

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022**

**PLACE-BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND PLACE STRATEGY 2022**

**REPORT BY ALISON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

**ABSTRACT**

This report provides details on the financial allocation of the 2022/23 Scottish Government Place-Based Investment Programme (PBIP) for distribution in Angus and recommends the approach to the distribution of these funds and a proposal for aligning future spend.

**1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) Agree the process for the distribution of funds noted in point 5.
- (ii) Agree the scoring criteria for the distribution of the Scottish Government Place-Based Investment Programme 2022/2023 noted in point 5.3
- (iii) Delegate authority to the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to approve any necessary emergency decisions for funding from the Scottish Government Place-Based Investment Programme 2022/23 following consultation with the Leader of the Council, Convenor and Vice Convenor of Communities Committee and Leader of the Non-Administration.
- (iv) Agree to instruct officers to collate the relevant data and evidence of need and to begin a consultation process with the communities of Angus, reporting back to Angus Council Committee in October with a Place Strategy proposal and Locality Place-Based Plans, which will align to the PBIP as noted in point 5.6

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN**

**Economy:** We want Angus to be a 'go-to' area for business

- spend Council money locally where we can help to grow our local economy
- support the creation of local, paid, and lasting job opportunities for our citizens
- make Angus a low-carbon, sustainable area
- support business and economic growth by improving the physical and digital infrastructure

**People:** We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities

- work collaboratively for and with our citizens to keep them safe in resilient communities
- reduce social isolation and loneliness
- offer our citizens a range of opportunities to help them achieve their potential and to reduce poverty

**Place:** We want our communities to be strong, resilient, and led by citizens

- continue to reduce the council's carbon footprint to reduce our net carbon emissions to zero by 2045
- engage with citizens and communities to deliver the right services in the right place at the right time

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The 2020-21 Scottish Government Programme for Government announced the creation of a Place-Based Investment Programme (PBIP) with £275million of funding to support place-based working. The PBIP aims to ensure that all place-based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and accelerate ambitions for place-making, 20-minute neighbourhoods, town centre revitalisation, community-led regeneration, inclusive growth, local resilience, community wealth building and should work towards Net Zero targets.
- 3.2 The PBIP is expected to be a 5-year financial commitment of capital funding from the Scottish Government. Angus received £720,000 in 2021/22, and £624,000 has been allocated for 2022/23
- 3.3 At its meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (Report No 390/21) Angus Council:
- Agreed the list of projects recommended to be funded as part of the PBIP allocation of £720,000 for 2021/22
  - Agreed that the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth would report back to Angus Council setting out the process and engagement for allocation of funds for future years
- 3.4 Scottish Government has moved from one-year funds similar to the Town Centre Funds to a five-year funding programme, including additional Regeneration Capital Grant Funds and Scotland Loves Local funding. The longer-term funding approach is welcome and will allow Angus Council to work with communities to develop projects over that period. Funds are still required to be committed or work started by 31<sup>st</sup> March each year; any PBIP funds that are not “used” by 31 March each year are to be returned to the Scottish Government.

### 4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The programme scope will remain the same as the 2021/22 fund. The target outcomes are:
- Local Resilience: creating, in every place, relevant choices for better futures, with the capacity to continue to influence, adapt and benefit from these as things change.
  - Inclusive Growth: growing the right environment for local economic resilience, tackling inequality, creating opportunities for all, and distributing the benefits fairly.
  - Low Carbon; contributing towards a net-zero carbon Scotland and responding locally to the climate change emergency.
  - Community Wealth: reshaping local relationships and infrastructures to ensure local wellbeing and local benefits flow from the commercial, public, and social economies.
- 4.2 In addition to addressing a strategic risk at a local level and contributing to overarching national policy outcomes, the PBIP will have three specific objectives:
- Enable more partnering across sectors – by establishing a network of anchor collaborations, each acting as a focus for local resilience, service reform, net-zero carbon, and community wealth building.
  - Retain and attract people and businesses to once vibrant places – through supporting ambitious local change programmes which embed collective leadership across services and sectors and apply the Place Principle to the use of all assets.
  - Increase footfall, social interaction, and economic activity in our Town Centres – by proactively clustering services and purpose in the right places and applying the Town Centre First Principle.
- 4.3 There are four elements to the PBIP, and all projects funded must fit under one of these, which are:
1. **Place/Regeneration/Area of greatest need** - The PBIP emphasises projects which address systematic weaknesses in areas without inequality, community wealth and economic vitality. It places importance on capital projects driven from a partnership perspective and evidenced plans.

2. **Town Centres** - Applying the Town Centre First Principle, delivering projects that will increase footfall and attract people and businesses and economic activity in our Town Centres.
3. **Community Wealth Building** – Place-Based Plans will outline a people-centred approach to local economic development to re-direct wealth back into the local economy.
4. **20-minute neighbourhoods** - This concept is relatively new and will evolve by creating Local Place Plans. The basic concept is for people to meet their basic needs from a 20-minute walk from their home. This strand of the programme may fund novel service provision, consider more rural service provision or walking/cycling infrastructure, or fund satellite projects in the more rural areas of Angus.

4.4 Timescales for distributing funds are tight. It is currently proposed that the fund will be launched in April 2022, with projects started or contracts in place by 31 March 2023. The type of projects supported could be limited due to the capital criteria of the fund. Any projects which would increase revenue costs for the council will not be supported. If not used, funds will have to be returned to the Scottish Government, so there is an urgency in allocating the 2022-23 fund and working with communities to develop the Place-Based Investment programme.

## 5. PROPOSALS

### 5.1 Process for distribution of funds

With limited funding and time constraints, it is recommended that:

- An Angus-wide engagement exercise is carried out with the communities to understand all projects that could fit within the criteria of the fund for the next four years. This will be done with a simple expression of interest form, circulated with the fund guidance and to increase awareness. Separate engagement with council officers will also be carried out as council-led projects that fit the fund's criteria could also be eligible.
- The data gathered will be recorded, and officers will work with groups to develop projects that can be delivered before 31 March 2023
- We will then invite projects that fit all the fund's criteria and have all funding and the required permissions in place, a robust business plan, and public consultation to apply for funding.
- Monies from the PBIP can be used more effectively by supporting fewer larger transformational projects than various smaller initiatives. Since the fund has four further years where projects can be developed, the consultation work and expression of Interest applications will highlight the groups and projects developed over that period. Due to the timescales and limited funds available, it is unlikely that all areas will have a suitable project to deliver in the 2022/23 allocation. However, there will be opportunities in future years.
- We do not propose to make annual calls for projects. Instead, projects will be developed through the Local Development Plan preparation, and Local Place Plans and funding allocated as appropriate

5.2 The grant letter from the Scottish Government allows the council to grant monies to the private sector and third sector organisations. We are aware that this has been included for councils that already have planned projects in place with the private sector. The limited funding available does not allow us to open this fund up to the private sector at this time; it will, however, be taken into consideration for the remainder of the programme.

5.3 Applicants must demonstrate how the project will be sustainable and will respond to the need of the area. Match funding is not critical; however, a project will gain a higher score if included; the higher the leverage through the PBIP, the more investment and economic wealth will be pulled into the area. Projects are expected to contribute towards a net-zero carbon Scotland and respond locally to the climate change emergency. It is proposed that the scoring criteria for the fund are as follows:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Score</b>
Impact	15
Deliverability within the timescales set	15
Sustainability	10
Place-based evidence of need	10

Leverage	5
Carbon reduction	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

5.4 Once Expression of Interests have been reviewed and applicants invited to apply, an internal cross service panel will assess applications and will prepare recommendations to committee.

5.5 It is recommended that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth following discussion with the Leader of Angus Council, the Convenor, Vice Convenor, of the Communities Committee and the Leader of the non-administration for any emergency decisions that are needed such as material changes to project proposals or withdrawal of projects. Any decisions made by delegated authority will be reported back to the next Communities Committee.

5.6 **Place Strategy**

Due to the nature of the five-year PBIP and the requirement for the programme to ensure that all place-based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and accelerate ambitions for place-making, approval is sought to begin work on a Place Strategy for Angus, which will capture the needs and aspirations of our communities. The Place Strategy would set out the focus for the next five years regarding Regeneration, Town Centres, Community Wealth Building, Community-Led Regeneration and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods.

5.7 Once this is set out, consultation and engagement with our communities will determine Local Place-Based Investment Plans. The key aim would be to work cross-service and collaborate with partners and the private sector to draw in additional external funding and private investment and line up projects for the various pots of funding that are due to be launched that require evidence of collaborative place-based plans.

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications as all project proposals, once confirmed, will need to be contained within the allocated funding, there are indirect financial implications of officer time to support the preparation and/or delivery of projects and administration of the fund.

6.2 Administration of small funding packages requires significant officer time, and therefore we will encourage larger projects that deliver greater impact.

**7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed when projects for the PBIP are identified and taken back to committee for approval or when determined by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth as outlined above.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- The Scottish Government Grant Award Letter

**REPORT AUTHOR: Audrey Michie, Service Leader Vibrant Communities**  
**EMAIL DETAILS: [Communities@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Communities@angus.gov.uk)**

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment



## Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

### Step 1

#### Name of Proposal

PLACE-BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND PLACE STRATEGY 2022

### Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment Yes

**(A)** If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| (i) It does not impact on people   | Yes/No |
| (ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics | Yes/No |
| (iii) It is for information only   | Yes    |
| (iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year                                       | Yes/No |
| (v) It is technical  | Yes/No |

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

**(B)** If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment	Yes/No
Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment	Yes/No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

### Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service:

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

(iv)Is it a new proposal?      Yes/No      Please indicate      OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function?      Yes/No      Please indicate

### Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees                      Yes/No

Job Applicants                Yes/No

Service users                 Yes/No

Members of the public      Yes/No

**Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:**

**Internal data** (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

**Internal consultation** (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

**External data** (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

**External consultation** (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils.

**Other** (general information as appropriate).

**Step 6: Evidence Gaps.**

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold?      Yes/No

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

**Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups?** Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

**Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.**

Age

**Impact**

Disability

**Impact**

Gender reassignment

**Impact**

Marriage and Civil Partnership

**Impact**

Pregnancy/Maternity

**Impact**

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

**Impact**

Religion or Belief

**Impact**

Sex

**Impact**

Sexual orientation

**Impact**

**Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected**

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

**Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?**

**Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.**



**Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to:** eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

**Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?**

### **Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY**

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

**Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?**

**Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.**

**Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings?** Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

**Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.**

**Low and/or No Wealth** (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.

### **Impact**

**Material Deprivation** (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

**Impact**

**Area Deprivation** (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport)).

**Impact**

**Socio-economic Background** i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

**Impact**

**Other** – please indicate

**Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.**

**Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?**

**Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?**

**Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation.** Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Audrey Michie, Service Leader Vibrant Communities

Reviewed by:

Approved by: Alison Smith, Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.

---