



EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WEST LOTHIAN VILLAGES IMPROVEMENT FUND – UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the Local Area Committee of the current position with regards to the West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund for the East Livingston and East Calder ward and consider funding applications.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee:

1. Notes that four villages from the six eligible have a budget remaining;
2. Notes that the total remaining balance is £19,080.25 from a pot of £435,000;
3. Agree to support the one application received
4. Notes the surplus funds of £6,205 returned to East Calder for reassignment
5. agrees Uphall stations change of use from the underspend of £576.93

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; Making best use of our resources; Working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Our economy is diverse and dynamic, and West Lothian is an attractive place for doing business. We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.

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	The overall Villages Improvement Fund was considered by Development & Transport PDSP.
VIII Other consultations	None.

D TERMS OF THE REPORT

D1 Background

In 2012 the Council Executive agreed the eligibility criteria for a West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund. 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.

Six villages within the East Livingston and East Calder ward are eligible under the scheme.

Distribution of funding is based on village size. Total allocations per village are as follows:

East Calder	£125,000	(£6,205 remaining)
Mid Calder	£125,000	(£0 remaining)
Kirknewton	£55,000	(£0 remaining)
Pumpherstons	£55,000	(£396.25 remaining)
Uphall Station	£55,000	(£2,479.00 remaining)
Wilkinson	£20,000	(£10,000 remaining)

D2 Applications

The following application has been received:

Wilkinson

East Calder and District Community Council is applying for funding of £10,000. Working with the Military Museum Scotland and Scottish War they wish to purchase lest we forget memorial benches to be located in Wilkinston/Linburn for use by residents, visitors and veterans and a lest we forget noticeboard to benefit residents and visitors to Wilkinson Community displaying important information on Events and Information relating to Local Community, Community Council, Councillor Surgeries for example. This is on condition that all relevant legislative planning and consent is in place.

D3 Update on Village improvement Fund

East Calder

There is an underspend of £ 6,205 from the Hogghill path project as permission was not granted from the private landowner. This can now be reassigned to other projects.

D4 Reassignment of funds

Uphall Station

Uphall station Community Council are asking that the underspend from the Institute hall improvements of £576.93 (that the Community council hold) agreed for the kitchen upgrade can be used for improvement of the men's toilets. This will still leave £2,479.00 centrally remaining in the Villages budget for Uphall Station

E CONCLUSION

Six villages within the East Livingston and East Calder ward are eligible to apply to the Villages Improvement Fund. The committee are asked to:

- Support the Wilkinson application received
- note the East Calder underspend of £6,205 now available for reassignment.
- agree to the reallocation of the underspend from Uphall station institute hall kitchen improvements to upgrade the Institute hall men's toilets.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Reports to Development and Transport PDSP (April 2013), Council Executive (May 2013 and April 2014).

Appendices/Attachments:

APPENDIX 1 Wilkinson Application Village Improvement Fund

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