

Title of Report:	DfC, Dfl and DAERA Town Centre Recovery Funding
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 October 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

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	Interim Head of Prosperity & Place

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 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, and to recommend to Council that the Covid Recovery Revitalise Programme projects continue as per letter of variance received, and with the additional outputs listed in Annex A.

2.0 Background as per the August Report

In July 2020 Council was awarded £894k in funding for Town Centre and Rural Business Recovery to be delivered in two tranches. The Department for Communities [DfC] £394k; Department for Infrastructure (DfI) £395k and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) £109k.

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 was allocated to 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.

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

3.0 Progress / Update

Monitoring Assessment reports are completed and filed with DfC quarterly.

Tranche 1 complete as follows:

DfC – Urban town centres : 432 urban letters of offer issued of which 75 applicants withdrew and 64 claims were not submitted. Total of 293 urban grants complete total £250,794.

DAERA – Rural town centres : 175 rural letters of offer issued of which 29 applicants withdrew and 23 claims were not submitted. Total of 123 rural grants complete total £122,367.

Projects in Tranche 2 continue, and an update is provided on all projects in **Annex A**.

A revenue fund for the programme has allowed for a library of videography and photography to be created. Following the success of the Street Art project, a Digital trail is to be commissioned of all the images along with the process and story behind each one. This project outcome will be a valuable marketing tool for a new town centre experience. The extension to the project deadline will also allow time to investigate a potential SHOP EAT ENJOY LOCAL App to be developed to promote the Shop Local message for the borough.

A request for a letter of variation was submitted to DfC in August 2021. DfC issued a Letter of Variation 30th September for acceptance as follows:

- The end date of the Project is extended to 31st March 2022 to reflect delays occasioned by the Covid-19 crisis;
- The reallocation of DfC Tranche 1 funding underspend, amounting to £128,869.43 with associated additional output*, as outlined in Council's extension request dated 24th August 2021, is agreed, subject to the maximum level of grant from the Department not being exceeded; and

- The reallocation of DAERA Tranche 1 underspend, amounting to £44,633.39, for additional rural revitalise work is agreed, subject to the maximum level of grant from that Department not being exceeded.

[*List of additional outputs is contained in Annex A, page 8.]

The Letter of Variation will allow for the additional outputs to be completed including the provision of a mobile accessible changing facility for use at council events.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended to Council that the Covid Recovery Revitalise Programme projects continue as per letter of variance received and with the additional outputs listed in Annex A.


Covid-19 Recovery Revitalise Programme Update October 2021

Update on Tranche 2 Projects

Project Title & Budget Allocation	Description & outcomes	Update – as of 5 th October 2021
<p>Meanwhile Outdoor Spaces</p> <p>£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>Continue to work with the capital projects team, Landscape architect and estates team.</p> <p>Areas under consideration remain:</p> <p>Ballycastle: The Diamond Ballymoney: Castlecroft Coleraine: The Diamond area, Kingsgate St area & Leisure Centre Limavady: Drumceatt Square</p> <p>All Works will involve a procurement process where required.</p> <p>Final product list for procurement nearing completion</p> <p>Feedback from structural engineer on the temporary shelter now requires further option appraisal to ensure suitability across all locations.</p> <p>Reallocation of underspend from tranche 1 will allow for storage facilities for meanwhile space equipment.</p>
<p>Enhanced Cleaning Project</p> <p>£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. 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</p>	<p>Install of equipment is continuing. Operations staff sanitise street furniture and touch points within the town centre using equipment purchased. There are still operational issues with installation in Ballycastle, which need resolved. At time of writing all equipment scheduled to be installed by mid-October.</p> <p>Procurement of the pavement cleaner is complete, and delivery and training of staff scheduled for end October. Reallocation of underspend from</p>

	<p>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>tranche 1 allowed for upgrade on pavement cleaner.</p> <p>To view machine click on link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-hAldiSq34</p>
<p>Art Lighting Installation</p> <p>£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>	<p>Light boxes have been delivered and currently on location at Ballycastle Seafront. An unveiling ceremony, by the Mayor, Cllr Holmes took place on Thursday 30th September.</p> <p>https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/news/brighter-times-ahead-with-causeway-coast-and-glens-borough-councils-new-lig</p> <p>The Light Boxes will remain on display at Ballycastle seafront until mid-October, before moving to Ballymoney, Limavady, Portstewart, Portrush and Coleraine before the end of the year.</p> <p>Consultation with internal departments, town management, events, tourism, arts and culture on the content for the light boxes continues to ensure a full calendar of use.</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.</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>4 images of proposed sites across the borough are – Portneal, Banagher Glen, Waterfoot and Manannan Mac Lir.</p>  <p>Photo of light boxes at first location in Ballycastle.</p>
<p>Street Art Project</p> <p>£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. 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 	<p>Street Art Project installations now complete and PR continues. https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/news/street-art-sets-the-scene-for-renewed-town-centre-vibrancy-in-causeway-coas</p> <p>Project enabled the installation of 23 art pieces across 6 urban towns. Additional works completed in Limavady. Final report from Daisy Chain Inc is pending. Potential for additional site at Ballycastle the Arcade building as additional output.</p>

	<p>to identify artists, themes, and match to locations. Minimum of 2 locations per urban settlement Ballycastle, Ballymoney, town centre become positive destinations for everyone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced health and wellbeing for local citizens Coleraine, Limavady, Portrush and Portstewart. 	<p>Investigating the creation of a digital trail of the artworks with colleagues in Visit Causeway as a new experience offer for visitors to the Borough.</p> 
<p>Market Infrastructure</p> <p>£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>Generator purchased and in use by Naturally North Coast and Glens Market.</p> <p>Ground anchor system has been investigated – initial test anchor system failed and working with supplier to engineer alternative anchor for use at market location in Coleraine.</p> <p>Scoping alternative arrangements to the ground anchor system through provision of additional weights, storage and method statement with council colleagues.</p>

<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>Installation of all 7 footfall counters complete and calibration underway. Footfall data reports will follow in due course</p>
<p>Linkages to Town Centres £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> Work has commenced at the Alexander Road, Ballyclose Rd entrance to Blackburn path. 6 week construction period from 27th September. Additional output of data counter to be installed</p> <p><u>Portrush</u> Blackrock Coastal Path, Portrush – at time of writing construction phase to commence 11th October.</p>

<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>Designs have now been finalised for the 3 concept designs and this will be issued for procurement by end of October. Extension will allow for project to be completed and consultation on alternative locations.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procure parklets. - Complete Dfl Parklet Application process - 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>Consultation underway with council officers and Dfl Active travel officer to identify suitable locations and products.</p>
<p>Rural Intervention £144K</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</p>	<p>Programme rolled out to the following 10 rural towns – Dungiven, Kilrea, Ballykelly, Greysteel, Cloughmills, Bushmills, Castlerock, Cushendall, Garvagh and Rasharkin.</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.</p> <p>In total 96 properties approved for the grant</p> <p>at time of writing the Mini Revitalise Programme closing date 30th September. Feedback to date is very positive.</p>

	impact of shopfronts to help encourage shoppers back into the areas identified.	
Play Tool Kits £6k	<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>Final list of equipment to be confirmed</p> <p>At time of writing confirmation that Ballycastle Chamber, Coleraine BID would avail of the proposed kit. Offer still open to Ballymoney, Limavady to avail</p>

List of Additional outputs for Tranche 2 projects agreed by Funders

Project title	Proposed Additional output
Meanwhile Spaces	Storage containers Structural engineer report for canopy/marquee
Enhanced Cleaning & Bin Provision	upgrade on pavement cleaner
Art/Light Box Project	additional unveiling cloths, additional panel sets of images
Street Art Project	additional sites in Limavady, larger image in Ballymoney and potential for additional site in Ballycastle
Linkages to town centres - Portrush Blackrock Path	Data counter installed
Linkages to town centres - Limavady Blackburn Path	Data counter installed
Mini Revitalise - rural villages	40 additional LoO issued
Revenue Funding - Professional fees/market campaigns	Digital trail Town Centre offer App
Provision of Mobile Accessible Changing Unit for use at Council events	mobile accessible changing unit