

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	City Growth and Resources
<b>DATE</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
<b>EXEMPT</b>	Appendix only. Estimated Expenditure on contracts as per paragraph 8
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Place Based Investment Programme
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	COM/21/176
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Gale Beattie
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Richard Sweetnam
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Stuart Bews
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1.7

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the grant allocated to Aberdeen City Council from the Place Based Investment Programme Fund, and to seek instruction to allocate a proportion of the funds in line with the conditions accepted.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Agrees to allocate up to £430,000 to the Union Terrace Gardens Play Park Proposal and delegates authority to the Chief Officer - Capital, following consultation with the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services, to consider and approve a procurement business case for the project for the purposes of Procurement Regulation 4.1.1.2; and thereafter to procure appropriate works and services, and enter into any contracts necessary for the project.
- 2.2 Instructs the Chief Officer – City Growth to bring a report to the next Committee with details of other projects that could draw down the remaining Place Based Investment Programme funding.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The 2020-21 Programme for Government announced the creation of a Place Based Investment Programme Fund with £275million of capital funding to support community led regeneration, town centre revitalisation, community wealth building and 20 minute neighbourhoods (neighbourhood location where people can access most of their basic needs within a 20-minute walk.) It is a multi-annual capital fund with the Scottish Government distributing £38 million this financial year to local government, of which £975,000 was allocated to Aberdeen City Council.

- 3.2 The main objectives of the Place Based Investment Programme Fund are:
- to link and align place-based initiatives and establish a coherent local framework to implement the Place Principle;
  - to support place policy ambitions such as town centre revitalisation, community led regeneration, 20 minute neighbourhoods and Community Wealth Building;
  - to ensure that all place-based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities;
  - to accelerate ambitions for netzero, wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage, community involvement and ownership.
- 3.3 The Place Based Investment Programme Fund has been launched following the closure of the Scottish Government Town Centre Fund, however the focus within this fund is targeted at the Place Principle. The Place Principle was adopted by Scottish Government and COSLA as a basis for collaborative working to ensure that future local investment is relevant to local communities and for the benefit of local people. Bringing relevant services, enterprise, and communities together to make our towns and neighbourhoods more viable. The Place Based Investment Programme, alongside the developing Place Framework, aim to embed the Place Principle.
- 3.4 Under the five year Programme Councils will receive an annual share of the fund of the following values: £38m in 2021/22, £33m in 2022/23, £23m in 2023/24, £23m in 2024/25 and £23m in 2025/26
- 3.5 This report also seeks the instruction of Committee to bring a future report on other projects that could be eligible for funding under the Programme. Officers will continue working with these projects to develop applications for the current and/ or future rounds.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council has been allocated £975,000 in 2021/22. It is proposed that up to £430,000 be allocated for the Union Terrace Gardens Play Park Project and a report comes back to this Committee in November with options to allocate the remaining £545,000.
- 4.2 The full £975,000 must be committed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and this is considered to be a commitment of expenditure which can be evidenced by a fully awarded contract or commencement of works. The eligible costs for which the grant can be used are capital costs incurred by the local authority or third parties which are in line with the main objectives of the fund. These costs must be additional to that which is already or would otherwise be allocated to the 2021/22 budget. The Programme is therefore not a substitute for existing or committed spend.

4.3 It is essential that the projects comply with the set requirements to avoid issues around eligibility and repayment of grant to Scottish Government if conditions are not complied with.

4.4 Any funds which remain uncommitted at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 will be expected to be returned to the Scottish Government.

## 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

## 6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	Strategic risks will be monitored by the External Funding Team	L	
<b>Compliance</b>	Risks around compliance will be a monitored by the External Funding Team	L	
<b>Operational</b>	Operational risks will be a monitored by the External Funding Team	L	
<b>Financial</b>	As per the grant conditions the money must be committed by the end of Financial Year 2021/22  Any unspent, or unallocated funds will require to be returned to Scottish Government  Covid – Any future lockdowns may cause delays to delivery. Failure to deliver within agreed timescales would result in non-compliance and loss of funds.	M	Projects benefiting from the fund will have undertaken measures which will take into account the delivery timescales of the project.  Close project monitoring will take place throughout to ensure these timescales will be met.
<b>Reputational</b>	Risk of reputational damage if funds are not spent in accordance to the grant conditions	L	Officers will work with projects to ensure proposals and applications meet the conditions of grant
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	No risks identified		None

## 7. OUTCOMES

<u><b>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</b></u>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b>	The proposal to allocate funds to the play park at Union Terrace Gardens supports the policy statement to “increase city centre footfall through delivery of the City Centre masterplan, including the redesigned Union Terrace Gardens.”
<b>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</b>	
Prosperous Economy Stretches Outcomes	The report would have had minimal impact on the stretch outcomes and the recommendations will have no negative impact.
Prosperous People Stretches Outcomes	The report would have had minimal impact on the stretch outcomes and the recommendations will have no negative impact.
Prosperous Place Stretches Outcomes	The report would have had minimal impact on the stretch outcomes and the recommendations will have no negative impact.
<b>City Centre Masterplan</b>	
Objective - A living city for everyone	The recommendation would enable delivery of an outdoor play park within Union Terrace Gardens. The objective highlights the importance of parks to creating a liveable environment.
<b>Regional and City Strategies</b>	The report would not have further contributed to the delivery of regional and city strategies; thus the recommendations have no negative impact on these.

## 8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
<b>Impact Assessment</b>	not required
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	not required

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable.

## 10. APPENDICES

Union Terrace Garden - Play Park proposal.

## 11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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