

Title of Report:	Coleraine Revitalise 2021/22
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 September 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Improvement and Innovation
Outcome	The 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	Interim Head of Prosperity & Place

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£150k – 100% DfC Funding
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	Not applicable
Staffing Costs	Existing staff

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on proposals from the Department for Communities (DfC) to provide funding for Coleraine Town Centre Revitalise Scheme.

2.0 Background

Revitalise Schemes are funded by DfC and administered by Council's Physical Regeneration team. Revitalise offers grant-funded assistance to business / property owners to enhance and upgrade their building frontages to help stimulate interest and appeal to shoppers and visitors, reinvigorate their businesses, improve the visual quality of the retail streetscape, and generate interest in vacant properties for new business start-ups.

Revitalise projects have been rolled out in all of the six towns of the Borough in various phases over a number of years; and a Rural Revitalise Scheme to support post-Covid business recovery is currently underway in 10 rural towns/villages (based on 1,000 settlement number) through funding allocated by Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

3.0 Current Position

DfC have allocated funding for a Coleraine Revitalise Scheme in 2021/22; specifically targeting areas within the town centre that have not previously been included in a scheme. In advance of submitting an application to DfC for funding, Officers will establish the need and demand from retailers as well as identify proposed town centre locations.

The indicative level of funding is £150k in the current financial year; with a grant cap for applicants likely to be £5k.

Note: There is the possibility of three tranches of funding to roll out a grant programme over three phases, the first to be implemented 2021/22 and two subsequent schemes in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

4.0 Next Steps

Officers will undertake the following:

- Scope out business premises / owners in the Coleraine town centre retail area and issue EoI forms;
- Review existing Coleraine town centre business and public perception surveys;
- Consult with stakeholders regarding plans;
- Submit application for funding to DfC;
- Issue invitation to apply for grant assistance to business / property owners in the agreed area. Note: Applicant will apply 'at risk' until funding has been confirmed from DfC;
- Form a Steering Group consisting of Elected Members, town centre stakeholders, business representatives and Council officers to consider applicants' request for grant funding; and
- When funding is confirmed formal Letters of Offer will be issued to applicants.

Further update reports will be brought to Leisure and Development Committee at key milestones.