

Title of Report:	DfC, DfI and DAERA Town Centre Recovery Funding
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 June 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021 -25)	
Strategic Theme	Improvement and Innovation
Outcome	Council facilitates towns and villages in the Borough to continue to provide quality environments which evolve to meet the needs of their citizens, businesses and visitors to them (
Lead Officer	Town & Village Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Funded externally
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	
Staffing Costs	Existing Staff Time

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members on the progress of the Second Tranche of the Town Centre Covid Recovery Programme, funded by DfC, DAERA and DfI for town centres and rural businesses.

2.0 Background as per the March Report

In July 2020 Council was awarded £390k in funding from DfC for Town Centre Recovery Plans to be delivered in two tranches. The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) also made funds available to support town centre and rural business recovery, resulting in the overall package as follows:

Department	Amount
DfC	£390k
DfI	£395k
DAERA	£109k
TOTAL	£894k

The first tranche of funding was administered by Council as Covid grant-aid to town centre businesses and rural businesses.

The second tranche of funding will support medium to longer term recovery/actions, with the following criteria being applied by the Government Departments:

- Project spend must be capital.
- Funding aimed at helping town centre recovery.
- Deadline for spend extended to 30th September 2021.

3.0 Progress / Update

A Steering Group comprising Council, DfC and DAERA Officers has been formed and meets monthly to monitor project progress.

The projects are scrutinised by the Steering Group members to ensure adherence to the objectives, outputs and outcomes are on track as detailed within the letter of offer.

Monitoring Assessment reports are completed and filed with DfC quarterly.

Projects are progressing and an update is provided on all projects in **Annex A**.

Tranche 1 grant aid funding. At the time of writing claims are being processed. Once confirmed a request for any slippage to be transferred to Tranche 2 projects will be submitted to the funders.

Shop Local promotion. April 2021, reopening promotional videos for Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Limavady commissioned and broadcast from 23rd via social media. Interviewed the business owners viewing figures at time of writing – reach 27,000 and engagement 3,400.

Post project attitudinal surveys will be conducted to measure outcomes from the programme.

Annex A

Covid-19 Recovery Revitalise Programme Update May 2021

Project Title & Budget Allocation	Description & outcomes	Update May 2021
<p>Meanwhile Outdoor Spaces £80K</p>	<p>Adaptation of outdoor spaces within our 4 hubs within the Borough to create more dwell time within our town centres and provide areas for animation for the future.</p> <p>Procurement of the following items for the Meanwhile Space Programme will include items to allow for all weather activity outdoor, play equipment, structural items to allow for low traffic neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Working with the capital projects team a Landscape architect has been instructed to develop drawings for the following spaces which were identified following consultations with stakeholder groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballycastle: The Diamond. • Ballymoney: Castlecroft. • Coleraine: The Diamond area, Kingsgate St area & Leisure Centre. • Limavady: Drumceatt Square. <p>Historical Environment Department have responded and in relation to all the sites listed. Need to consider the site lines at the Diamond Ballycastle and Coleraine events space. Landscape architect is aware and propose a site meeting.</p> <p>Operations, estates, capital works & planning department within council involved in the implementation of this project.</p> <p>All Works will involve a procurement process where required.</p>

<p>Enhanced Cleaning Project £142K</p>	<p>Cleansing of our streets is more important now as the public use outdoor space to meet and socialise due to covid restrictions.</p> <p>Purchase of ride on or walk behind public street cleaning equipment to create more efficient and safer methods of cleansing within our town centres. Purchase of handheld disinfecting machines for use on street furniture within our town centres. Regular systematic use of these disinfection machines will give members of the public confidence to return and spend time within our town centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • town centres become positive destinations for everyone. • Enhancement of the town centres environment. • Create a positive perception of our local Borough. • Efficient methods for cleaning of our town centres. • All citizens contribute to environmental targets for the Borough. 	<p>Additional bins and hand sanitisers were purchased, and installation has commenced across the 6 urban towns. 53 bins and 17 hand sanitisers.</p> <p>Cleaning equipment has been purchased and staff to undergo training. Operations team developing a protocol for use.</p> <p>Business case for a programme of works in relation to the pressure washer equipment and part contribution to transport vehicle to be presented to DfC for consideration. This will enable a two-man team to be available for the deep cleaning of town centres on a year-round basis.</p>
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<p>Art Lighting Installation £60k</p>	<p>Proposal is to create a moveable light box art installation that could be used across the parks within the 6b urban towns as defined within the Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme.</p> <p>The project would involve the manufacture of solar powered light boxes. These would then be wrapped in local art and/or literature and placed in our local parks. The installation can be viewed both during the day and at night would light up creating a new safer atmosphere for the park usage in the evening time.</p> <p>Will add to the positive experience for our town centres and links into the talent and culture from the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town centre parks become positive destinations for everyone. • Promotion of the town centres offer. • Opportunity to create a network of local artists across the generations to visualise a welcoming and open-minded approach to our towns. • Create a vibrant perception of our local borough. • Enhanced health and wellbeing for local citizens. 	<p>Contract has been awarded to Minprint Ltd to manufacture the Light Box installation. Completion July 2021</p> <p>Consultation with internal departments, town management, events, tourism, arts and culture on the content for the light boxes has commenced. A calendar for use of the light boxes will be opened for Expressions of interest.</p> <p>Consultation has taken place with estates team on storage, transport and installation.</p>
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<p>Street Art Project £80K</p>	<p>Proposal is to create series of street art installations across the Borough to provide an art trail to reflect the heritage, civic pride, talents, and people of the borough.</p> <p>Based on the previous experiences of Belfast Seed Head Festival and Aberdeen’s NUArt programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of a project manager/curator to identify artists, themes, and match to locations. Minimum of 2 locations per urban settlement Ballycastle, Ballymoney, town centre become positive destinations for everyone. • Promotion of the town centres offer. • Opportunity to create a network of local artists across the generations to visualise a welcoming and open-minded approach to our towns. • Create a vibrant perception of our local borough. • Enhanced health and wellbeing for local citizens Coleraine, Limavady, Portrush and Portstewart. 	<p>Daisy Chain Inc. have selected the following sites -</p> <p><u>Coleraine</u></p> <p>Queen Street x 2 sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gable wall at Methodist Church cafe • Wall to rear of “Lighting Sound and Vision” - permissions have been granted from property owners. DfI have been informed and content will not be a distraction to the flow of traffic. <p>Permission both sites granted</p> <p><u>Limavady</u></p> <p>Alleyways/Entries off Main Street and Market Street</p> <p>Permissions for Alleyways/Entries all granted.</p> <p><u>Portrush</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Street (Sportsland) • Atlantic Avenue <p>Contact made with property owners – awaiting consent</p> <p><u>Portstewart</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crescent/Coastal Path • Strand Road Roundabout <p>Both sites have granted permission.</p> <p><u>Ballymoney</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Mill at Seymour Street • Tower Bar on Church Street <p>Permissions granted.</p>
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<p>Market Infrastructure £22K</p>	<p>Expansion of outdoor market infrastructure to ensure continuity throughout the year. Anchor system for Causeway Speciality Market at Coleraine Town Hall.</p> <p>Generator – Naturally North Coast & Glens Artisan Market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for additional markets. • Continuity of CSM. • Promotion of local artisan producers. • Tourist attraction for town centres. 	<p>Ground anchor system has been investigated – in cooperation with Dept for Infrastructure. Waiting results of the test anchors prior to order and installation of system.</p>
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<p>Data Collection £25K</p>	<p>Expansion of the current system to include additional counters in Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady, Portrush & Portstewart.</p> <p>Data collected will be used to support decision making when addressing specific town centre 'health' concerns including making plans for investment in public realm regeneration to ensure town centres remain prosperous.</p> <p>Factual evidence base to measure impact of interventions, activity to support renewal of our high streets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional counters located within the current framework. • Extension of the service to Portrush & Portstewart. • 24hr data collection of footfall within 6 town centres. • Weekly and monthly reports provided. 	<p>Agreement secured with property owners at preferred location sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portrush, Portstewart and Ballycastle counters to be put on CCTV camera poles. • Coleraine on the properties of Moores, New Row/Church St. and JF Travel, Kingsgate St. • Limavady on the property of the Bank of Ireland, Main St. <p>Ballymoney location - still to be agreed.</p> <p>Installation to commence 2nd quarter.</p>
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<p>Linkages to Town Centres</p> <p>£100K</p>	<p>Projects to enhance cycling and walking routes into our town centres.</p> <p>Blackrock Coastal Path – NCN Route 93 – addressing health and safety concerns, segregating cars from cyclists and walkers.</p> <p>Location: Portrush</p> <p>Blackburn Path – improvements to town entrance of park, including planting, clean up, improved lighting, provision of benches.</p> <p>Location: Limavady</p>	<p><u>Limavady</u></p> <p>The Alexander Road, entrance to the Blackburn Park, Limavady. Landscape Architect employed to look at the Alexander Road entrance and a topographical survey completed.</p> <p>Detail of land ownership - report presented to Land & Property committee 2nd June regarding registration of land.</p> <p>Capital team working on designs with a Budget of £60,000 allocated to include all professional fees.</p> <p>No planning permission is required.</p> <p><u>Portrush</u></p> <p>Blackrock Coastal Path, Portrush – Countryside team and Capital works team leading on this project. Working through the options. Reviewed land ownership and it is Council owned. Budget of £40,000 allocated to include all professional fees.</p> <p>No planning permission is required.</p>
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<p>Parklets £160K</p>	<p>Parklets – reconfiguration of pavement, public space and/or carriageways within town centres to facilitate outdoor hospitality, distancing measures, and social interaction whilst adhering to disability guidance. Modular system which could be adapted to location and need - Units range from £15,000 to £25,000 upwards depending on spec. Units adhere to health & Safety regulations as will be used on carriageways.</p>	<p>Landscape Architect employed to produce drawings for consultation and follow up procurement process.</p> <p>Parklet proposals for Ballycastle, Ballymoney and Portstewart have been drawn up for consultation.</p> <p>Historical Environment Department have responded in relation to all the sites listed. Need to consider the site lines at the Diamond, Ballycastle.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design proposals complete. - Complete DfI Parklet Application process. - Procure parklets. - Install & evaluate.
<p>Cycle Infrastructure £35k</p>	<p>Cycle parks & shelters and potential route management. Cycle Maintenance Posts at locations across the 6 urban settlements.</p>	<p>At time of writing no further update.</p>

<p>Rural Intervention £100K</p>	<p>Revitalisation of properties within the rural commercial areas in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough. This grant is being offered to those businesses trading in the main retail hub of the 10 largest rural towns/villages within the Borough with a population of over 1,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dungiven • Kilrea • Ballykelly • Greysteel • Cloughmills • Bushmills • Castlerock • Cushendall • Garvagh • Rasharkin <p>The grant is aimed at maximising the visual impact of shopfronts to help encourage shoppers back into the areas identified.</p>	<p>51 Letters of Offer to be issued with a maximum grant offer of £2,000 (Totalling £91,530.00).</p> <p>Programme rolled out to the following 10 rural towns –</p> <p>Dungiven, Kilrea, Ballykelly, Greysteel, Cloughmills, Bushmills, Castlerock, Cushendall, Garvagh and Rasharkin.</p> <p>Applicants have been advised about planning permissions for certain work and the onus is on them to obtain.</p> <p>A waiting list compiled, in-case any further funding becomes available, or LoO are declined.</p> <p>At time of writing confirmation of any slippage from Tranche 1 DAERA allocation still to be determined.</p>
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<p>Play Tool Kits £6k</p>	<p>Play equipment to be purchased and made available for Town centre stakeholder groups to use when needed to encourage dwell time within our town centres in particular within the outdoor events areas and/or parks.</p> <p>Equipment will also be available for use at council events within our town centres as an added family activity.</p>	<p>Viability for this project to be determined once final plans for Outdoor Meanwhile Spaces are agreed.</p>
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