

Agenda Item	6
Report No	LA/16/21

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Lochaber Area Committee

Date: 9th August 2021

Report Title: Place Based Investment Funds – Proposed Funding Allocations

Report By: Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following on from the budget agreed by Highland Council in March 2021, a £100,000 Place Based Investment Fund was allocated to each Ward for the 2021/22 financial year. This fund is intended to enable a flexible local response to address the four harms of Covid which are identified as direct health harms; health impacts not directly related to Covid; societal impacts and economic impacts.
- 1.2 Early discussions with Local Members at Ward level have identified a range of opportunities for spend against the Place Based Investment Fund for the Wards. This report asks the Committee to agree the budget allocations outlined in the report and to note the markers for future spend.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider and agree the proposed allocations of Place Based Investment Funds as follows:
- i. **Ward 21 – Fort William and Ardnamurchan**
- a. Investment in play provision in Kinlochleven - £50,000
 - b. Investment in feasibility study for Upper Achintore Community Hub - £20,000
 - c. Investment in mental well-being projects - £30,000
 - d. Total = £100,000

- ii. **Ward 11 – Caol and Mallaig** – projects under the themes of play provision, youth facilities and physical and mental well-being are currently being developed. These will be reported to a future Area Committee

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource – as set out in the report.
- 3.2 Legal – work within procurement frameworks will meet all legal requirements
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – The allocation of funds to support local communities will enable activities to be directed in ways that promote equality and tackle poverty.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – There are no specific climate change implications.
- 3.5 Risk – there are no identified risks as projects will either be delivered in-house within the known budget or will be provided as grants to established organisations using the standard grants criteria / process.
- 3.6 Gaelic – There are no specific Gaelic implications. However, where there is an opportunity the Gaelic language will be promoted.

4. Fort William and Ardnamurchan – Ward 21

- 4.1 **Investment in play provision in Kinlochleven - £50,000** - contribution to play areas to be progressed in partnership with the local community and to be matched with external funds where possible. The spend should be guided by and agreed with the community and the funding prioritised in line with these discussions. Members consider this will greatly improve both physical and mental well-being of young people in their ward as well as developing capacity within the community.
- 4.2 **Upper Achintore Feasibility Study – £20,000** - the provision of this facility will address previously unmet needs of a large community and will build shared, local pride and a sense of community. This project has been identified as the highest priority project within the locality plan and is being led by the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group (UARG). Commissioning of the feasibility study by UARG is the essential first step in achieving this goal. Additionally, the study will develop community capacity building, encourage rebuilding of community networks through the feasibility and related consultation and will instil community confidence
- 4.3 **Mental health well-being projects - £30,000** – these funds will be made available to established community groups delivering successfully in the provision of mental health and well-being services. Projects which aid recovery from the harms of Covid will be supported.

5. Caol and Mallaig (Ward 11)

- 5.1 Caol and Mallaig Ward Members are working with community representatives to consider the development of projects including enhanced play provision in Mallaig, a mobility project, youth facilities and well-being projects. Once properly developed these projects will be brought forward to the next Lochaber Area Committee.

6. Management of Funds

- 6.1 The funds allocated in accordance with this report will be managed by the Senior Ward Manager with any grants awarded of £10,000 or over being reported to a future Lochaber Area Committee for approval.

Designation: Carron McDiarmid, Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

Date: 26 July 2021

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Background Papers: