

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

**PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING**

**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 Place Based Investment Capital Grant 2021/22 of £1,302,000 which has been allocated to the council from Scottish Government.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council Executive

1. Notes that twelve applications have been received for projects within West Lothian;
2. Notes that a panel was established to advise the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration;
3. Agrees to award funding as set out in the report, including funding conditions outlined in Appendix 1; and
4. Notes the terms and conditions associated to the awarding of grants as set out in the report.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	Placed Based Investment and Community wealth Building are Scottish Government initiatives.  The projects recommended for support do not raise any SEA, Equality Health or Risk Assessments.
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	Approaches to Community Wealth Building have the potential to increase positive outcomes across a range of indicators.
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	Relevant to all outcomes

<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	West Lothian's allocation of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme Funding 2021/22 is £1,302,000.
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	Not Applicable.
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Other consultations</b>	A panel comprised of representatives from the Voluntary Sector, Regeneration, and Asset Management were consulted on 15 September 2021 on the suitability and merit of the applications.

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D.1 Background**

In late June 2021, Council Executive approved recommendations in a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration to take forward the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme on a thematic basis around Community Wealth Building. The West Lothian allocation for 2021/22 is £1,302,000. The grant is for capital expenditure.

In early September 2021, the Scottish Government announced the Plan for Government 2021/22, in which plans are laid out to;

*"Progress a Community Wealth Building Bill in this Parliament, helping create and protect jobs and enable greater community and third sector ownership of assets."*

This report sets out proposals to allocate these funds to eligible projects that focus on Community Wealth Building. The report also provides members with further information on the suitability of the applications received and their reasons for recommendation.

### **D.2 Process for Considering Applications**

The timescale for rolling out the fund was presented to the meeting of Council Executive in 22 June 2021. Since then, the fund has been launched and promoted and applications were received by the closing date of 31 August. Following this, a meeting of an assessment panel was held to which representatives from the Voluntary Sector, Regeneration, and Asset Management were invited.

The panel meeting, for which the purpose was to advise and provide feedback on the applications received and make initial proposed allocations to the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, was attended by all representatives on 15 September 2021.

### **D.3 Projects Recommended for Funding**

Following the application deadline, a careful analysis of all 12 applications was undertaken, assessing the projects including an assessment against the 5 principles of Community Wealth Building:

- Plural ownership of the economy
- Making financial power work for local places

- Fair employment and just labour markets
- Progressive procurement of goods and service
- Socially productive use of land and property

Against this criterion, the panel, chaired by the head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration met to discuss and advise on the applications received. The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration sets out the following recommendations for the allocation of the funds based on that advice:

**1. Craigsfarm Community Development Project**

This project seeks to renovate existing land and property, which will increase community access to services and improve quality of existing facilities. Funding will go towards better security of the whole campus, allowing the project to continue work that benefits the wider community of the East Livingston & East Calder ward. In addition to attracting new users, the project aims to keep existing users happy by providing facilities and services for use of the local community. This project covers the principles of plural ownership of the economy, and socially productive use of land and property.

A full award of £129,602 is recommended.

**2. West Calder HUB**

The West Calder HUB project seeks to renovate and improve the existing facilities. Funding for this project will see improvements and additions to both indoor and outdoor facilities of the HUB. Through an asset, jobs for local people will be protected and created, with growth in potential and plan to make the centre community-owned. The facilities will become safer and of better quality, allowing the project to deliver on their commitment to educational use. These actions will contribute toward a safer and more aesthetically pleasing space for the communities with the Fauldhouse & Breich Valley ward. This project covers the principles of plural ownership of the economy, fair employment and just labour market, and socially productive use of land and property.

A full award of £140,265 is recommended.

**3. West Lothian College**

This project seeks to build an Eco-House education and training centre which will have positive impacts by; providing rewarding careers, meeting industry workforce challenges, ensuring the region is core to sustainable developments, and driving towards a zero-carbon economy. The Eco House will allow for the development of skills in smart technologies, ensuring efficient and effective sustainable living in the home whilst supporting community-based independent living, and engaging West Lothian communities in a sustainable future. This project covers all 5 principles of Community Wealth Building.

A partial award of £493,436 is recommended, this is 90% of the funding for this project.

**4. West Lothian Foodbank**

The Foodbank's Market Garden project seeks to make their current service

more accessible and sustainable, with impacts throughout West Lothian. Funding for this project will see the purchase of raised beds, polytunnels, and apple trees, as well as improvements to the gravel paths, more accessible parking, and considerable aesthetic improvements to the current land and property. The project will benefit the foodbank network across West Lothian, whilst allowing for the employment of a local young person and providing work placements for college students. This project covers all 5 principles of Community Wealth Building.

A full award of £188,697 is recommended.

#### **5. Crofthead Community Education Association**

This project seeks to create new community facilities, as well as improving and growing existing property and services. The development will generate income through lets to businesses, organisations, and community groups where affordability is a barrier to participation. The project is also a carbon-neutral build, and will extend income through its cycle track, renting to local people and community organisations, and extending support for cycling in communities within the Livingston and the wider county. This project covers all 5 principles of Community Wealth Building.

A full award of £350,000 is recommended.

Appendix 1 outlines the applications received and funding requested. Although Crofthead Community Education Association requested £1.1m for 2022/23, there is no guarantee on the success of this funding. Officers will continue to work with all successful applications in order to ensure that phasing of future funding can be met.

### **E. CONCLUSION**

This report details the proposals for the allocation of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme Funds for 2021/22, to the total allocation of £1,302,000.

This will be an opportunity to build on activity already underway and will support implementation of a more strategic Community Wealth Building approach in West Lothian. Council Executive are asked to agree the recommendations set out in the report

### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Council Executive, *Place Based Investment Programme and Community Wealth Building Report*, Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration, 22 June 2021

Council Executive, *Scottish Government Programme for Government 2021/22 Report*, Head of Finance and Property Services, 5 October 2021

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – PBIP Application Analysis, with panel recommendations for funding allocations

Contact Person: Alice Mitchell, Economic Development & Regeneration Manager, email [alice.mitchell@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:alice.mitchell@westlothian.gov.uk)

Sophie Brodie, Community Engagement & Wealth Building, email [sophie.brodie@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.brodie@westlothian.gov.uk)

**Craig McCorriston, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration**

Date of meeting: 26 October 2021

Application	Project	Ward	Applied for 21/22	Applied for 22/23	Total Applied for	Beyond
Craigsfarm Community Development Project	Renovations for sustainability and accessibility	East Livingston & East Calder	£129,602.00	£31,600.00	£161,202.00	£8,200.00 for contingency and project management fund
West Calder HUB	Community facility renovation and improvements	Fauldhouse & The Breich Valley	£140,265.00	–	£140,265.00	–
West Lothian College	Eco house education and training centre	Livingston South	£547,000.00	–	£547,000.00	–
West Lothian Foodbank	Market Garden	Bathgate	£188,697.00	–	£188,697.00	–
Crofthead Community Education Association	Community facility creation, improvements, and growth	Livingston South	£350,000.00	£ 1,100,000.00	£ 1,450,000.00	£ 550,000.00

	Partial amount of £493,436 to be offered as this project has capacity to seek funds elsewhere that make up the cost of total project
Total Recommended Award 2021/22	£ 1,302,000.00

Application	Project	Ward	Applied for 21/22	Applied for 22/23	Total Applied for	Beyond
Armadaie Parish Trust	Renovations for accessibility	Armadaie & Blackridge	£278,500.00	£355,500.00	£634,000.00	-
Bathgate Hills Venture Group	Interactive walking infrastructure	Bathgate	£107,000.00	£138,000.00	£245,000.00	£147,000.00
Community Moorings Scotland	Eco-mooring canal community	Linlithgow	£17,500.00	£160,000.00	£177,500.00	-
Craigsfarm Community Development Project	Renovations for sustainability and accessibility	East Livingston & East Calder	£129,602.00	£31,600.00	£161,202.00	£8,200.00 for contingency and project management fund
Crofthead Community Education Association	Community facility creation, improvement and growth	Livingston South	£350,000.00	£1,100,000.00	£1,450,000.00	£550,000.00 for Phases 3 & 4, if deemed successful enough to apply for more funding
HCL Transport	Purchase of 2 new vehicles	Bathgate/West Lothian-wide	£188,600.00	-	£188,600.00	-
Linlithgow Community Development Trust	Cycle circuit sports facility	Linlithgow	£157,673.00	-	£157,673.00	-
Locavore West Lothian	Market garden and food shop	Linlithgow	£227,000.00	-	£227,000.00	-
Polkemmet Beekeeping Association	Accessible, sustainable, educational preservation centre	Whitburn & Blackburn	£103,373.55	-	£103,373.55	-
West Calder HUB	Community facility renovation and improvements	Fauldhouse & The Breich Valley	£140,265.00	-	£140,265.00	-
West Lothian College	Eco house education and training centre	Livingston South	£547,000.00	-	£547,000.00	-
West Lothian Council Planning Department	Underpass art installations and town centre improvements	Livingston North, Livingston South, East Livingston & East Calder	-	£150,000.00	£150,000.00	-
West Lothian Council Planning Department	Town centre improvements	Livingston North, Livingston South, East Livingston & East Calder	-	£300,000.00	£300,000.00	£300,000.00
West Lothian Foodbank	Market Garden	Bathgate	£188,697.00	-	£188,697.00	-
			£2,435,210.55	£2,235,100.00	£4,670,310.55	£1,005,200.00
			<b>21-22</b>	<b>22-23</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>BEYOND</b>

Applications withdrawn