Committee has indicated support for this realignment and this report confirms that decision and that Dechmont Community Council have been informed.

E. CONCLUSION

The Town Centre Capital Fund offers significant additional capital funding to improve West Lothian's town centres. The projects in Livingston South will deliver community identified projects that would not otherwise have been carried out. The timescales for delivering this work has made the application and assessment process challenging for both applicants and officers. The delivery of the agreed projects will be equally challenging as detailed in the report and will require ongoing monitoring to ensure delivery within the timescales.

- F.** Reports to Development and Transport PDSP (April 2013), Council Executive (May 2013) and Linlithgow Local Area Committee (September 2013).

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Alice Mitchell, Economic Development Manager
Email: alice.mitchell@westlothian.gov.uk
Tel no: 01506 283079

Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

15 November 2019