

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23

REPORT BY DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EDUCATION, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to set out a proposal for the delivery and operation of the Place Based Investment Capital Grant for Community Wealth Building Projects and Town Centre Capital Investments 2022/23 of £1,132,000, which has been allocated to the Council by The Scottish Government.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council Executive:

1. Notes the total level of funding available in 2022/23;
2. Notes the process undertaken to obtain and access bids for the available funding;
3. Approves the four projects recommended by the panel for the Community Wealth Building funding as detailed in section D2;
4. Notes the allocation of the Town Centre funding through the Local Area Committees;
5. Approves the additional allocation of funding and the three-stage process to be undertaken as detailed in section D3;
6. Agrees that the underspend in funding from Armadale and Blackridge and Whitburn and Blackburn is returned to the Local Area Committees for allocation along with the additional funding and;
7. Notes that any subsequent unallocated funding will come back to the Council Executive for allocation.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	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
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Place Based Investment is a Scottish Government Initiative. This report does not raise any specific SEA, Equality, Health or Risk Assessments requirements. However, projects supported through the fund may require assessments.
III	Implications for	The report details a one-off specific delegation

	Scheme of Delegations to Officers	to the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Investment in place-based projects has potential to increase positive outcomes across a range of performance indicators.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relevant to all outcomes within the Single Outcome agreement.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	West Lothian's allocation of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme Funding in 2021-22 was £1,302,000 and £1,132,000 in 2022/23.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Town centre funding has been presented at the nine Local Area Committees.
VIII	Other consultations	None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

In February 2022, the Council Executive approved a process for allocating an anticipated budget for 2022/23 from the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Capital Grant (PBIP). It was agreed that the funding would be split between investments that meet the criteria under Community Wealth Building and Town Centre Capital Projects; this will be a 50:50 split. This was initially based on an allocation of £1,000,000 with the condition that the finalised grant award would be split evenly between the two funding streams.

In April 2022 the final allocation was confirmed by the Scottish Government as £1,132,000 for 2022/23, resulting in a further £66,000 being available for both Community Wealth Building and Town Centre Capital Projects. The process for allocating the additional Town Centre Capital Projects funding is in section D3.

The main objectives of the PBIP grant is:

- to support place policy ambitions such as town centre revitalisation, community led regeneration, 20-minute neighbourhoods and Community wealth Building;
- to ensure that all place-based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities; and
- to accelerate ambitions for net zero, wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage, community involvement and ownership.

Funding for Community Wealth Building projects were expected to have a value of at least £100,000, this was in line with the process for funding in 2021/22. The funding for the Town Centre Project's was to be in line with previous allocations of Town Centre Capital Funding in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

This report provides an update on the process undertaken for the allocation of the funding and makes recommendations on the allocation of the Community Wealth Building funding and unallocated Town Centre Capital Funding.

D.2 Community Wealth Building Funding

The funding for 2022/23 was opened up in February to organisations to apply for local capital projects with a minimum project value of £100,000 for the total funding available of £500,000. Though as detailed in D1 this fund has increased to £566,000.

Previous successful applicants who had applied for multi-year funding, but were only awarded year one in 2021/22, were contacted to make them aware of the funding and opportunity to apply for year two. This included Crofthead Community Education Association Management Committee/West Lothian Bike Library partnership and Craigsfarm Community Development Project.

Following the application deadline, the 13 applications received were reviewed by a panel comprising of a range of key Council Services and the Voluntary Sector Gateway, with a view to advising and recommending proposed allocations. Appendix one contains a breakdown of all the applications received.

The projects were assessed 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 services
- Socially productive use of land and property

Following the assessment by the panel, the following projects were recommended for an allocation of funding:

1. Almond Valley Heritage Trust – The Big Welcome, Phase 1

This project seeks to upgrade the car park area and create a new site entrance to the Almond Valley Heritage Centre. The Trust are committed to local procurement, with the project aiming to extend public access to the green-space and paths that the project maintains. The project will sustain the employment of 30 core staff and 30 seasonal staff from the local area. This funding will enable future plans to open a free-access mining museum and community space, separate to the farm and play area.

A full award of £153,000.00 is recommended.

2. Craigsfarm Community Development Project – Upgrade and Refresh

This project seeks to upgrade flooring, Wi-Fi, and fire doors, and to refresh the café area in the building which is currently in community ownership. The facility is used as a hub for local business, community groups, council services, NHS use, and a public café. The funding would also be used to complete a feasibility study on the use of a former sports pavilion near the building to explore options for its use including community ownership of the space.

A full award of £146,494.00 is recommended.

3. The Larder West Lothian – Place Based Community Development Programme

This project has three elements based within the organisations Brewster Square, Kirton House and Blackburn Health First hub in the Mill Centre in Blackburn. The

project will develop and upgrade the bakery at Brewster Square including the development of a shop front, upgrade training facilities at Kirkton House to make them accessible to clients with additional support needs and will create a community support hub, including a community café, in the organisations new Health First Hub at the Mill Centre, Blackburn. The social enterprise will reinvest surplus income generated from the sale of food and bakery products into West Lothian on poverty alleviation activities through training, employability, and food provision. The funding will create 8 Real Living Wage jobs, and the project will procure and contribute to the local food supply chain.

A full award of £182,879.00 is recommended.

4. The Bridge Community Project – Wellbeing Hub Refurbishment

This project seeks to fit out the wellbeing hub base owned by the organisation, which will be used for mental health counselling, and will also renewable energy to the building. The local West Lothian charity and social enterprise will support the community through financial and emotional wellbeing services, and also aims to provide a space for other local third sector organisations to utilise. The project will provide a facility for counsellors to operate from, as well as establishing a multi-functional training suite for the delivery of SQA accredited qualifications and supporting local businesses with wellbeing in the workplace. The works focus on sustainability and will add renewable energy to the building.

A partial award of £83,627.00 is recommended. The award will support the renewable energy element of the project.

It is recommended that the four projects highlighted above are awarded the recommended amounts, totalling £566,000.

D3 Town Centre Capital Fund 2022/23

The 2022/23 funding for Town Centre Capital Fund was opened to all Community Organisations, the Public Sector and Community Planning Partners in February 2022, with a deadline of the 22 April. Applications have been, or are being, taken to all Local Area Committees to agree their allocation of the funding. This was based on the original funding allocation of £500,000.

At time of writing the report eight had completed the process, with two being referred back to the Council Executive for decision, due to the committees not be quorate at the time. These are Linlithgow and Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley which are included earlier on the Council Executive agenda for consideration. The Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Local Area Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday 17th June, a verbal update will be provided on the outcome of the meeting.

As agreed by the Council Executive any funding not allocated by Local Area Committees would come back to the Council Executive for a decision on how the allocation of this should be dealt with. As mentioned above there are currently two Local Area Committees that were not able to allocate in full on. The amounts were:

Committee	Amount unallocated
Whitburn and Blackburn	£10,660.96
Armadales	£16,240

Additional funding

As detailed in section D1 of the report an additional £132,000 was received from

the Scottish Government, this has resulted in an additional £66,000 being made available for the Town Centre Funding, the other half going to the Community Wealth Building stream as detailed above. Appendix two shows the funding allocated between all the towns using the original process and the effect on these of the additional awards to provide a new total.

It is proposed that rather than open up a new application process for the additional funding, that the following step by step approach is taken by Regeneration Officers and reported, for allocation by Local Area Committee at the next round of meetings due to take place in August and September:

1. Where there are projects that the Local Area Committee was keen to support but could not support in full, or at all, due to a lack of available funding, the additional resources should be considered to increase the allocation to those agreed projects.
2. Where the Local Area Committee has agreed projects that were allocated the full amount requested, officers will discuss with applicants as to where eligible additional works could be included and agreed what these might be. This would also apply where an application was approved on estimated costs but the actual cost of delivery is higher. The additional cost could be funding through the allocation.
3. Where applicants are unable to identify additional works Regeneration officers will discuss with local community groups, partners and council services where there may be new projects/works that can be considered by the Local Area Committee. Officers will work with organisation to develop the proposals for the Local Area Committee to consider funding.

An update report will be brought to the next round of Local Area Committees for the allocation of funding. Should there still remain any unallocated funding these will again be brought back to the Council Executive for a decision as soon as practicable thereafter.

As was previously the case the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration will retain the delegated authority to move funding between towns within the ward allocation should this be required.

The unallocated funding from Armadale and Blackridge and Whitburn and Blackburn, detailed above, should go back to those Local Area Committees for allocation and be considered along with the additional funding, in appendix two, through the same process detailed above. This approach should apply to any other unallocated funding from Local Area Committee's still to meet and consider applications.

E. CONCLUSION

This report details the proposals for the allocation of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme Funds for 2022/23 to the total allocation of £1,132,000.

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, *Place Based Investment Programme Process Proposal and Update*, Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration, 8 February 2022

Appendices/Attachments: two

One – Place Based Investment Applications received – April 2022

Two – Additional Town Centre allocations

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21 June 2022

Appendix one: Place Based Investment Applications received – April 2022

Applicant	Project	Amount Applied For	Total Project Cost
Craigsfarm	Upgrade flooring, installation of Wi-Fi, upgrade of fire doors, refurbishment of the café and to conduct feasibility study on a former sports pavilion to established possible uses.	£ 146,494.00	£ 154,494.00
The Larder	Upgrading bakery and kitchen equipment, fitting Kirkton House, and fitting Health First Hub in Blackburn	£ 182,879.00	£ 267,200.00
Bathgate CDT	Improve path in Meadowbank Park to better utilise park, with signs and lighting	£ 130,000.00	£ 134,500.00
Almond Valley Trust	Upgrade of the car park area and create a new site entrance to the Almond Valley Heritage Centre	£ 153,000.00	£ 197,753.00
Trash Panda	New HQ in old Farmfoods in Bathgate. Soundproofing building to use for musicians; local support groups using music; equipment and creation of a well-being hub.	£ 80,650.00	£ 130,650.00
West Lothian Cycle Circuit (Linlithgow CDT)	Funding for part of the Linlithgow Cycle circuit project.	£ 130,000.00	£ 1,358,934.00
Stoneyburn Future Vision Group (Whitburn Juniors FC)	Upgrade of the outdoor Astroturf 7s pitch, dressing rooms, training pitch and running path. In addition to the installation of floodlights.	£ 120,300.00	£ 138,500.00

Reconnect Regal Theatre	Renovating of a space at the former Waverley Street Depot for community groups and a local business hub	£ 146,000.00	£ 156,000.00
Community Moorings Scotland	The creation of a high street on the canal, working with local groups and businesses to establish tenants within the space.	£ 176,210.00	£ 182,210.00
Whitburn Juniors FC	Improving floodlighting of the pitch at the club ground.	£ 100,848.00	£ 100,848.00
The Bridge Community Project	The redesign and fit out of the office space for use for mental health counselling. Renewable energy to be installed as part of the redesign.	£ 156,152.00	£ 196,452.00
Murieston Tennis & Sports Club	Construction of three secure, floodlit tennis courts	£ 70,000.00	£ 265,000.00
West Lothian College	The build of a Construction Skills Centre	£ 200,000.00	£ 295,000.00
		£ 1,792,533.00	

Appendix two - Additional Town Centre allocations based on an additional £66,000 being added

Town	Original allocation	Updated allocation based on additional £66k	Additional amount available to the Town
Livingston	£93,908.00	£114,418.32	£20,510.32
Bathgate	£46,260.00	£55,124.20	£8,864.20
Linlithgow	£31,336.00	£36,550.86	£5,214.86
Armadale	£28,500.00	£33,024.66	£4,524.66
Whitburn	£28,170.00	£32,610.94	£4,440.94
Broxburn	£26,884.00	£31,011.61	£4,127.61
Uphall	£17,214.00	£18,977.34	£1,763.34
Blackburn	£18,889.00	£21,061.26	£2,172.26
East Calder	£18,824.00	£20,980.81	£2,156.81
Fauldhouse	£17,394.00	£19,201.43	£1,807.43
Winchburgh	£15,784.00	£17,197.96	£1,413.96
Mid Calder	£15,158.00	£16,418.40	£1,260.40
West Calder	£14,851.00	£16,037.24	£1,186.24
Kirknewton	£13,999.00	£14,976.13	£977.13
Polbeth	£13,542.00	£14,407.26	£865.26
Blackridge	£13,192.00	£13,972.47	£780.47
Addiebrownhill	£13,064.00	£13,813.50	£749.50
Stoneyburn	£13,051.00	£13,796.26	£745.26
Pumpherston	£12,566.00	£13,192.92	£626.92
East Whitburn	£12,069.00	£12,574.25	£505.25
Seafield	£12,053.00	£12,555.10	£502.10
Uphall Station	£11,651.00	£12,055.19	£404.19
Greenrigg	£11,641.00	£12,041.78	£400.78
TOTAL	£500,000	£566,000	£66,000

Additional Breakdown for Livingston

<u>Settlement</u>	Original Allocation	Updated allocation based on additional £66k	Additional amount available to the Town
Livingston Eliburn	£14,144.00	£17,233.26	£3,089.26
Livingston Craigshill	£12,156.00	£14,811.24	£2,655.24
Livingston Dedridge	£11,727.00	£14,288.64	£2,561.64
Livingston Murieston / Bankton	£9,155.00	£11,155.13	£2,000.13
Livingston Carmondean	£8,905.00	£10,850.80	£1,945.80
Livingston Ladywell	£8,654.00	10,544.38	£1,890.38
Livingston Deans	£7,293.00	£8,886.33	£1,593.33
Livingston Knightsridge	£6,796.00	£8,279.77	£1,483.77

Livingston Howden	£6,010.00	£7,322.72	£1,312.72
Livingston Village Kirkton	£5,095.00	£6,208.25	£1,113.25
Livingston Bellsquarry / Adambræ	£3,973.00	£4,837.73	£864.73
TOTAL	£93,908.00	£114,418.25	£20,510.25