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## **PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

**Report by Director - Resilient Communities**

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### **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

**25 January 2024**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This paper provides an update on the delivery of the Scottish Government Place Based Investment Programme which has allocated £23m of capital funding to Scottish Local Authorities, payable in the financial year 2023/24 to support town centre regeneration projects and community wealth building.**
- 1.2 Scottish Government and Council Leaders have agreed that Local Authorities will receive a share of funding to help support place-based investment over a five year period, with the current financial year being the third year of the programme. The Scottish Borders has been allocated £550k based on a combination of total population and existing deprivation levels. This allocation needs to be financially committed by the end of the current financial year.
- 1.3 Council Officers have identified four potential projects within the Scottish Borders that £147k of funding could be allocated to within the current financial year. These proposals have been recommended for approval by the Place Partnership which is an independent group of experienced partners from the public, private and third sectors. Details of the proposals are provided in Table 4.1.
- 1.4 Officers are also currently working with a number of groups and organisations to try and bring forward additional projects to a Committee later in the year with a view to fully allocating the funding from Scottish Government during the current financial year.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **2.1 It is recommended that Council:**

- a) Notes the progress made to deliver the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme which is intended to provide funding for Scottish Local Authorities over a five year period;**

- b) Agrees to commit £147k from the allocation in the current financial year to four projects throughout the Scottish Borders as detailed in Table 4.1;**
- c) Delegates authority to the Director of Resilient Communities and Director of Finance and Procurement in consultation with the Economic Development Elected Members Reference Group, the Convenor of the Council and the Leader of the Independent Group to approved local projects as required, taking account of the recommendations from the Place Partnership;**
- d) Notes that further papers will be brought back to an appropriate Committee at a suitable time which will provide further detail on proposed place based projects and future delivery.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Scottish Government and COSLA have agreed to adopt the 'Place Principle' to help encourage better collaboration and community involvement and to improve the impact of combined resources and investment. The Place Principle is where people, locations and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose and is at the heart of helping address the needs and realising the full potential of communities.
- 3.2 Places are shaped by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in and invest in them. A more joined-up, collaborative, and participative approach to services, land and buildings, across all sectors within a place, enables better outcomes for everyone and increased opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives and to help drive a more circular local economy.
- 3.3 In 2021 the Scottish Government announced a five year programme of capital investment for place based investment projects with £550k being allocated to the Scottish Borders within the current financial year. All Local Authorities in Scotland have been provided with an allocation based on total population and deprivation levels.
- 3.4 The Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) is seen as the first step in creating coherent local strategies to guide investment priorities and to help implement the 'Place Principle' which is a key component of both the current Scottish and UK Government policy agenda.
- 3.5 Central to the delivery of this Scottish Government investment strategy will be the need to help ensure that decisions are shaped by the needs of our local communities, prioritising the regeneration and revitalisation of towns and villages, tackling inequality and helping to accelerate the South of Scotland towards 'net zero' emissions targets along with increased footfall within our town centres.
- 3.6 In recent years Scottish Borders Council has appointed a number of new officers to help deliver place making, enhanced community engagement, climate change and the development of green spaces. These Officers are all active in our local communities and have been helping to position schemes and projects within the current PBIP, but also with a view to future years.

### **4 PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 The PBIP allocation for the current financial year has sought to deliver funding to projects that have the necessary permissions in place, signalling a financial commitment, or projects where the contractor is already on site and currently undertaking work. The proposed investment will hopefully provide additional benefits for the communities in the longer term.
- 4.2 Officers have identified a number of potential projects throughout the Scottish Borders that funding could be allocated to within the current financial year. The projects were highlighted through the Expression of Interest process which has sought to simplify the funding landscape and provide opportunities for local communities and organisation to deliver

suitable projects within their local area. A link providing additional information and advice on the Expression of Interest process has been provided below.

[Funding Support – Expression of Interest Form | Grant Funding for Community Projects | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

- 4.3 The suggested projects and associated financial allocations are detailed in Table 4.1 and have been considered by the Place Partnership Board, established for advising on the Shared Prosperity Funding, and are recommended for approval.

**Table 4.1 – Suggested PBIP Allocations**

Town/Village	Project	Proposed Allocation
<b>Selkirk</b>	<p><b>Selkirk Scout Hall – New Toilet Facilities</b></p> <p>Selkirk Scout Group are a registered charity that provides a programme of activities for young people between the ages of 6-18.</p> <p>The group are requesting funding from the Place Based Investment Programme to reconfigure and extend an existing single toilet in the hall, providing new improved facilities including showers and a disabled toilet/wet room.</p> <p>Previous plans to upgrade the facilities were put on hold as dry rot was discovered in the building. However, treatment of the dry rot was completed last summer at a significant cost to the group.</p> <p>It is understood that the hall is currently used by other organisations based in the town, therefore this will be an asset for the wider local community.</p> <p>The Scout Group have undertaken a range of fund-raising and there is wide spread support for this project throughout the town and the wider area.</p> <p>All permissions appear to be in place and the project is ready to be delivered.</p>	<b>£49k</b>
<b>St Boswells</b>	<p><b>St Boswells Village Hall – Energy Saving Project</b></p> <p>The St Boswells Village Hall Committee aims to maintain the hall and organise activities for the benefit of the inhabitants of St</p>	<b>£43k</b>

	<p>Boswells and surrounding area.</p> <p>The hall is used by a wide range of local groups on a regular basis and also as a warm space during the winter period. There is strong support for the committee within the local community.</p> <p>The Village Hall Committee has an ambitious 'greening' proposal for the hall which aims to significantly reduce the hall's energy costs and work towards a position of Net Zero.</p> <p>The Energy Saving Project has four key work packages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. fitting PV panels to the roof and installing storage batteries;</li> <li>2. installing air source heat pumps;</li> <li>3. fitting LED lighting throughout the building; and</li> <li>4. installing underfloor insulation in the main hall.</li> </ol> <p>Funding for two of the packages of work has already been secured and the Committee is requesting £43k from the Place Based Investment Programme to support work package four – the installation of underfloor insulation in the main hall.</p> <p>All permissions appear to be in place and the project is ready to be delivered.</p>	
<p><b>Jedburgh</b></p>	<p><b>Jedforest Instrumental Band – Hall Renovation Completion</b></p> <p>The Jedforest Instrumental Band provides musical entertainment and free tuition throughout the town of Jedburgh.</p> <p>The hall was purchased by the group in 1999 and the group are requesting £40k from the Place Based Investment Fund to help repair dry rot in the ceiling and fund the shortfall to complete roof repairs.</p> <p>It is understood that the hall is currently used by other organisations based in the town, therefore this will be an asset for the wider local community.</p> <p>The group have undertaken a range of fund-</p>	<p><b>£40k</b></p>

	<p>raising and there appears to be support for this project throughout the town.</p> <p>All permissions appear to be in place and the project is ready to be delivered.</p>	
<b>West Linton</b>	<p><b>Linton Hotspur Community Football Club</b></p> <p>Linton Hotspur are a community football club in West Linton providing a platform for male and female players aged 4+ to enjoy football. They have been active in their community since 2008, with over 200 members.</p> <p>The group are requesting £15k from the Place Based Investment Programme to help support and complete their phased works to improve facilities and infrastructure for members and visitors, including segregated changing facilities, storage and admin provisions, designated first aid facilities and new changing facilities.</p> <p>The grant would finish off the works by providing doors, internal finishings, drainage and a section of external fencing.</p> <p>The total cost of the project has been estimated at £69k and work carried out to date is £54k.</p> <p>All permissions appear to be in place and the project is ready to be delivered.</p>	<b>£15k</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>£147k</b>

- 4.4 The proposed list of projects has only considered the current financial year in terms of the Place Based Investment Fund and Council Officers will be working with communities throughout the five locality areas within the Scottish Borders, with a view to developing suitable projects within the remaining two years of funding support within the existing programme.
- 4.5 Going forward it is proposed that to align with decisions on the Shared Prosperity Funding, that decisions on the Place Based Investment Fund are delegated to the Director of Resilient Communities and the Director of Finance and Procurement in consultation with those members that currently form the Economic Development Members Reference Group being Councillor Jardine, Councillor Scott Hamilton, Councillor Linehan, Councillor Robson, Councillor Thornton-Nicol and Councillor Mountford with the addition of the

Convener and the Leader of the Independent Group to provide additional oversight and scrutiny.

## 5 IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 Financial

- a) The Scottish Governments Place Based Investment Programme will provide funding over 5 years to support and advance place-based investment. Local Government will receive a share of this capital funding as detailed in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1 – Proposed Financial Allocation**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Capital Funding</b>
2023/24	£23.0m
2024/25	£23.0m
2025/26	£23.0m

- b) Scottish Borders Council's allocation for 2023/24 is £550k and this allocation is based on a distribution methodology with 80% distributed on the total population and number of towns and 20% distributed on deprivation.

### 5.2 Risk and Mitigations

The key risk associated with this report is in the requirement for a suitable pipeline of projects to be available for subsequent years to help ensure the PBIP allocation from Scottish Government is fully subscribed. The new place making and community based staff will be working with local communities to help develop a suitable list of schemes and projects for future allocations.

### 5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken and it is anticipated that there will be no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religious belief arising from the proposals in this report.

### 5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

These projects are expected to deliver against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Economic Development team will carry out an evaluation of the benefits of the projects in partnership with the Place Planning Team in future years to help direct future investment opportunities.

### 5.5 Climate Change

The intension is for future investment in the PBIP to consider projects that contribute to a reduction in emissions and help deliver in terms of the race to net zero.

### 5.6 Rural Proofing

The primary focus in terms of Place has been on larger town centres in the Scottish Borders as outlined in the Town Centre Matrix. This is primarily

because town centres are at the heart of communities, generate income and spend in their local economies, and help to make distinctive and special locations for both residents and visitors. However, we recognise that smaller settlements are equally important to the Scottish Borders and therefore we have tried to incorporate appropriate projects in smaller villages and settlements where appropriate.

#### 5.7 **Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained within this report.

#### 5.8 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no proposed changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation.

### **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Director (Finance & Procurement), the Director (Corporate Governance), the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Chief Executive and Corporate have been consulted and any comments will be reported to Council.

#### **Approved by**

##### **Name**

**Jenni Craig**

##### **Title**

**Director of Resilient Communities**

#### **Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Graeme Johnstone	Place and Enterprise Manager

**Background Papers:** Executive Committee – 6 December 2022  
Executive Committee – 1 March 2022  
Executive Committee – 5 October 2021  
Scottish Borders Council – 26 August 2021  
Executive Committee – 30 April 2019

#### **Previous Minute Reference:**

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Information can also be given on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at [gjohnstone@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:gjohnstone@scotborders.gov.uk) 01835 825138