

Agenda Item	6
Report No	ERA-04-23

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Easter Ross Area Committee

Date: 23 January 2023

Report Title: Place Based Investment Funds –Update

Report By: Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report relates to the Cromarty Firth Ward Place Based Investment Fund created to support a flexible local response to address the four harms of Covid. Members are asked to reallocate a £3,000 Place Based Investment Fund award originally made to provide an automatic locking system for the Alness Public toilet to instead supplement the Community Grants stream already created from the same Place Based Investment Fund.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- agree the reallocation of the £3,000 of PBIF monies to the Community Grants stream aimed at addressing the 4 harms of Covid.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource – as set out in the report.
- 3.2 Legal – Projects being delivered by communities under the proposed grants stream will make use of the existing Ward Discretionary application forms and process to ensure good governance and oversight.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – The allocation of this fund to support local communities will enable activities to be directed in ways that promote equality and tackle the harms of Covid.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – There are no specific climate change implications.

- 3.5 Risk – there are no identified risks as grants will be award to established organisations using the standard grants criteria / process.
- 3.6 Gaelic – There are no specific Gaelic implications.

4. The Proposal

- 4.1 A £3,000 allocation was made from the Place Based Investment Fund in February 2022 towards the introduction of an automatic locking system for the Alness Public toilets. Since this allocation was made, further discussions, including with service colleagues, have led to the conclusion that whilst the maintenance of these toilets remains a key priority, the provision of the locking system alone will not adequately address the issues of vandalism being experienced at that site and that a more overarching solution is required to be effective.
- 4.2 Further discussion with the community and partners regarding the problems experienced and how best the toilets can be supported, will be beneficial in reaching a more robust solution. This work will be undertaken but will take some time. Meantime it is proposed that the £3,000 be reallocated to allow additional Community Grants to be made, as the original allocation of £14,500 has now been fully committed to support a variety of extremely positive local projects, ranging for social including events, environmental projects to support for a local food bank.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

Date: 13 January 2023

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