

Agenda Item	9
Report No	LA/27/21

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Lochaber Area Committee

Date: 8th November 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 11 – Caol and Mallaig**
- a. Investment in play amenity provision in Caol - £35,000
 - b. Investment in Mallaig play park provision - £30,000
 - c. Investment in a trishaw project - £9,800
 - d. Support for Young Carers - £12,000
 - e. Support for community planning - £8,200
 - f. Housing needs assessment - £5,000
 - g. Total = £100,000

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. Projects

- 4.1 **Caol Play Space** – Caol has few freely accessible areas where children can play games, football etc. A vacant site has been identified adjacent to the Community Centre which could be developed to provide an open grass site for use by the whole community. Subject to approval being received from the owning service (Care and Learning) and an acceptable project plan being drafted which would consider – project specification, security, management, cost and ongoing maintenance, consideration would be given to allocating **Total - £35,000**
- 4.2 **Playpark provision** – outdoor play is seen as increasingly important after the past 18 months of lockdown for children. In Mallaig a small group of parents have been working in conjunction with the Road to the Isles Facilities Group to upgrade and improve the currently outdated and dilapidated playpark in the area located Loch Nevis Terrace and Loch Nevis Crescent in Mallaig to enhance the play opportunities for children up to the age of 12 years old. To date grant funding of £48,000 has been raised and it is considered an additional £30,000 would complete the project. Consideration could therefore be given to contributing this from the PBIF fund. However, quotes would need to be obtained for the equipment and works. **Total - £30,000**
- 4.3 **Trishaw project** - this is a project to provide an electric trishaw under the charity banner of 'Cycling Without Age' which allows accompanied excursions on specially developed bikes. West Highland Wheelers members will volunteer as trishaw pilots and will take people who are no longer able to get out and enjoy the outdoors out on the front of the tricycle, with a carer or loved one seated beside them up front, and a cyclist manning the pedals behind. This is similar to projects being developed very successfully in other areas. **Total cost for trishaw, ancillaries etc maximum £9,800**
- 4.4 **Housing Needs Assessment** – there is a lack of clarity and understanding of the extent of housing need in the area. A housing needs survey is currently being carried out with the business sector which will help to identify their needs in terms of being able to attract and retain staff. However, while housing list numbers are known, it is considered that there remains a lack of information about the full extent of demand

across Lochaber. This work would complete the area housing demand analysis –
Total - £5,000

- 4.5 **Support for Young Carers Lochaber** – operating under the Connecting Carers banner this proposal has two strands, both to support young carers. As follows:
- a) work with the local Youth Hubs and education partners to run awareness raising activities and training. This will improve professionals' awareness of Young Carers and their needs and help to boost the number of referrals from the area. **Total - £4,000**
 - b) Offer a range of short break activities, both single day events and residential weeks to Young Carers from the area. These would focus on confidence building, resilience, team building and play. **Total - £8,000**
- 4.6 **Community Planning** – Caol suffers from a high level of deprivation and as such is one of the identified areas within the Lochaber Community Partnership to have a locality plan. The community and partners have worked together to develop a number of priority projects but more work needs to be done to broaden the work of the Community Action Group and to ensure the ongoing engagement and project development is comprehensive. Funding is required for both projects and facilitation which will contribute to the objectives contained within the Caol Locality Plan: **£8,200**

5. Management of Funds

- 5.1 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: 20 October 2021

Author: Dot Ferguson, Senior Ward Manager, Ross, Skye and Lochaber

Background Papers: