

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COVID-19 LOCAL RECOVERY AND RENEWAL FUND

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to invite the committee to consider and agree the allocation of the £150,000 budget from the COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Fund for the Bathgate Ward as set out in the report.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Local Area Committee (LAC):

1. Considers the list of proposed and potential expenditure as set out in the report;
2. Agrees what work should be delivered from the list to the value of £150,000; and
3. Notes that any balance remaining, in that ward will be reported back to Council Executive for a decision.

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)	The Covid-19 Local Recovery & Renewal Fund was approved by Council Executive on 22 June 2021. The report itself does not raise any strategic environmental assessment, equality or risk issues but these may be considerations at implementation stage.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The proposals set out in this report do not have any implications for the scheme of delegation.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relevant to all outcomes.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	A total of £1,350,000 for the fund was agreed at Council Executive on 22 June 2021 to be split equally across all 9 wards giving a fund of £150,000 for each ward.

Delivery will be by council staff or appointment of contracts as is normal practice for works of this nature.

VII Consideration at PDSP Not required. Council Executive instructed officers to report back to Local Area Committees.

VIII Other consultations All council service areas.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

At the Council Executive meeting on 22 June 2021, funding of £150,000 for each of the nine wards was agreed to support recovery and renewal in towns and villages following to COVID-19 pandemic. The funding was part of a wider response by the council to issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. Council Executive agreed that the funding was to be used to enable the refresh and renewal of the physical environment in neighbourhoods, including town and village centres.

D.2 Allocating Funds

As agreed at the Council Executive on 16 November 2021 this report sets out a costed list of proposed and potential expenditure for the Bathgate ward. The LAC is invited to agree the allocation of funding up to a total value of £150,000. Expenditure can only be from the items listed in Appendix 1. Any money not allocated from the £150,000 will be referred back to the Council Executive on 21 December 2021.

The work detailed in Appendix 1 totals £3,845,228, and the LAC is asked to consider the potential investments identified and agree the allocation of the £150,000 available.

Following approval by the LACs, or where necessary Council Executive, officers will commence implementation of the funding in accordance with, normal procurement arrangements.

In accordance with normal budgetary arrangements officers will look to have as much of the funding committed and implemented by 31 March 2022 but there is a recognition that this may stretch beyond 31 March 2022 given known challenges with material supplies and appointment of contractors.

E. CONCLUSION

The expenditure of the Covid-19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund in accordance with the process set out in this report identified will support the refresh and renewal of the physical environment within neighbourhoods, villages and town centres in accordance with the decision of Council Executive on 22 June 2021 and 16 November 2021

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Council Executive Reports 22 June 2021 Updated Covid-19 Recovery and Renewal Plan and Draft 2020/21 General Fund Revenue Budget Outturn and Update on Unallocated 2021/22 One-off Funding Resources.

Council Executive Report 16 November 2021 COVID-19 Local Recovery and
Renewal Fund

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 List of Proposed Investment

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Head of Planning Economic Development & Regeneration
8 December 2021

List of Proposed Investment

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
Operational Services				
B1	Road Channel Cleaning - Category A Road	NETS	3,680	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
B2	Road Channel Cleaning - Category B Road	NETS	1,866	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
B3	Road Channel Cleaning - Category C Road	NETS	2,628	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
B4	Road Channel Cleaning - Category U Road	NETS	392	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
B5	Deep Clean of Town Centre Hard Surfaces including Chewing Gum Removal	NETS	48,162	Cost based on Town Centre area.
B6	Smart Solar Compactor Bins - Ward (2 per Ward)	NETS	8,000	Cost based on £4,000 per unit.
B7	Smart Solar Compactor Bins - District Parks, Neighbourhood Parks & Skateparks	NETS	24,000	Cost based on £4,000 per unit. 1 bin located in each of the following parks: Balbardie Park of Peace, Boghall Playing Fields, Kirkton Park, Balbardie Park Skate Ramp, Meadow Park, Alexandria Drive Skate Park.
B8	Bench renewal/replacement	NETS	12,000	Cost based on £1,000 per bench.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B9	Handrail renewal/replacement/installation to improve access	Roads	8,000	General funding allocation. Funding to be focused on priority risk areas. Exact locations will be finalised after allocated sum is agreed. Risk that projects may not be fully delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability and weather conditions.
B10	Improve/refresh road markings, particularly at junctions, roundabouts to improve visibility and safety.	Roads	30,000	General funding allocation. Funding to be focused on town centres areas and other priority risk areas. Exact locations will be finalised after allocated sum is agreed. Risk that projects may not be delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability and weather conditions.
B11	Clean/repair replace road signage	Roads	30,000	General funding allocation. Exact locations required to enable a cost estimate to be provided. Risk that projects may not be delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability.
Community Regeneration				
B12	Circular Planter and seats	NETS	4,000	General funding allocation. Exact design of planter and specification of seats needs to be provided for the works to go ahead.
B13	Replacement Street Letters - St David's Square, George Street	Roads	N/A	Included in B11, subject to available budget.
B14	Rotary Club Bench - Whitburn Road (at entrance to Bathgate Retail Park)	NETS	N/A	Included in B8, subject to available budget.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B15	Cycling and active travel provision- Bathgate Town Centre and Approaches	Roads	N/A	A study has already been carried out to assess cycling and active travel provision- Bathgate Town Centre and Approaches as part of the Bathgate Water Regeneration Project. There are also projects currently being developed under Cycling Walking and Safer Routes, including Bathgate Road/Blackburn Road, Edinburgh Road from Guildiehaugh to King Street, Link between Wester Inch and Whitehill Industrial Estate.
B16	Street Furniture	NETS	N/A	Included in B8, subject to available budget.
B17	Flyposting, Graffiti & Unauthorised Signage	NETS	N/A	Included in B11, subject to available budget.
B18	Kerbside railings - Elizabeth Drive, Boghall	Roads	N/A	Included in B9, subject to available budget.
Elected Member				
B19	Refurbishing our War Memorial (the wall is actually falling down which bounds St John's Church)	NETS	75,000	Estimated costs are based on pointing and resetting sections of the wall and a general tidy up of the site. Estimated costs are based on the costs of a similar project at Glasgow Road Cemetery. To obtain accurate costs, the project requires a full structural assessment of the wall to determine the full scope of the wall repairs.
B20	Repainting of the cycle lane which runs from Kaimes Park through the town centre	Roads	N/A	Included in B10, subject to available budget.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B21	Purchase the Car Park at the Retail Park off Whitburn Road and scrap restrictions and carry out improvements i.e., Pedestrian paths, disabled parking and electric car parking points.	Property	745,000	Cost of Purchase estimated at £420,000, this is based on basic land rate of £300,000 per acre for town centre use. No valuation has been possible. Improvements would need to be subject to survey by Roads, an allowance of £25,000 is proposed. Cost of charging points are - £30,000 for rapid charge and £10,000 for fast charge (excluding infrastructure, ground and potential contingency costs). Have provided for 10 rapid charge in estimate.
B22	Phase Two create another car parking level with Solar Panels on the top to create energy for the network. This extra provision should solve the town centre car parking problems for years to come.	Property	200,000	Unclear on additional car park level what would be proposed, if physical building / construction then cost could potentially be significant. Cost of Solar Canopies are approx. £5,000 to £10,000 per space depending upon infrastructure, ground conditions and economies of scale. Have provided for 20 space solar canopy in cost estimate.
B23	Reconfigure the Car Park at King Street into a full car park scrapping the coach stance and reducing or scaping the taxi rank and replacing the metal feature at the old station platform with a better feature	Roads	400,000	A layout would have to be designed and a Traffic Regulation Order required to remove/amend the restrictions currently in place regarding the taxi and bus stop. Due to this, the need to consult and resource and contractor availability, it is unlikely that the Project would not delivered until late 2022/23 early 2023/24.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B24	Create a pedestrian access at the west corner of the station carpark to allow faster access to and from the town centre	Roads	50,000	The estimate is base on a ramp leading into the northwest corner of the station car park from Edinburgh Road. If the request is for a link between King Street car park along the old railway line the estimated cost for this would be £300,000. Due to the need to consult with Network Rail on either option and resource and contractor availability, it is unlikely that the Project would not delivered until late 2022/23 early 2023/24.
B25	Purchase an empty unit in Bathgate Town Centre to allow the creation of an indoor market	Property	500,000	No vacant property identified and unlikely to be viable commercially. Would not be in accordance with approved Asset Management Strategy or Commercial Property Portfolio Strategy and Management Plan. A general provision of £500,000 identified for acquisition, compliance works for multiple occupancy.
B26	Purchase mature trees in large planters for George Street	NETS	6,000	Costs based on the provision of 12 trees and planters at a cost of £500 per tree.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B27	Repair Up lighting at George Street in front of St David's Church	Roads	40,000	This is major works, not a simple repair job on the four uplighters mentioned in the request, as extensive tracking work is required. As part of the works the granite slabs in George Street would have to be lifted and relaid. Due to this, the need to consult and resource and contractor availability, it is unlikely that the Project would not delivered until late 2022/23 early 2023/24.
B28	Cosmetic Treatment to the front of building on west side of George Street	Property	20,000	Unclear which building involved, suggest a general allowance of £20,000 is provided or project is incorporated with wider Shop / Property front improvement schemes.
B29	Café Culture Project in Steelyard -Purchase of items and storage	NETS	20,000	Further details would be required. Provisional cost allowance. Contribution would be to actual costs up to provisional cost allowance.
B30	Increase the shop front grants from £750 to £2000	Economic Development	12,500	Increase grant for a maximum of 10 applications,
B31	Establish a shop interior improvement grant scheme with grants between £1000 and £3000	Economic Development	30,000	Assume maximum of 10.
B32	Create a Solar Farm in Acredale Car Park with panels on a frame above the existing parking places and an improvement to landscaping in the car park and creation of disabled spaces and more electric car charging points	Property	760,000	If all 152 spaces to be covered with solar canopy cost would be approx. £5,000 - 10,000 per space depending upon local infrastructure, economies of scale and ground conditions etc. Total Cost would be £760,000 to £1.5m.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B33	Basketball Court	NETS	40,000	Estimated costs are based on similar projects delivered as part of General Services Capital Programme. The project requires a design to finalise construction details and costs, and will require public consultation and may require planning permission.
B34	Green spaces for local community - former Baths site	NETS	300,000	This is a general estimate based on removing existing rubble and importing soil and turf to create a greenspace. This does not include park infrastructure such as paths, play equipment, furniture etc. The project requires a detailed design to finalise construction details and costs, and will require a public consultation and may require planning permission. The addition of park infrastructure and play equipment will add between £100,000 to £150,000 to the project value.
B35	Flower Garden, toddlers play area, Boghall	NETS	50,000	Estimated costs are based on similar projects delivered as part of General Services Capital Programme - Flower Garden £20,000 & toddlers play area £30,000. The project requires a design to finalise construction details and costs, and will require public consultation and may require planning permission.
B36	Chapel Well Garden Enhancement	NETS	4,000	General funding allocation for garden improvements

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B37	Bathgate War Memorial - improvements and essential repairs	NETS	N/A	Refer to B19.
B38	There has also been quite a number of comments on the Spaces for people "survey" I did for the cycle lane markings to be repainted as they are also invisible	Roads	N/A	Included in B10, subject to available budget.
B39	Balbardie Indoor Bowling Club – rental to West Lothian Leisure of £15,000.	Education	N/A	Not eligible under the recovery and renewal criteria agreed by Council Executive.
B40	A deep cleaning of George Street /Steelyard Bathgate area 'the precinct' is much needed and would be a very welcome initiative	NETS	N/A	Included in B5, subject to available budget.
B41	Create a storage area so the industrial sized commercial waste bins are kept out of sight. These bins currently infest this same area and is a 'blot' on the landscape.	NETS	20,000	Estimated costs are based on similar projects delivered as part of General Services Capital Programme. The project requires a design to finalise construction details and costs, and will require public consultation and may require planning permission.
B42	Complimented by signage to warn off a very few members of the public who feel a need to feed the pigeons and seagulls at the steelyard area contributing to the numerous stains on the ground.	Roads	N/A	Included in B11, subject to available budget.
B43	Additional litter bins throughout the town including use of smart bins	NETS	N/A	Consultation on litter bins requirements planned for Spring 2022. Sensors being used to determine need. SMART Bins have been identified in B6.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B44	Additional lighting to improve community safety	Roads	N/A	All street lighting is installed to the appropriate classification of BS EN 13201. Furthermore, the majority of Bathgate ward has already been upgraded to LED lanterns with any remaining due to be converted next financial year (22/23) as part of the capital programme. If the request relates to areas which are currently not lit, further information will be required.
B45	Removal of flyposting and unauthorised signage	Roads	N/A	Included in B11, subject to available budget.
B46	Removal of redundant signs and street clutter	Roads	N/A	Included in B11, subject to available budget.
B47	Cleaning of cycle track behind Tesco where people on the train have their first impression of Bathgate	NETS	N/A	Cleansing of cycle track is included in cyclical routine maintenance.
B48	Tree planting within the town	NETS	N/A	Can be added to B26. Locations would need to be identified and agreed.
B49	Upgrade of the path from Little Boghead (Robertson Avenue) to Meadow Park including lighting and path upgrade	Roads	250,000	Due to resource and contractor availability, it is unlikely that the Project will be delivered before 2022/23.
B50	The path from Mill Road to Glasgow Road by the river badly needs surface upgrading and lighting	Roads	150,000	Due to resource and contractor availability, it is unlikely that the Project will be delivered before 2022/23.
	Total		3,845,228	