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| Title of Report: | Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme |
| Committee Report Submitted To: | Leisure & Development Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 20 September 2022 |
| For Decision or For Information | For Information |

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| Linkage to Council Strategy (2021 -2025) | |
| Strategic Theme | A Thriving Economy |
| 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 |

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| Budgetary Considerations | |
| Cost of Proposal | £250,000 [10% match contribution] |
| Included in Current Year Estimates | YES/NO |
| Capital/Revenue | |
| Code | New code to be issued |
| Staffing Costs | |

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

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is update Members on the progress of the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme.

2.0 Background

In January 2022 council approved the three-strand approach for the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme [CRSSRP] which was submitted to the funding body for approval. The Small Settlements Regeneration Programme is made up of combined funding from the Department for Communities [DfC], the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs [DAERA] and the Department for Infrastructure [Dfi] as follows:

| | Initial funding offer | Revised funding allocation 20/1/22 |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| DfC | £605,920 | £740,000 |
| DAERA | £698,840 | £750,000 |
| Dfi | £605,920 | £600,000 |
| Total Capital | £1,911,000 | £2,090,000 |
| Revenue | £120,000 | £160,000 |
| Total | £2,031,000 | £2,250,000 |

The programme requires a 10% match capital funding.

Revenue fund may also be used for delivery costs and/or additional staff requirements.

The letter of offer was accepted in March 2022.

3.0 Programme Update

The CRSSRP was initiated in March 2022 with the following structure:

SRO [senior reporting officer] – Director Leisure & Development Services, Richard Baker

PS [project sponsor] – Town & Village Manager, Julienne Elliott

Programme Coordinator – Nigel McFadden

Programme Support officer – To be appointed

Project officer – Strategic Projects Officer – Mary Kerr .

A Steering Group has been established and meets on a monthly basis to review progress on all projects. This group is made up of the staff listed above and representatives from each of the funders, Capital Works Manager and Finance Officer.

Each project area has a working group which meets on a weekly basis and draws in officers from Sport & Wellbeing, Countryside Access Team, Capital Works Team.

Finance and the Risk Register are reviewed at the Steering Group meetings to ensure budgets are on track and that any risks are highlighted and any mitigations put in place.

Two key risks have been identified:

- Timescale for completion of the programme – currently March 2023. To mitigate regular steering group and working group meetings will flag any issues in relation to timescale and progress. Planning applications will be submitted in tandem with the procurement procedure where possible. If necessary, an approach will be made to the funders to consider granting an extension to the Programme.

- Inflationary costs within the construction industry. Capital works team will endeavour to gain realistic estimates in relation to each of the projects. Mitigation may result in the reduction in the number/scale of projects.

A full list of the projects and budget allocation and relevant funder is detailed in **Annex A**. This was revised in May 2022 following revision of Project B allocation in consultation with DfC.

3.1 Project A - Continuation of Village Renewal Schemes £1,444,000

10 schemes identified under the previous rural development programme village renewal plans as per table below.

Engagement has been conducted with the communities involved and with the planning department to ensure that projects proceed in a timely manner

| Location | Update comment |
|---|--|
| Dernaflaw: MUGA | Community agreement on the design proposal for the MUGA at the school has been received. ITT pack to be prepared in tandem with Planning application. Planning Application required |
| Drumsurn: Community Facility | Procurement process has commenced in relation to the replacement of the community facility, as planning approval is already in place Additional work to the path and groundworks to include cycle infrastructure included in the tender process. |
| Magilligan: MUGA | Community agreement has been received. Site investigations to be carried out in relation to electricity supply and bore holes will be required ITT pack to be prepared in tandem with Planning application. Planning application required |
| Burnfoot: Upgrade community facility | Community agreement has been received. ITT pack to be prepared in tandem with Planning application. CRSSRP team will work with Sport and Wellbeing team to deliver the works to the pitches at Burnfoot in synergy with the community facility. Planning application required |
| Dervock: MUGA & Walking path | Community agreement has been received to locate the MUGA at Riverside Park. Walking path designs to be created and agreed in conjunction with the community. Various ground/environmental surveys to be completed for both the MUGA and the walking paths. Flood risk assessment to be completed prior to Planning Application and development of tender documents. Planning Application required |
| Rasharkin: Upgrade community facility & footpaths | Drawing for new accessible path designed and shared with planners for comment. This will be subsequently shared with the community to seek agreement. Planning application may be required Capital Works Team investigating and seeking a solution to internal heating issue within the community centre. Specialist report commissioned to highlight works required to effect repairs to the heating system. |
| Armoy: Upgrade playpark & walking path | Playparks (Church Road and Turnarobert) Scheme designs for both playparks have been shared with community representative. Options to be drawn up and presented to the community for feedback in relation to scope of the budget. Cycle path (Church Road to Lime Park) Topographical survey received and drawing produced by Capital Projects Team. Planning application required for Path Community response will determine the way forward with the playparks and path as there are different options to be considered. |

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| Gortnaghey: Walking/cycle path & lighting. | Non -material change approved for additional gate requested along the proposed path. Officers seeking landowners' permissions on Permissive Path Agreements in conjunction with council's legal team. Preparation of procurement documents commenced. |
| Mosside: Upgrade community facility | 2 Options shared with the community at engagement meeting on 17.8.22. Preferred option established and agreed by community. Minor tweaks required but this project will now progress quickly to Procurement stage. |
| Cushendall: Walking path link to village | Proposals for works have been prepared and shared with Coast & Countryside Team and Planners for comment. Designs have been developed in a phased approach and agreement reached with representatives of Cushendall Development Group. No Planning required |

3.2 Project B – Restore & Reactivate Grant Programme £475k

Pilot grant scheme to Restore and Reactivate derelict or vacant properties across the 12 settlements within Causeway Coast and Glens with an eligible population threshold between 1000 – 4999. Dungiven, Kilrea, Ballykelly, Cloughmills, Greysteel, Bushmills, Cushendall. Garvagh, Castlerock, Dunloy, Rasharkin, Armoy.

The grant call opened on Tuesday 24th May 2022 and closed for applications on Friday 30th June 2022 with an estimated budget of £475k.

This grant programme has now closed for applications and a report is presented separately to the September L&D committee for decision.

6 successful applicants value of £261,664.

A request for the underspend from Project B budget be re-allocated to Project A: Continuation of Village Renewal Scheme has been submitted to both council and the relevant funder for consideration.

3.3 Project C – active travel infrastructure £171K

There are two projects within Project C and both continue to be scoped and preparation work through the capital works team is proceeding. Capital works officers engage with the planning department in relation to the development of designs. Engagement with the Countryside team will ensure that these projects will be uniform in approach to the development of the core path network for the Borough.

3.3.1 C.1 Improvement of the core path network within Bushmills, Cushendall and Dungiven.

CRSSRP team liaising with Coast & Countryside Team to provide details of signage and work requirements at 3 locations: Bushmills, Cushendall & Dungiven. Locations to be plotted on maps and materials for signage to be agreed.

Site visit to Dungiven on 20/7/22. Dungiven Priory Loop path option to be followed up and feasibility tested. Several consultations are required with the Department of Infrastructure and landowners to move project forward.

3.3.2 C.2. All Ability Cycle Pilot Project Garvagh. Site visits and meeting with representatives from the Garvagh community resulted in the development of a design to link Jim Watt recreation centre with a walking and all ability cycle route. Overall Masterplan designed however, due to budget constraints, this project will address Stage 1 i.e., an all-ability cycle path linking to Forest and into town. Still in early stages of this project and further consultation is required Planning application required.

Annex A –

| CRSSRP | Project cost breakdown | | | | | |
|------------------|--|--|----------|-----|---------|------------|
| | | 2022 Total to align with Funding offered | DAERA | DfC | DfI | Revision A |
| Project A | | | | | | |
| Dernaflaw [299] | MUGA | £100,000 | £100,000 | | | £100,000 |
| Drumsumn [459] | Community Facility | £275,000 | £245,000 | | £30,000 | £275,000 |
| Magilligan [578] | MUGA | £100,000 | £100,000 | | | £100,000 |
| Burnfoot [239] | Upgrade community facility | £100,000 | £100,000 | | | £100,000 |
| Dervock [714] | MUGA & Walking path | £150,000 | £100,000 | | £50,000 | £150,000 |
| Rasharkin [1115] | Upgrade community facility & footpaths | £101,000 | £41,000 | | £60,000 | £101,000 |

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| Arm ov | Upgrade playpark & walking path | £173,000 | £64,000 | | £109,000 | £173,000 |
| Gortnaghey [278] | Walking/cycle path & lighting. Link from GAA grounds | £100,000 | | | £100,000 | £100,000 |
| Mosside [270] | Upgrade community facility | £240,000 | | £240,000 | | £265,000 |
| Cushend all [1280] | Walking path link to village | £80,000 | | | £80,000 | |
| Project B | Grant fund programme to tackle vacancy and dereliction across 12 settlements 1000- 4999population | £500,000 | | £500,000 | | £475,000 |
| Restore & Reactivate | | | | | | |
| Project C | enhancement of core path network and pilot rural all ability cycle scheme | £171,000 | | | £171,000 | £171,000 |
| Active Travel infrastruct ure | | | | | | |
| | | £2,090,000 | £750,000 | £740,000 | £600,000 | |

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| Revenue | Staffing & Delivery Costs | £160,000 | £55,000 | £105,000 | | £160,000 |
| CC&G 10% contribution of Total project costs | Staffing & Delivery Costs | £250,000 | | | | £250,000 |
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| TOTAL Project Costs | | £2,500,000 | | | | £2,500,000 |