

Agenda Item	6
Report No	DSA/16/24

Committee: Dingwall and Seaforth

Date: 11 November 2024

Report Title: Place Based Investment Funds – Re-purposing of Funding Allocation

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - 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. In November 2021, Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee agreed to allocate £10,000 to support the business community to establish formal representative groups. Despite varying attempts to achieve this, no firm proposals have come forward from the business sector.
- 1.2 Noting that 2026 is the 800th anniversary of Dingwall being awarded Royal Burgh status, it is considered that this funding could be allocated to events which support this special year. Members are asked to consider establishment of a small grants fund.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to **consider and agree** that £10,000 is reallocated for events which would support the 800th anniversary of Dingwall as a Royal Burgh.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – there are no resource implications as the funding remains committed to the Dingwall & Seaforth ward from the previous allocation of the Place-based Investment Fund.
- 3.2 **Legal** – there are no legal implications.
- 3.3 **Risk** – there are no risk implications as the award of grants will follow an already-established process.
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – there are no Health and Safety implications arising from creation of this grant stream.

3.5 **Gaelic** – there are no direct Gaelic implications. However it is likely that some events may include or highlight the role of Gaelic in the history of the area.

4 Impacts

4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children’s Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.

4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment. However, as this report relates to a grant fund, it is considered that an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required.

5 Projects

5.1 The purpose of the Place Based Investment Fund is 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.

5.2 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. At November 2021 Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee, Members agreed amongst other grants, to allocate £10,000 to support the business community to establish formal representative groups. Despite varying attempts to achieve this, no firm proposals have come forward from the business sector.

5.3 It is therefore proposed that the £10,000 is re-purposed to provide a small grant fund to support events which recognise the 800th anniversary of Dingwall becoming a Royal Burgh. Key criteria would be as follows:-

- a) applications should be from constituted groups;
- b) events must take place during 2026, although funding could be released prior to the event year to allow event preparation;
- c) applicants should be prepared to have their event included in the programme of events celebrating the 800th anniversary;
- d) all events should be inclusive – with easy accessibility for all residents of and visitors to Dingwall;
- e) maximum grant will be in the region of £2,000; and
- f) the Fund will open on 1 March and applications will be assessed monthly until the fund is exhausted.

6 Management of Funds

6.1 The funds allocated in accordance with this report will be managed by the Senior Community Development Manager, West & Mid. Applicants will be required to apply for the funds using the established application process for the Ward Discretionary Fund.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 25 October 2024

Author: Dot Ferguson, Senior Community Development Manager
(West & Mid)

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None