

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

TOWN CENTRE FUND UPDATE 2019/20 & 2020/21

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the committee on progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects agreed by the Local Area Committee on 4 October 2019 and 22 December 2020.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the local area committee notes the updates for Town Centre Fund 2019/20 and 2020/21 projects for this 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	The report sets out specific delegations to the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<p>Outcome 1 – We make West Lothian an attractive place to do business.</p> <p>Outcome 10 – We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the services we need.</p> <p>Outcome 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.</p>

VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Across West Lothian, a total of £1.826 million was available through this Town Centre Fund for 2019/20 and a further £658,000 has been available for 2020/21.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Not applicable.
VIII	Other consultations	Capital Asset Management Board

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

In February 2019 the Scottish Government announced a new Town Centre Fund as part of its budget. 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.

In September 2020, the Scottish Government announced a further £30 million capital budget as part of the £230 million economic recovery package aimed at supporting construction activity across Scotland. The Scottish Government agreed with CoSLA and local authority Leaders that £18 million will be provided to local authorities as a top up to the existing Town Centre Fund approved in 2019/20.

Funding allocations would be based upon the same methodology as agreed between Ministers and Council Leaders for the 2019/20 allocations. On that agreed basis a budget of £658,000 has been allocated to West Lothian Council.

Funding is aimed at addressing the core themes of the Scottish Government's Town Centre Action Plan 2013 and the Town Centre First Principle which requested that government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of proportionate and best value decision making. It also encouraged a focus on delivering the best local outcomes regarding investment and de-investment decisions, alignment of policies, targeting of available resources to priority town centre sites, and encouraging vibrancy, equality and diversity. It committed to a collaborative approach which understands and underpins the long-term plan for each town centre.

The themes of the Town Centre Action Plan include:

- **Town Centre Living** – footfall is key to achieving thriving, successful towns centre; and, the best footfall is residential for people who will use shops, services, and will care for its safety and security in the evenings
- **Vibrant Local Economies** – creating a supportive business environment including the involvement of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other local partnerships

- **Enterprising Communities** – social enterprise, services, arts and events; and, community empowerment and community-based activities which increase the health, wealth and wellbeing of town centres
- **Accessible Public Services** – creating and accessing public facilities and services, supported by economic, service and transport hubs
- **Digital Towns** – exploiting digital technology and promoting WIFI infrastructure to enable access to information, data analytics, marketing opportunities, branding, and communication with the wider world
- **Proactive Planning** – land reform and supporting the creation of sustainable, low-carbon and connected places which promote natural and cultural assets, designed in partnership with local communities and key stakeholders.

D2 West Lothian Council's approach

The Council Executive agreed on 11 June 2019 that the funding detailed above should be allocated to all 23 communities with populations over 1,000 through a grant application process (see background reference below). The deadline from receipt of applications was set for 31 August 2019 to allow for decisions to be taken and projects delivered within the stated delivery deadline of 31 March 2020.

The Council Executive further agreed on 22 October 2020 that the 2020/21 funding detailed above should be allocated to all 23 communities with populations over 1,000 through a grant application process (see background reference below). The deadline from receipt of applications was set for 27 November 2020 to allow for decisions to be taken and projects delivered within the stated delivery deadline of projects having contracts committed by 31 March 2021, and having projects completed by 30 September 2021.

Please note that these delivery deadlines also now apply to the project funded through the 2019/20 allocations, following extensions granted by the Scottish Government early last year.

The process agreed that decisions on the applications would be as follows:

- a) Local Area Committees will consider applications from each community to the fund and have the power to award funding in full or in part as they see fit up to the amount allocated to that community.
- b) After doing so, if there is a balance remaining of the aggregate amount allocated to the ward, Local Area Committees have the power to apply that balance to applications for the ward area which have not already been funded at all or fully.
- c) After doing so, if a balance remains, Council Executive will decide how and where all remaining balances from Local Area Committee should be spent across the whole council area.

D3 Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Projects – Update on delivery of projects

The project funded by both years of the fund are listed in Appendix 1, and subdivided by town and then year. As some projects funded in 2019/20 also successfully applied for the 2020/21 fund for additional funding, these are listed as the one project (these projects will have two

Due to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March of this year, work on the projects came to a halt resulting in the need for the timescales to be extended. This extension runs to March 2021 with projects needing to be contracted by then and completed by September 2021.

D4 Updates

Appendix 1 and 2 shows a table of the projects which were funded from the 2019/20 and 2020/21 rounds, the amount they were funded and the status of the project outlining whether the project is completed, ongoing and if there are any significant issues. In addition to this, updates have been provided for some of the ongoing projects:

2019/20 Updates

BRO01 & UPH03 Broxburn and Uphall Development Group (BUD) – New Planting Scheme for the benefit of Broxburn and Uphall District

Work expected to be completed within timescales. No underspend. Note that the original applicant for BRO01 requested that they transfer responsibility for the project over to Broxburn and Uphall Development Group (BUD) to deliver as they were delivering UPH03.

BRO04 Family and Community Development West Lothian – Range Improvements

Completed. No underspend.

BRO05 & UPH04 Broxburn United Sports Club – 3G Pitch Replacement

Completed. No underspend. An additional £15,000 was awarded to the project on 22 December 2020 from an underspend from UPH02 making a total award of £80,000.

BRO06 Scottish Canals – Port Buchan on Union Canal – Environmental enhancements

Work contracted and started. No underspend.

UPH01 Family and Community Development West Lothian – Range Improvements

Completed. No underspend.

UPH02 Uphall Community Council – Designating Council Owned Land as a Local Park

Project completed by West Lothian Council. Identified underspend of £30,784.80 was released and reallocated at December LAC.

WIN01 Winchburgh CDT – Village Web Portal

Contractor appointed. Work expected to be completed within time scales, no underspend anticipated.

WIN02 Winchburgh CDT – Grass cutting

Still to be completed but expected to be completed in early 2021. No underspend anticipated.

WIN03 Winchburgh Community Council – Extra open air seating

Sites identified and work to be delivered by WLC NETS. Expected to be completed within timescales. No underspend identified.

2020-21 Projects

BROX20-03 BUD – A Community Garden for the Benefit of Broxburn District

At the December LAC meeting Officers indicated concerns over the location with a preference for it to be located in an alternative site. However, subsequent to the meeting Officers have indicated that they are happy for the group to take forward the project at Strathbrock as long as it gets the required planning approval and consults with local users of the Partnership Centre and others. The BUD Group is currently progressing the planning application process which will enable a lease to be put in place. The BUD Group are currently consulting the users of the Partnership Centre over their plans and have had a number of positive responses and are looking to address questions and concerns raised by the Management Committee.

BUD20-04 & UPH20-02 Restoration of the Exterior of the Bowling Club

Quotes for the different elements of the work are currently being sought and working towards getting contract signed by the 31 March.

UPH20-03 Purple Poppy Campaign Memorial

The applicant has held a site visit and have been in touch with Uphall Primary School who have indicated they want to be involved as well as support from Uphall Community Council and the pensioners.

The measurements have been done and the architect drawings and costs expected in first week of March and contractors identified. Planning application will follow.

WIN20-01 Marquee to allow Winchburgh church to function

Funding released and update on progress being sought, although no concerns over timescales have been raised by applicant.

WIN20-02 Storage/Workshop Container

On target, due to order first week in March, with a delivery in 10 weeks. Planning permission for the site to follow, will be submitted by the Community. It is anticipated that costs will be slightly higher but WCDT will cover that. Project expected to finish by late June.

WIN20-03 Community Garden Improvements

Working group developing the project and expect to be in a position to order picnic benches and the replica hut w/b 7/3/21. The costs will be greater as we may well be increasing the quality of the picnic benches and may change the base for the Hut. We expect the project to be completed by end of May.

WIN20-04 Auldathie Community Garden

Funding released and update on progress being sought, although no concerns over timescales have been raised by applicant.

D5 Next steps

Due to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March of this year, work on the projects came to a halt resulting in the need for the timescales to be extended. This

extension runs to March 2021 with projects needing to be contracted by then and completed by September 2021.

Officers will continue to keep in contact with all applicants and service leads to ensure that the projects are going to be delivered within the timescale. If there are projects that are not able to be delivered within this timescale resulting in an underspend, service leads will identify potential projects that have an overspend to reallocate the underspend to them.

E. CONCLUSION

The Town Centre Capital Fund offers significant additional capital funding to improve West Lothian's town centres. The projects in the Linlithgow ward will deliver community identified projects that would not otherwise have been carried out. The timescales for delivering this work has been extended to consider the difficulty in continuing with work due to the lockdown and the current pandemic which has made the delivery challenging.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Council Executive, 11 June 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=42684>

Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh LAC, 4 October 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=43776>

Broxburn Uphall and Winchburgh LAC, 22 December 2020

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=47219>

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 2019/20 table of funded projects for ward.
Appendix 2 2020/21 table of funded projects for ward.

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5 March 2020

Appendix 1
Town Centre Fund 2019/20 – Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Ward Update

Applic ation Code	Applicant (Group/Service)	Project Name	TCF Award (£)	Status
BRO01	Broxburn Community Council (transferred to BUD)	New Planting Scheme for the benefit of Broxburn and District	£36,656	Work expected to be fully completed in timescale. No indication of underspend.
BRO04	Family and Community Development West Lothian	Range Improvements	£1,812	Completed
BRO05 & UPH04	Broxburn United Sports Club	3G Pitch Improvements	£45,000* + £20,000+ £15,000 from underspend re allocated from UPH02 giving total of £80,000	Completed
BRO06	Scottish Canals	Port Buchan on Union Canal – Environmental enhancements	£20,000	Completed
UPH01	Family and Community Development West Lothian	Range Improvements	£9,168	Completed
UPH02	Uphall Community Council	Designating Council Owned Land as a Local Park	£11, 513.70	Originally awarded £42, 298.50 but completed under budget £30,784.80 returned to fund.
UPH03	Broxburn and Uphall Development Group (BUD)	New Planting Scheme for the benefit of Uphall and District	£23,089.50	Work expected to be fully completed in timescale. No indication of underspend.
WIN01	Winchburgh CDT	Village Web Portal	£10,000	Contract let and work to be completed within timescales
WIN02	Winchburgh CDT	Grass cutting	£6,250	Work to be completed in timescales
WIN03	Winchburgh Community Council	Extra Open Air seating	£6,000	Work being carried out by WLC.

Application Code	Applicant (Group/Service)	Project Name	TCF Award (£)	Status
				Expected to be completed in timescales
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Total			£204,489.20	
WARD TOTAL			£220,274	Difference added to BUD20-04 &UPH20-02

Appendix 2

Town Centre Fund 2020/21 – Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Ward Update

Applic ation Code	Applicant (Group/Service)	Project Name	TCF Award (£)	Status
BROX2 0-03	Broxburn and Uphall Development Group (BUD)	A Community Garden for the Benefit of Broxburn District	£31,730	Project progressing through planning
BUD20- 04 & UPH20- 02	Middleton Hall Bowling Club	Restoration of the Exterior of the Bowling Club	£3,282 + £12,977 + £15,784.80 from 2019/20 underspend reallocated to this project making a total of £33,043.80	Quotes being received and considered and working to have contracted by 31 March
UPH20- 03	Ancre Somme Association Scotland Charity	Purple Poppy Campaign Memorial	£10,000	Planning application to be submitted but expected to have contracts in place in time scales
WIN20- 01	Pardovan, Kingscavil and Winchburgh Parish Church	Marquee to allow Winchburgh church to function	£5,500	Funding released and no concerns over timescales have been raised
WIN20- 02	Winchburgh CDT	Storage/Workshop Container	£6,835	On track to meet the march deadline. Planning approval required. Aiming for June completion.
WIN20- 03	Winchburgh CDT	Community Garden Improvements	£3,190	On track to meet the March deadline with work completed by end May.
WIN20- 04	Winchburgh Community Growing	Auldcathie Community Garden	£5,673	Funding released and no concerns

Applic ation Code	Applicant (Group/Service)	Project Name	TCF Award (£)	Status
	Groups			over timescales have been raised
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Total			£95,971.80	
WARD TOTAL			£95,971.80	Includes additional balance moved to BUD20-04 &UPH20-02