

Agenda Item	15
Report No	NC/18/23

The Highland Council

Committee: Nairnshire

Date: 7 August 2023

Report Title: Community Regeneration Fund 2023/24

Report By: Interim Depute Chief Executive

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report briefly summarises the standard delivery approach of the Community Regeneration Programme in 2023/24 before setting out a proposal to ringfence the 2023/24 fund allocations for Nairnshire.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. **Note** the standard delivery approach of the Community Regeneration Fund; and
- ii. **Consider** and **agree** to ringfence the allocation of £57,748.71 Community Regeneration Funding 2023/24 towards Nairn Harbour Street, former public toilet site redevelopment, and request that full application for funds to be considered at a future Committee.

3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** - it is proposed to ringfence £57,748.71 Community Regeneration Funding towards Nairn Harbour Street, former public toilet site redevelopment subject to a full application being brought back to a future Committee for consideration. This represents the full allocation of funding for the area this year and therefore, if agreed to, no open call for projects will be undertaken.

3.2 **Legal** – No implications.

3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** - Community Regeneration Funding is aimed at bringing positive impacts to communities across Highland. Community benefit and other issues are considered on individual applications as part of the full assessment of the project.

3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** – No implications.

3.5 **Risk** – Risks associated with the delivery of individual projects are considered as part of full applications. The spend deadline for this funding is March 2025 and therefore the timescale is not considered to be a specific risk.

3.6 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – No implications.

3.7 **Gaelic** – Gaelic considerations in relation to individual projects are considered at full application stage.

4 Community Regeneration Funding 2023/24 standard delivery approach

4.1 Community Regeneration Funding is an umbrella term used to cover multiple funding programmes administered by The Highland Council including Highland Coastal Communities; Place Based Investment Programme and Community Led Local Development.

4.2 The allocation available for Nairnshire 2023/24 is £57,748.71 which consists of £47,231.71 from the Place Based Investment Programme and £10,517 from the Highland Coastal Communities Fund. The spend deadline for these projects is March 2025. Decisions on project approvals sits with the Nairnshire Area Committee. The Community Led Local Development Fund is available to rural areas Highland wide with a spend deadline of March 2024 and decisions rest with the Highland Strategic Local Action Group (LAG).

4.3 The standard delivery approach for the Community Regeneration Fund is to open it to the public for Expressions of Interest during the period 28 August–8 September 2023. This will include the above funds mentioned.

5 Proposal for use of funds towards Nairn Harbour Street, former public toilet site redevelopment

5.1 It has been highlighted by Nairnshire, Badenoch & Strathspey Ward Manager, that there is a desire amongst Nairnshire Local Members for the full allocation of £57,748.71 to be ringfenced for Nairn Harbour Street, former public toilet site redevelopment. The Harbour Street toilets were closed following a decision taken at Full Council on 25 October 2018 regarding rationalisation of public conveniences across Highland.

5.2 There has been growing community interest for the Harbour Street toilets to be re-opened with the project being deemed by Members to be of strategic local importance. The toilets were discussed at the March 2022 Nairnshire Area Committee within an item on the Place Based Investment Fund (PBIF), and the Committee agreed that the Council would use some of the Area's PBIF money to commission a feasibility study to examine potential future operating models for the Harbour Street toilet site. This is underway and will include viable financial models including provision for a retail rental unit on part of the site with the income from that used to finance the revenue costs associated with the operation of a public toilet at Harbour Street which is situated on Common Good land. Discussions are ongoing with potential community organisations in respect of the operation of Nairn Common Good public toilets at the site once complete.

5.3 Members are therefore asked to formally consider this matter and determine whether the ring-fencing of funds in 2023/24 should proceed as proposed and the Ward Management Team be requested to submit a full application for funds to be considered at a future Committee.

Designation: Interim Depute Chief Executive

Date: 2 August 2023

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Background Papers: Review of Public Conveniences in Highland [Report](#)
Nairnshire Repurposing Covid-19 Fund and Place Based [Report](#)

Appendices: None