

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>DfC, DfI and DAERA Town Centre Recovery Funding</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>The Leisure &amp; Development Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>17 August 2021</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Information</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021 -25)</b>	
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

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

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	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 of 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 June 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£894k</b>

The first tranche of funding was administered by Council as Covid grant-aid to town centre 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 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## 3.0 Progress / Update

A Steering Group comprising of 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**.

Following a site meeting, attended by DfI Roads, Planning service, HED Planning, PSNI, DfC, Council officers & architect, at Ballycastle along with issues raised by Roads Service and PSNI, the proposal for the Diamond Area has been withdrawn over concerns regarding traffic movement and ASB at this site. It was agreed that the issues raised would take longer to solve than the timescale for the programme allows.

The additional fund was allocated to Mini Rural Revitalise from the DAERA section of the tranche 1 fund for PPE grant which closed 31 March 2021. Transfer of £44k allowed for the businesses on the waiting list for the Mini Rural Revitalise Project to be issued letters of offer. In total 96 properties have been offered grant funding.

A Letter of variation will be submitted to DfC once final cost estimates for projects have been determined

The Council PR team is liaising with funders to create maximum publicity from projects undertaken and will liaise with the Mayor and relevant department Ministers as required.

## Covid-19 Recovery Revitalise Programme Update July 2021

Project Title & Budget Allocation	Description & outcomes	Update
<p><b>Meanwhile Outdoor Spaces</b></p> <p><b>£80K</b></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> <p>Ballycastle: The Diamond  Ballymoney: Castlecroft  Coleraine: The Diamond area, Kingsgate St area &amp; Leisure Centre  Limavady: Drumceatt Square</p> <p>All Works will involve a procurement process where required.</p> <p>Following site meeting at Ballycastle and issues raised by Roads Service and PSNI the proposal for the Diamond Area has been withdrawn for this site. In particular issues with traffic management at the site and the current ASB problem. Agreed that the issues raised would take longer to solve than the timescale for the programme allows.</p> <p>Continuing to develop proposals for Drumceatt Square and Castlecroft. Will include purchase of stretch tent for Drumceatt Square [can also be used for other</p>

		council events], seating and planting. Castlecroft will require cosmetic revamp to brighten and additional planting, screening and seating to create a more people friendly space to connect main st to car park areas. Continue to liaise with estates department and stakeholders in the roll out of this project.
<p><b>Enhanced Cleaning Project</b></p> <p><b>£142K</b></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.</p> <p>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"> <li>• town centres become positive destinations for everyone.</li> <li>• Enhancement of the town centres environment</li> <li>• Create a positive perception of our local Borough.</li> <li>• Efficient methods for cleaning of our town centres</li> <li>• All citizens contribute to environmental targets for the Borough.</li> </ul>	<p>Install of equipment is continuing. Operations staff sanitise street furniture and touch points within the town centre using equipment purchased</p> <p>Business case for a programme of works in relation to the pressure washer equipment and part contribution to transport vehicle was 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> <p>Procurement of the pavement cleaner – testing of a pavement scrubber/cleaner took place last week -- hope to procure by 23<sup>rd</sup> August and in place for 26<sup>th</sup> September. To view machine click on link <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-hAldiSq34">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-hAldiSq34</a></p>
<p><b>Art Lighting Installation</b></p> <p><b>£60k</b></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>Contract has been awarded to Minprint Ltd to manufacture the Light Box installation. Completion July 2021</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"> <li>town centre parks become positive destinations for everyone</li> <li>Promotion of the town centres offer</li> <li>Opportunity to create a network of local artists across the generations to visualise a welcoming and open- minded approach to our towns</li> <li>Create a vibrant perception of our local borough</li> <li>Enhanced health and wellbeing for local citizens</li> </ul>	<p>Consultation with internal departments, town management, events, tourism, arts and culture on the content for the light boxes has commenced.</p> <p>Consultation with estates team on storage, transport and installation.</p> <p>Initial images for the light boxes selected 2 x images for each of the 6 towns – Coleraine, Limavady, Ballymoney, Ballycastle, Portrush and Portstewart. 4 images of proposed sites across the borough are – Portneal, Banagher Glen, Waterfoot and Manannan Mac Lir.</p> <p>Scheduled for delivery on 6th August 2021.</p> <p>Suggestion that Limavady Town Centre as 1<sup>st</sup> Location for the light boxes installation. Stendhal Festival starts 14<sup>th</sup> August, so this would be an attraction in the town centre, for visitors attending.</p>
<p><b>Street Art Project</b></p> <p><b>£80K</b></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"> <li>Procurement of a project manager/curator to identify artists, themes, and match to locations. Minimum of 2 locations per urban settlement</li> </ul>	<p>Daisy Chain Inc. have selected the following sites -</p> <p><u>Coleraine</u> Queen Street x 2 sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gable wall at Methodist Church cafe</li> <li>Wall to rear of “Lighting Sound and Vision” - permissions have been granted from property owners. Dfl have been informed and content will not be a distraction to the flow of traffic.</li> </ul> <p><u>Limavady</u> Alleyways/Entries off Main Street and Market Street</p>

	<p>Ballycastle, Ballymoney, town centre become positive destinations for everyone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of the town centres offer.</li> <li>• Opportunity to create a network of local artists across the generations to visualise a welcoming and open-minded approach to our towns.</li> <li>• Create a vibrant perception of our local borough. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced health and wellbeing for local citizens Coleraine, Limavady, Portrush and Portstewart.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Permissions for Alleyways/Entries all granted.</p> <p><u>Portrush</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main Street (Sportsland)</li> <li>• Atlantic Avenue</li> </ul> <p>Contact made with property owners – consent granted</p> <p><u>Portstewart</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crescent/Coastal Path</li> <li>• Strand Road Roundabout</li> </ul> <p>Both sites have granted permission.</p> <p><u>Ballymoney</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old Mill at Seymour Street</li> <li>• Tower Bar on Church Street</li> </ul> <p>Both sites granted permissions.</p> <p><u>Ballycastle</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glentaisie Drive Gable Wall</li> <li>• Various Doors on Castle Street.</li> </ul> <p>Approval granted from property owners.</p> <p>At time of writing the installation of art works commenced 31<sup>st</sup> July in Limavady with completion by 12<sup>th</sup> August. PR coverage to be extensive liaison with DfC Press office underway.</p> <p>Additional sites under consideration – Fleming Way Limavady.</p> <p>Investigating the creation of a digital trail to accompany the project under the project revenue budget</p>
<p><b>Market Infrastructure</b></p> <p><b>£22K</b></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>Following consultation with Naturally North Coast Artisan Market a generator was provided. Essential piece of equipment to allow additional markets to take place across various locations in the Borough.</p>

	<p>Generator – Naturally North Coast &amp; Glens Artisan Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for additional markets</li> <li>• Continuity of CSM</li> <li>• Promotion of local artisan producers</li> <li>• Tourist attraction for town centres</li> </ul>	<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> <p>At time of writing report no further update</p>
<p><b>Data Collection</b> <b>£25K</b></p>	<p>Expansion of the current system to include additional counters in Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady, Portrush &amp; 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"> <li>• Additional counters located within the current framework</li> <li>• Extension of the service to Portrush &amp; Portstewart</li> <li>• 24hr data collection of footfall within 6 town centres</li> <li>• Weekly and monthly reports provided</li> </ul>	<p>Agreement secured with property owners at preferred location sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portrush, Portstewart and Ballycastle counters to be put on CCTV camera poles.</li> <li>• Coleraine on the properties of Moores, New Row/Church St. and JF Travel, Kingsgate St.</li> <li>• Limavady on the property of the Bank of Ireland, Main St.</li> </ul> <p>Ballymoney location - still to be agreed.</p> <p>Installation to commence 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter At time of writing report installation date still to be confirmed – all premissions are in place.</p>
<p><b>Linkages to Town Centres</b> <b>£100K</b></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><u>Limavady</u> The Alexander Road, entrance to the Blackburn Park, Limavady. Landscape Architect employed to look at the Alexander Road entrance and a topographical survey complete.</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>Detail of land ownership to be determined and report was taken to Land &amp; Property committee 2<sup>nd</sup> June regarding registration of land.</p> <p>Designs complete and ITT issued with a Budget of £60,000 allocated to include all professional fees. No planning permission is required.</p> <p>Tenders due back 1<sup>st</sup> week August for work to commence early Sept.</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. No planning permission is required.</p> <p>Design complete and ITT issued by 31<sup>st</sup> July. Start date to be confirmed on receipt of tender submissions.</p> <p>Request for contingency of £20k to be added to the budget due to increases in material costs during 2021</p>
<p><b>Parklets</b></p> <p><b>£160K</b></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.</p> <p>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 &amp; 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. Historical Environment Department have responded in relation to all the sites listed. Need to consider the site lines at the Diamond Ballycastle. Concerns also raised by PSNI &amp; DfI Roads Service at the Ballycastle location at an onsite meeting – traffic and anti-social behaviour risks.</p>



		<p>Due to these issues raised the parklet at the Diamond in Ballycastle is no longer under consideration. Design proposals presented at Steering Group and the following options chosen:  Parklet 1,c, Parklet 2,b &amp; Parklet 3 [sun chair to be reconsidered] – See Appendix 1. Parklet designs July 21</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design proposals complete</li> <li>- Complete DfI Parklet Application process</li> <li>- Procure parklets.</li> <li>- Install &amp; evaluate</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cycle Infrastructure</b></p> <p><b>£35k</b></p>	<p>Cycle parks &amp; 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><b>Rural Intervention</b></p> <p><b>£144K</b></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"> <li>• Dungiven</li> <li>• Kilrea</li> <li>• Ballykelly</li> <li>• Greysteel</li> <li>• Cloughmills</li> <li>• Bushmills</li> <li>• Castlerock</li> <li>• Cushendall</li> </ul>	<p>51 Letters of Offer initially issued with a maximum grant offer of £2,000 (Totalling £91,530.00).</p> <p>Programme rolled out to the following 10 rural towns – 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>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garvagh</li> <li>• Rasharkin</li> </ul> <p>The grant is aimed at maximising the visual impact of shopfronts to help encourage shoppers back into the areas identified.</p>	<p>Confirmation of slippage from Tranche 1 DAERA allocation was received and additional fund transferred totalling £44K. Resulted in additional 40 businesses on waiting list issued Letter Of Offer. [£1135.70 max]</p> <p>In total 96 properties approved for the grant</p>
<p><b>Play Tool Kits</b> <b>£6k</b></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>

Parklet Designs July 21

Click on the PDF link to view designs:

CRRP steering group agreed to proceed with full design and costing of the following Parklets:

Parklet 1, c

Parklet 2, b

Parklet 3, with removal of sunchair



Parklet Options  
Causeway Coast and