

**ANGUS COUNCIL – 20 JUNE 2019**

**TOWN CENTRE FUND 2019/20 – OPTIONS AND PROPOSALS**

**REPORT BY STEWART BALL, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES  
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**ABSTRACT**

This report advises members of additional funding of £1.080m provided by the Scottish Government under the heading of the Town Centre Fund. The report provides information on the Fund's criteria, the options for how the funding could be utilised and makes recommendations on how the Council should decide on how the money is used.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 It is recommended that the Council:-

- a) note the contents of this report and in particular the aims of the Town Centre Fund and the four significant factors which need to be taken into account in determining the Council's approach to use of the Fund as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report;
- b) note the options for distribution and project identification/consultation and the main pros and cons associated with these as outlined in Appendix 1;
- c) agree to adopt Distribution Option 1 and Project Identification and Public Consultation Option 3 in combination as the means by which the Fund will be distributed and the projects will be identified and local people and businesses will be consulted;
- d) agree the list of proposed projects in Appendix 3 which will form the basis for the public engagement using Social Pinpoint, noting this is a list for engagement not final proposals at this stage;
- e) approve the scoring matrix at Appendix 2 which will be used to rank the projects following the public engagement exercise;
- f) note that a further report seeking approval for the final project list following the public engagement exercise will be submitted to the first Council meeting after the recess in September 2019;
- g) note that some of the projects listed in Appendix 3 require more detailed investigation, design and costings to be undertaken over the summer; and
- h) note that progress update reports will be provided to members over the next 12 – 18 months.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 As part of the 2019/20 Scottish Budget agreed through the Scottish Parliament in February 2019 the Scottish Government has made £50m available nationally to local authorities under the heading of the Town Centre Fund. Angus Council's share of this national figure is £1.080m.

2.2 In March 2019 the Council received an offer of grant for the Town Centre Fund along with terms and conditions and guidance for all Councils to follow. The aim of the Town Centre Fund 2019-20 is to enable local authorities to stimulate and support place based economic investments

which encourage town centres to diversify and flourish, creating footfall through local improvements and partnerships. Specifically, the fund is expected to contribute to transformative investments which drive local economic activities and re-purpose town centres to become more diverse, successful and sustainable. For the purpose of this Fund, the Town Centre is classed as any area with over 1,000 population.

2.3 The grant can be used to fund a wide range of investments which deliver against the themes of the Town Centre Action Plan including town centre living and supporting town centres to be vibrant, accessible and enterprising places. This can include re-purposing buildings for housing, retail, business, social and community enterprise, services, leisure, and culture, tourism and heritage; and, improving access and infrastructure.

2.4 The themes in the Town Centre Action Plan include:-

- **Town Centre Living** – footfall is key to achieving thriving, successful towns centre; and, the best footfall is residential for people who will use shops, services, and will care for its safety and security in the evenings
- **Vibrant Local Economies** – creating a supportive business environment including the involvement of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other local partnerships
- **Enterprising Communities** – social enterprise, services, arts and events; and, community empowerment and community based activities which increase the health, wealth and wellbeing of town centres
- **Accessible Public Services** – creating and accessing public facilities and services, supported by economic, service and transport hubs
- **Digital Towns** – exploiting digital technology and promoting Wi-Fi infrastructure to enable access to information, data analytics, marketing opportunities, branding, and communication with the wider world
- **Proactive Planning** – land reform and supporting the creation of sustainable, low-carbon and connected places which promote natural and cultural assets, designed in partnership with local communities and key stakeholders.

2.5 Significant Factors Impacting on Council's Approach

As is evident from the above paragraphs the aims of the fund are broad and the criteria mean a wide range of projects and options are available in using the Fund. There are however four significant factors which will impact on the Council's options for use of the Fund as follows:-

- a. Time Constraints
- b. Capital Funding
- c. Must Be Additional
- d. Impact Assessment

A) Time Constraints

If the Council does not use the grant in the financial year 2019-20, unused grant is to be repaid to the Scottish Government unless otherwise agreed in writing by Scottish Ministers. The grant conditions state that it is expected that work will be completed; or, at least work or contracts signed or commenced within the 2019-20 financial year. Government guidance also states that they expect any work falling beyond 2019/20 to be completed early in the next financial year up to a maximum of 6 months after the year end. This means all funding must be fully spent by no later than 30 September 2020.

This is a significant constraint on what may be practically possible to deliver within the timescales set down and will restrict to an extent the options and projects the Council may wish to pursue.

### B) Capital Funding

The Fund is providing capital resources to the Council and so must be used for capital purposes. This means it can't be used to fund revenue expenditure and that will restrict the projects and options available.

### C) Must be Additional

The grant is for capital expenditure which is additional to that which is already or would otherwise be allocated to the 2019/20 budget; and, should not substitute for existing spend. This means the Council must identify projects which are new and / or are currently unfunded.

### D) Impact Assessment

The Council is the funding recipient and must account to the Scottish Government on its use of the funding. The Council will be required to submit 3 reports to Scottish Government on its use of the Town Centre Fund as follows:-

- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (November 2019)
- End of year (April/May 2020)
- 6 months after year end (October 2020)

There will likely be some interim reporting requirements around rationale for projects selected as well as longer term reporting of actual outcomes. The Council will need to do some work to establish baseline positions in order to assess the impact use of the Town Centre Fund has had.

2.6 In summary the Council must use the Fund for capital purposes, on new projects, must substantially deliver or progress these during 2019/20 (effectively over the next 9 months) and will be required to measure impact and report on this to Scottish Government.

2.7 There is no indication on whether funding through the Town Centre Fund will continue beyond 2019/20 so this report and its recommendations are based on an assumption that the funding is one-off.

## **3. OPTIONS FOR ALLOCATING AND USING THE FUND**

3.1 How the Fund is used locally is entirely at the Council's discretion providing that this is consistent with the aims and terms of the Fund. This means there are a range of options available on how the Council could allocate and use the Fund. There is also a need to consider the extent to which the Council wishes to consult and involve local people and businesses in the process of deciding which projects should be implemented in the context of the time constraints applying to the Fund.

3.2 A summary options appraisal has been prepared at Appendix 1 to outline what the main options are for distributing the funds available and consulting on their use and what pros and cons may arise from those options. This options appraisal has been used to inform the recommendations in this report.

## **4. RECOMMENDED APPROACH TO DISTRIBUTION AND CONSULTATION**

4.1 Based on the options appraisal at Appendix 1 it is recommended that the Council agree:-

- a. **Distribution Option 1** - Share Fund across 7 main burgh towns based on population; and
- b. **Project Identification and Public Consultation Option 3** - Council identifies potential projects from previous engagement, seeks public/business input on these projects and public/business ideas for other projects via Social Pinpoint then decides which go ahead

4.2 This combination of options is considered likely to:-

- give the Council a clear basis for choosing the projects
- provide an opportunity to get public and business input to the final choice of projects whilst keeping the timescales and administrative burden of doing so to a minimum
- ensure timely identification of a final list of projects
- enable all towns in Angus to benefit

- provide a clear basis for accounting for the use of the Fund and its impact to Scottish Government (by using the scoring matrix in Appendix 2 to determine the final list of projects)

## 5. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND INITIAL LIST OF PROPOSED PROJECTS

- 5.1 Appendix 2 contains the assessment criteria and scoring matrix officers propose to use to identify the final list of projects following the public consultation exercise through Social Pinpoint. Members are asked to approve this scoring matrix so that it can be used to bring forward a final list of projects to the Council meeting in September 2019.
- 5.2 Using existing information taken from feedback through the Charrettes programme and other research and projects which have been identified as potentially suitable for the Town Centre Fund a long list of projects including an Angus-wide theme of improving accessibility and connectivity has been identified. These are listed in Appendix 3 along with a brief description of the project scope. Members are asked to note that for some of these projects additional design and scoping may be required to confirm what can be done within the funding allocated.
- 5.3 Members are being asked to approve the list in Appendix 3 as the basis for consulting with local people and businesses across Angus using Social Pinpoint.

## 6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF FINAL PROJECT LIST

- 6.1 Assuming members endorse Project Identification and Public Consultation Option 3 the project list at Appendix 3 would be consulted upon using Social Pinpoint during July 2019 (4 week period). This will allow the Council to gather views on the projects in Appendix 3 and receive suggestions for other potential projects which could be undertaken instead. This will give the Council a wide range of project options to make best use of the Town Centre Fund.
- 6.2 Following the public consultation a final list of projects would be assessed using the matrix in Appendix 2 and the best projects within the funding available in each town would be recommended to Council for approval.

## 7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Distribution Option 1 from Appendix 1 means the following shares would apply:-

Town	Population	%age	Funding Share
Arbroath	23,911	28.9	£312,294
Brechin	7,201	8.7	£94,050
Carnoustie	11,386	13.7	£148,709
Forfar	14,099	17.0	£184,142
Kirriemuir	5,912	7.1	£77,215
Monifieth	8,224	9.9	£107,411
Montrose	11,958	14.4	£156,180
<b>Towns Total</b>	<b>82,691</b>		<b>£1,080,000</b>

- 7.2 If members were minded to adopt Distribution Option 2 (Localities) from Appendix 1 the following shares would apply:-

Town	Population	%age	Funding Share
Arbroath & Area	23,911	28.9	£312,294
Brechin & Montrose	19,159	23.1	£250,229
Forfar & Kirriemuir	20,011	24.2	£261,357
Carnoustie, Monifieth & Sidlaw	19,610	23.7	£256,120
<b>Localities Total</b>	<b>82,691</b>		<b>£1,080,000</b>

7.3 An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 4.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no additional financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations in this report. The final list of projects once determined will be funded from the Town Centre Fund and the administration of the Fund will require to be met from existing staff and budget resources. This may impact on capacity to discharge other work.

8.2 If members were minded to adopt Project Identification and Public Consultation Option 2 in Appendix 1 this may incur additional costs for a suitable voting system. This would need further investigation to assess options, costs and funding which would be the subject of a further report.

8.3 The Town Centre Fund has the potential to allow additional external funds to be levered in. The extent to which this will be feasible is unknown at this point but is part of the assessment criteria.

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## **Appendix 1 – Options Appraisal**

There are two interconnected elements to consider on the options for using the Town Centre Fund:-

- a) Method of Distribution
- b) Project Identification and Public Consultation

The Council needs to decide on both of these elements but it should be noted some methods of distribution would mean only some methods of project identification and consultation being feasible.

### **A) Method of Distribution**

The following options for distributing the funds have been identified:-

1. Share Fund across 7 main burgh towns based on population

Population is recommended since it's a readily available data source and other measures of potential need e.g. deprivation would not necessarily reflect the need for town centre investment. Although the terms of the Town Centre Fund would allow it to cover larger villages in Angus this would result in very small sums being allocated and dilute the likely impact of the Fund which is primarily aimed at supporting town centres. The Government have defined town centres as having 1,000 population to reflect the diversity of what may constitute a town across Scotland. In Angus our towns are well defined.

2. Share Fund across the 4 Community Planning Localities in Angus based on population

This is a variation on option 1 above whereby the money would be allocated to each of the 4 localities. This would require decisions to be made about sub-dividing the allocated funding across the locality and may result in the same outcome as option 1 in those localities which cover more than 1 town.

3. Share Fund based on a long list of identified projects and allocate to those projects scoring highest regardless of which town they are from.

Under this option the long list of projects would be assessed using a scoring matrix which scores each project against a) the Fund criteria; b) its deliverability within the constraints applying and c) the extent to which the project will deliver on the priorities in the Angus Community Plan and Angus Council Plan. The available funding would then be allocated to the highest scoring projects regardless of which town they cover. This could result in a different share across towns compared to options 1 and 2 and in theory at least could mean some towns receiving a nil or minimal share.

4. Identify one or possibly two large high impact projects in the towns with highest deprivation (Arbroath and Brechin) which would use the whole of the funding allocation

Suitable projects would need to be identified but none have been at the time of writing. Advice from Scottish Government officials suggests this is an option which should be considered and discussions with other Councils suggest some are considering this approach.

5. As option 4 but with a proportion (say 30%) of the total funding shared across remaining towns according to population and only 70% being allocated to large high impact projects in Arbroath and Brechin

This option would ensure all towns get something from the Town Centre Fund but could still enable one or two large high impact projects to be done

### **B) Method of Project Identification and Public Consultation**

The following methods of consulting and involving local people and businesses have been identified:-

1. Council chooses projects from previous engagement, no further consultation

Under this option the Council would identify a shortlist of projects and options using information and intelligence gathered from previous engagement with local communities and businesses and would decide which projects go ahead without further engagement or consultation. This method of project identification and public consultation could be applied alongside all of the distribution options.

2. Council identifies potential projects from previous engagement, puts to public vote

The Council identifies a long list of projects and options and asks local people and business to vote on their preferences with the most popular projects within the funding available being implemented. A suitable platform to enable a formal voting arrangement would need to be found. This method of consultation could be applied alongside distribution options 1, 2, 3 and 5 (30% element only)

3. Council identifies potential projects from previous engagement, seeks public/business input on these projects and public/business ideas for other projects via Social Pinpoint then decides which go ahead

The Council identifies a shortlist of projects and options using information and intelligence gathered from previous engagement with local communities and businesses but in addition undertakes a consultation with local people and businesses using the Social Pinpoint tool to gather feedback on the Council's draft project list and other project ideas local people and businesses suggest. The Council would then choose the best projects following that consultation process. This method of project identification and public consultation could be applied alongside distribution options 1, 2, 3 and 5 (30% element only).

4. All projects identified from suggestions from the public and businesses, Council thereafter decides which go ahead

This option would mean inviting suggestions/applications from community groups/local businesses for projects which meet the Fund aims and objectives. Under this option all projects would come from community groups/local businesses rather than the Council. This method of consultation could be applied alongside distribution options 1, 2 and 5 (30% element only)

**Main Pros and Cons on Method of Distribution Options**

Option	Pros	Cons
1. Share across 7 towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensures every town gets something</li> <li>Could be regarded as the most equitable approach</li> <li>Likely to be a palatable option for local people and businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential increased risk of Fund not being fully utilised if no suitable/deliverable projects available in an area</li> <li>Impact may be diluted – 7 way split may limit scale of projects which can be undertaken</li> <li>Population basis of allocation not strategic or targeted</li> </ul>
2. Share across 4 localities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would promote locality approach and thinking and align ambitions in Locality Plans</li> <li>Ensures each locality gets something</li> <li>Still likely to be a palatable option</li> <li>Could still facilitate some support to qualifying villages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential increased risk of Fund not being fully utilised if no suitable/deliverable projects available in Locality</li> <li>Population basis of allocation not strategic or targeted</li> <li>Would require further consideration of how funds should be used in Localities which cover more than one town</li> <li>Localities cover more than just towns so more eligible areas competing</li> </ul>
3. Highest Scoring Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should ensure biggest impact by targeting areas of greatest need</li> <li>Should reduce risk of the Fund being unused given assessment of deliverability is undertaken as part of scoring process</li> <li>Relies on previous community engagement work – not starting from scratch</li> <li>Demonstrates a strategic and pragmatic approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could mean limited or no funding for a particular town or locality depending on which projects chosen – public may view this as unfair</li> </ul>

4. Large Projects only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to make significant impact in the chosen areas – more than scratching the surface</li> <li>• Demonstrates a strategic and pragmatic approach</li> <li>• Likely to be easier to provide evidence of impact to Scottish Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limits the options for consultation and community involvement</li> <li>• Would mean most towns and villages in Angus not receiving a share</li> </ul>
5. Large Projects / Share Split (70/30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeks to balance all of the benefits of option 4 with the benefits of one of the other options</li> <li>• All towns would still get something</li> <li>• Possibly a more palatable option for local people and businesses than Option 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70% share for large projects may be insufficient and may diminish impact and project scope</li> <li>• 30% share may result in small allocations to some towns resulting in limited impact and possible waste of money</li> </ul>

### Main Pros and Cons on Method of Project Identification and Public Consultation Options

Option	Pros	Cons
1. Council shortlist no further consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be delivered quickly, reducing the risk of not getting the funding spent in time</li> <li>• Fits with all 5 options for distribution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relies on existing Council information from previous community engagement (from which to draw up shortlist) still being current and suitable</li> <li>• No consultation likely to be regarded as unacceptable by some local people and businesses</li> </ul>
2. Council shortlist/public voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could be delivered relatively quickly depending on methods of engagement</li> <li>• Would support the Council's development of Participatory Budgeting and contribute towards 2% of budget target</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deploying a suitable and robust voting system likely to incur costs</li> <li>• The most popular choices may not have the biggest impact – will all voices be heard?</li> <li>• High administrative burden for Council for what could be small sums depending on the method of distribution</li> </ul>
3. Council long list with consultation and new ideas via consultation using Social Pinpoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would reduce the risk of money being unused in comparison to options 2 and 4</li> <li>• Still ensures community / business involvement without need and additional burdens of holding a formal vote</li> <li>• Final list of projects determined using wide range of inputs and ideas</li> <li>• Gives the best blend of simple to administer, can be completed quickly but still gives local people a say in the final outcome</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Pinpoint is an online tool only which may impact on who can provide an input</li> <li>• Consultation over summer holidays could limit participation</li> </ul>
4. 100% Community / Business Suggestions and Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would be fully community/business led, empowering communities</li> <li>• May identify new projects which would have greater community support than Council suggested or Locality Plan projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High risk of Fund being under-utilised given time needed to set this approach up and get it off the ground and no guarantee that projects suggested can be delivered in timescales</li> <li>• Potentially sizeable administrative burden on the Council who would need to oversee the Fund and remain accountable for use of the Fund</li> <li>• Could be numerous bids which result in limited impact overall</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Aid issues with direct grants to businesses</li> <li>• High risk on both Council accountability and delivery within timescales</li> </ul>
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**Recommendations**

Taking into account the constraints applying to the funding as set out in Section 2.5 of the main body of this report and the pros and cons identified above it is recommended that the Council apply the following approach:-

**Distribution Option 1** - Share Fund across 7 main burgh towns based on population

**Project Identification and Public Consultation Option 3** - Council identifies potential projects from previous engagement, seeks public/business input on these projects and public/business ideas for other projects via Social Pinpoint then decides which go ahead

**Appendix 2 – Assessment Criteria and Scoring Matrix**

**Town Centre Fund - Angus  
Assessment & Scoring Sheet**

Town/Locality	Assessor:
Project Reference:	Score:
Project Title:	
Recommendation	Date:
Total Project Costs	
Town Centre Funding Requested	
Match Funding Sources	Amount and Date Confirmed or to be Confirmed
Expected Start Date	
Expected End Date	
Permissions required	Date of Approval

Criteria	High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	None (0) (no evidence to support the relevant criteria)	Score	Comments
<p><b>Strategic Fit</b></p> <p>To what extent does the project fit with and deliver against the aims and themes of the Town Centre Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living Vibrant Local Economies</li> <li>• Enterprising Communities</li> <li>• Accessible Public Services</li> <li>• Digital Towns</li> <li>• Proactive Planning</li> </ul>	<p>There is a good fit with the themes and aims of the Town Centre Action Fund.</p> <p>The project is delivering against a high number of outcomes/objectives.</p>	<p>There is a good fit with the themes and aims of the Town Centre Action Fund.</p> <p>The project is delivering an acceptable number of outcomes/objectives.</p>	<p>There is a limited fit with the themes and aims of the Town Centre Action Fund.</p> <p>The project is delivering limited outcomes/objectives.</p>			
<p>How does the project stimulate and support place based economic investments which encourage town centres to diversify and flourish, creating footfall through local improvements</p>	<p>There is a good fit with supporting place based economic investments and is delivering several initiatives to create footfall.</p> <p>The project is delivering a high number of</p>	<p>There is a good fit with supporting place based economic investments and is one initiative to create footfall.</p> <p>The project is delivering an acceptable number of</p>	<p>There is a limited fit with supporting place based economic investments and it is unlikely the initiative will create footfall</p> <p>The project is delivering limited outcomes/objectives.</p>			

	outcomes/objectives.	outcomes/objectives.				
How does the investment decisions contribute to national and local commitments to town centres including the Town Centre First Principle; and more recently, the Place Principle	<p>There is a good fit to national and local commitments to town centres including the Town Centre First Principle; and more recently, the Place Principle</p> <p>The project is delivering a high number of outcomes/objectives</p>	<p>There is a good fit to national and local commitments to town centres including the Town Centre First Principle; and more recently, the Place Principle</p> <p>The project is delivering an acceptable number of outcomes/objectives</p>	<p>There is limited fit to national and local commitments to town centres including the Town Centre First Principle; and more recently, the Place Principle</p> <p>The project is delivering a limited number of outcomes/objectives</p>			
<p><b>Evidence of Match Funding</b></p> <p>Has match funding been confirmed?</p> <p>If not when is this expected?</p>	The project has match funding in place and has provided written evidence of confirmation.	The project is sourcing or has match funding pending but it is yet not confirmed.	The project has no match funding confirmed.			

<p><b>Evidence of partnership working/collaboration</b></p> <p>Is there evidence of working in collaboration with private and/or public stakeholders?</p>	<p>The project has provided strong evidence of working in partnership and collaboration with private and/or public stakeholders</p>	<p>The project has provided good evidence of working in partnership and collaboration with private and/or public stakeholders</p>	<p>The project has provided limited evidence of working in partnership and collaboration with private and/or public stakeholders</p>			
<p><b>Outputs and Impacts</b></p> <p>Are there clearly demonstrated project outputs and impacts in line with the fund priorities</p>	<p>The project demonstrates many positive outputs and impacts in line with the fund and meets the outcomes of the Council Plan.</p> <p>The project is delivering a high number of outputs/impacts.</p>	<p>The project demonstrates some positive outputs and impacts in line with the fund and meets the outcomes of the Council Plan.</p> <p>The project is delivering an acceptable number of outputs/impacts.</p>	<p>The project demonstrates limited positive outputs and impacts in line with the fund and meets the outcomes of the Council Plan.</p> <p>The project is delivering a limited number of outputs/impacts.</p>			
<p><b>Capacity to deliver</b></p> <p>Can the project be delivered and comply with the fund guidelines in 2019/20</p>	<p>The project is well developed, with permissions in place and can be committed and</p>	<p>The project is well developed, with all or some of permissions in place and can be committed</p>	<p>The project is not well developed, with all or some of permissions in place and can be committed</p>			

	delivered in 2019/20	and part delivered in 2019/20	and part delivered in 2019/20			
<b>Project need/demand</b> There is a demonstrated unmet demand for the project	The project has presented strong and comprehensive evidence of need or a gap in provision.	The project has presented significant evidence of need or a gap in provision	The project has presented limited evidence of need or a gap in provision			
<b>Value for money</b> Does the project represent good value for money in return for investment?	The project demonstrates good value for money.	The project demonstrates fair value for money.	The project demonstrates low value for money.			

- **Living** – footfall is key to achieving thriving, successful towns centre; and, the best footfall is residential for people who will use shops, services, and will care for its safety and security in the evenings
- **Vibrant Local Economies** – creating a supportive business environment including the involvement of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other local partnerships
- **Enterprising Communities** – social enterprise, services, arts and events; and, community empowerment and community based activities which increase the health, wealth and wellbeing of town centres
- **Accessible Public Services** – creating and accessing public facilities and services, supported by economic, service and transport hubs
- **Digital Towns** – exploiting digital technology and promoting Wi-Fi infrastructure to enable access to information, data analytics, marketing opportunities, branding, and communication with the wider world
- **Proactive Planning** – land reform and supporting the creation of sustainable, low-carbon and connected places which promote natural and cultural assets, designed in partnership with local communities and key stakeholders

### Appendix 3 – List of Projects (as basis for consultation)

Our proposal is to use the Town Centre Fund to create attractive, accessible, and more connected town centres within Angus, in line with the main objectives set out by the Scottish Government as part of the fund.

Our approach encompasses both Angus wide and town specific projects that match our overarching theme of connectivity and accessibility, ensuring that the town centre is a more visited destination by residents and visitors alike with all the associated and measurable benefits that a vibrant town centre brings.

Our proposed projects below have been taken from Angus Council's previous community consultations, such as the charrettes and locality plan events.

To supplement this approach however we will also conduct a time limited consultation with the community, elected members and local businesses for any additional ideas that may have been missed, or that have come forward since these initial consultations.

This will also provide an opportunity for those stakeholders mentioned above to contribute to, and comment upon, the projects previously proposed. See below.

This twin track process provides a clear rationale for the selection of projects in line with government's expectations of how the grant is to be administered, as well as ensuring that the people within the communities themselves have played an important role in bringing the projects forward.

The strength in these projects is that they originate in and from the communities they serve and reflect a key priority, *improving accessibility and connectivity* outlined in Angus Council's 'Community Plan'.

#### **Angus Wide Project**

The Kirriemuir pilot of creating a dementia friendly town centre through de-cluttering streets and pavements and improving accessibility will be replicated in the other 6 towns, and expanded in Kirriemuir.

In practice this means renewed signage and associated PV powered lighting, Improvements to paving and painting of columns, removing excessive barriers, moving bins, and creating better seating and landscaping environments.

The aim is to create accessible, connected, and attractive town centre's that are used by all sections of society and are accommodating of visitors regardless of their mobility or cognitive capacity.

The benefits of creating spaces that are accessible by a range of demographics not only ensures a more vibrant town centre but also helps foster an intergenerational community spirit through use of these shared spaces in the town centre.

Estimated spend = £140,000 total – differing amounts per town determined by population.

## **Town Specific Projects**

### Arbroath

Hard landscaping improvements along the High Street and nearby streets, contributing to Arbroath 2020 aspirations to create a more accessible and attractive environment for visitors and residents. This would include improving and upgrading links to the Abbey, the Harbour, the Bus Station and Railway Station.

Estimated spend = Up to £270,000

### Brechin

Improvements to the steps from the high street and surrounding areas down to the river. Angus Council have undertaken work here previously, but this will be enhanced with further upgrading of steps, railings and lighting to tie in with recently completed flood works and landscaping. The aim is to create a better, more attractive link between the centre of town and the river and to enhance the connectivity to the Cathedral ahead of 2020.

Estimated spend = Up to £80,000

### Carnoustie

Improvements to landscaping around Carnoustie Library, opening up the garden to the rear, to create more public civic space in the town centre.

Estimated spend = Up to £120,000

Improve lighting and paint underpass leading to the golf course / beach. Connecting the town centre to its tourist attractions and well used leisure facilities, ensuring more movement between town centre and tourist destinations.

Estimated spend = Up to £10,000

### Forfar

Improving the environment around West Port lights to enhance the western gateway to Forfar. This would complement work by Forfar in Flower to make improvements to the area.

Estimated spend = Up to £160,000

### Kirriemuir

Improvements and upgrading of public toilet provision to enhance visitor experience to the town centre.

Estimated spend = Up to £20,000

Repair of wall at St Colmes Close to ensure safe and attractive environment.

Estimated spend = Up to £10,000

If distribution Option 1 is agreed a further £35,000 of projects would need to be identified for Kirriemuir



### Monifieth

Improvements to hard landscaping and environmental improvements around the high street including the space around the War Memorial and links to the beach, to create a more attractive environment for residents and businesses.

Estimated spend = Up to £100,000

### Montrose

Environmental improvements to historic closes to create attractive and welcoming pedestrian routes/linkages. This will increase resident's use of underused historical pathways and can serve to promote the history of the town for both residents and visitors. This could link to work and consultation being undertaken by the Mo Revival Group.

Estimated spend = Up to £135,000

**EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**SCREENING DOCUMENT**

**Name of Proposal**

Town Centre Fund

**Lead Department/Service**

Communities

What is the aim of the proposal?

The aim of the Town Centre Fund 2019-20 is to enable local authorities to stimulate and support place based economic investments which encourage town centres to diversify and flourish, creating footfall through local improvements and partnerships. The Report to Council makes proposals on how the Funding provided to Angus Council should be distributed and projects identified

Is this a new or a review of an existing policy, procedure, function or report?

New initiative

**Screening Process**

1. Has the proposal already been assessed for its impact on age; disability; gender; gender re-assignment; pregnancy/maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion and belief; and sexual orientation? **If yes, go to 1 a. If no, go to 1 b.**

1 a. Unless there have been significant changes, no further action is required. **Please add your name, position and date below at 3.**

1 b. Does the proposal involve or have consequences for the people the council serves or employs? **If yes, go to 2. If no, go to 1 c.**

1 c. Please state why not

**The proposal is not relevant and no further action is required. Sign and date below at 3.**

2. Is the proposal relevant to one or more of the protected characteristics? **If yes, go to 2 a. If no, go to 2 b.**

2 a. **Proceed to Step 1 of the Full Equality Impact Assessment on page 2.**

2 b. Please state why not

**The proposal not relevant and no further action is required. Add your name, position and date below at 3.**

**3. Name:**

**Position:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Step 1

Are there any statutory legal requirements affecting this proposal? If so please describe.

No

### Step 2

What data/research is available to assess the likely impact of the proposal?

Existing data and information from previous engagement with local communities has been used to prepare a draft list of projects which will be consulted upon.

### Step 3

Is there any reason to believe the proposal could affect people differently due to their protected characteristic i.e. age; disability; gender; gender re-assignment; pregnancy/maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion and belief; and sexual orientation? Please **place a cross** in each box that applies, and give details alongside.

Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential projects include accessibility improvements which could benefit people with disabilities more than the general population
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Gender Re-assignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Pregnancy/maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Marriage and civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Religion and belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

### Step 4

Is there evidence to suggest that any part of the proposal could unlawfully discriminate against people? If so, how?

No

### Step 5

Can the proposal be seen to favour one section of the community

Yes  No

or deny opportunities to another?

Yes  No

If yes, please give details.

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Consultation on the proposals will be carried out using an online tool which may create barriers to members of the community without online access. Free to use public internet facilities are however available across Angus in Libraries and some voluntary body premises.

**Step 6**

Does the proposal advance or restrict equality?

Yes  No

If yes, give details

The final list of projects has the potential to improve accessibility which could benefit people with disabilities more than the general population. Most of the benefit would however be for the population at large

**Step 7**

Are there any other actions which could have been taken to enhance equality of opportunity?

If so please state

None identified

**Step 8**

Based on the work you have done, rate the level of relevance being allocated to this proposal.

High  Medium  Low  Unknown

**Step 9**

If during **Steps 3 - 6** there has been an adverse impact identified, consider whether this can be justified.

Yes  No

If yes please give details.

If no, consider alternative ways of delivering the proposal to minimise negative impact or eliminate unlawful discrimination. Give details of the changes to be made to the proposal.

Public consultation and an assessment criteria based on the Fund aims should allow a wide range of interests and inputs to be provided.

**Step 10**

Do you need to carry out a further impact assessment?

Yes  No

If yes, what actions do you need to take?

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**Step 11**

Make arrangements to monitor and review the impact assessment.

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**Step 12**

Publish impact assessment.

Where will the Equality Impact Assessment be published?

As part of the report to Angus Council 20 June 2019
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Please state your name, position and date, and forward this pro forma either to your designated Equality Impact Assessment Co-ordinator, or if it refers to a committee report, it should be forwarded with the report to committee services.

**Name: Ian Lorimer**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Position: Director of Finance**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date: 12 June 2019**

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