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Place Based Investment Programme - Direct Grants to Local Authorities

Interim Report for Funding Allocated in 2022-23



Scottish Government
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Executive Summary

This report presents the findings from an evaluation of the second year (April 2022 to March 2023) of the Place Based Investment Programme - Direct Grants to Local Authorities (the Programme). To support the evaluation a framework, containing both quantitative and qualitative measures, has been developed based on the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes. Over the course of the five-year programme an iterative approach to evaluation is being adopted and there will be ongoing engagement with key stakeholders. In the coming year it is intended to focus on supporting improved reporting on the outcomes to which Programme investment contributes.

There is evidence that the Programme continues to offer additionality by playing a critical role both in acting as a catalyst to attract additional funding, and also in enhancing, or improving, existing projects for which funding had already been secured.

The ability to use the funding, albeit within defined parameters, in a flexible way, to address local needs and priorities remains as one of the key strengths of the Programme identified by local authorities.

In around three quarters of projects there has been a degree of community involvement. The nature of involvement varies and would appear to be linked to the way Programme funding is distributed and the type and size of project. Several local authorities highlighted the advantages of using the funding to engage with communities and the wider additional benefits that this provides.

In relation to climate change mitigation, whilst the majority of projects include an element of improving energy efficiency, increasingly the focus is on active travel or reducing the need to travel by increasing the availability and accessibility of local services.

Creating jobs in both the short term, during the construction phase, and the longer term, through support for local services and businesses, remains the most frequently reported contribution the funding makes to supporting economic growth.

In comparison with last year, there is increased evidence that addressing inequalities has been considered. The most frequently reported way projects have addressed inequality relates to improving physical access to buildings. However, there are indications that projects addressing health inequalities and others which support initiatives to address economic inequality are also being delivered.

Purpose

The aim of this interim report is to provide an overview of the Place Based Investment Programme - Direct Grants to Local Authorities (the Programme) for the financial year 2022-23.

It is based on information provided by local authorities in relation to the type of the activities that were funded, either in whole or part, and the impact to which they have contributed.

Process

The Place and Wellbeing Outcomes¹ were used as the basis from which to develop an evaluation framework, and the themes and outcomes it contains have been applied to identify both quantitative and qualitative measures.

Following the annual report which was published 2023, a review session was held which all local authorities were offered the opportunity to attend. As a result, adjustments were made to the reporting procedures. A new simplified reporting process was provided for projects/activities that were less than £10,000. In addition, an interim reporting template was made available for projects spanning several financial years. This focussed on capturing the key benefits. Adjusting the reporting process would appear to have been successful in that, unlike in the previous year in which six local authorities did not return any data, this year responses were received from all. Whilst all local authorities provided information both the quality and quantity of what was shared varied considerably from one to another.

However, given that over 90% of local authorities, covering urban and rural areas, returned 75% of the data requested, there can be a degree of confidence that the conclusions that have been drawn are representative.

The approach to evaluation is reviewed annually with local authorities and Scottish Government and it may be that further minor revisions will be required.

This report contains case studies from individual local authorities that illustrate the wide range of approaches to allocating and applying the funding to best meet local needs and priorities. In the course of the evaluation period, it is intended to engage with all local authorities so that by the end of the Programme each will have been offered the opportunity to develop a case study which will feature in the interim annual report.

¹ <https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/products-and-services/consultancy-and-support/planning-for-place-programme/place-and-wellbeing-outcomes>

Findings

In 2022-23, information was received in relation to 231 of the projects that were funded by the Programme. This represents an increase of 45 from the 186 for which returns were made in 2021-22. This increase is likely to be as a result of the higher number of returns that were received.

The projects funded and delivered were very diverse

Once again, there are wide variations in the level of investment from the Programme allocated to individual projects. The largest was the Granton Gas Holder project in Edinburgh, with a total project cost of £20.8million, and the smallest was a contribution of £4,000 to the Larkhall Leisure Centre development in South Lanarkshire. This ability to use the funding, albeit within broadly defined parameters, in a flexible way to address local needs and priorities continues to be viewed by local authority representatives as one of the strengths of the Programme.

In terms of the drivers or tools used to plan projects ‘Developmental Possibilities for Community’ remained, by some margin, the most commonly referenced approach.

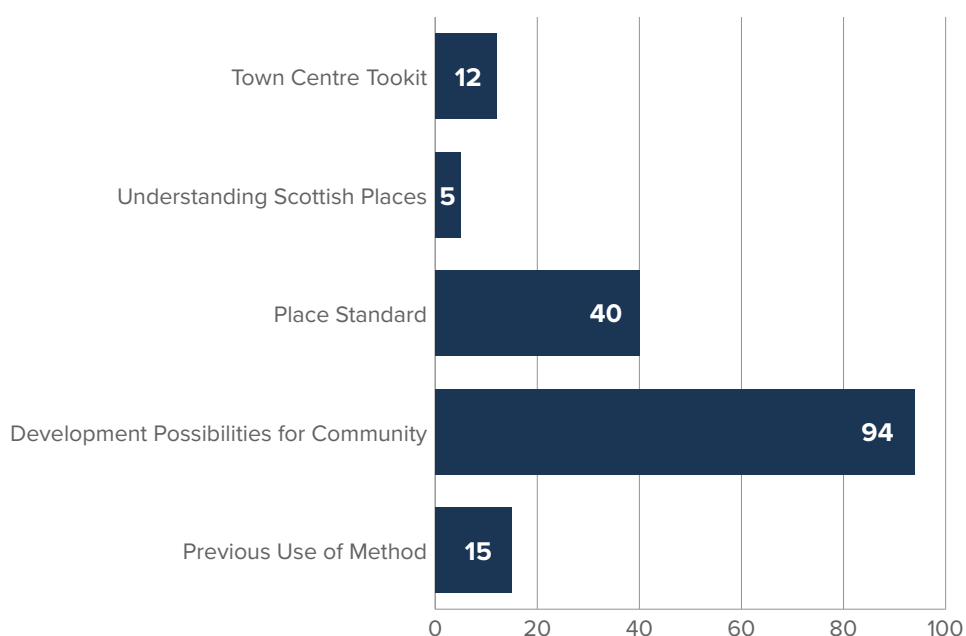


Figure One. Tool used to plan projects

Funding was used to provide additionality

The Programme was used to deliver projects that would not otherwise have proceeded or to enhance or improve existing projects that had secured funding.

Several local authorities stated that the funding had allowed them to deliver projects for which funding had not been identified. In many cases the type of project that was supported in this way was neighbourhood or community based. Often the potential project had been identified as a need by local groups, but it had not been possible to source funding. Without access to Programme investment, these projects would either have been delayed or would not have proceeded.

An example of this is illustrated by the approach taken in Clackmannanshire Council in relation to the provision of pump tracks, as it “allows things that are nice to have, but not likely to otherwise receive funding to go ahead and reach completion”.

Several local authorities stated that access to the funding had enabled improvements to be made to existing projects. Whilst the additions may have been relatively minor, they were perceived as ensuring that projects were better able to meet local needs and priorities and generally improved the quality of what could be provided.

In discussions with local authorities there was consensus that Programme funding is vital in getting projects completed entirely instead of the work being restricted and limited through lack of funding.

As in previous years the funding was used to address shortfalls and gaps that might otherwise have halted or delayed work. It appears to offer a vital bridge to funding shortfalls that can arise for an array of reasons - most commonly as a result of inflationary price increases and supply chain pressures. These could not have been foreseen when the project was planned

Funding was used as a catalyst to lever in other investment

Several authorities confirmed that they continued to use Programme funding as a catalyst to attract other sources of investment and also to link with other Scottish Government capital funds. This is especially true of larger multi year projects to improve the built environment. Projects with multiple funding streams included: transforming vacant town centres; turning office and industrial buildings into affordable social housing or retail units, and the revitalisation of town centres. Whilst many councils developed funding agreements with local organisations based in their areas, the most frequently referenced national funding sources were the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, Scottish Land Fund and Shared UK Prosperity Fund.

This is illustrated by the Tobermory seawall and railings project delivered over several years by Argyll and Bute Council, “using more than one fund enables projects as a whole, not just elements of them”.

Levels of community engagement have not increased and appear to remain higher in rural areas

As was reported last year, in around a third of projects community organisations are specified as delivery partners. The level of community engagement varies considerably and ranges from consultation activities to identify potential projects to actual project delivery. There appears to be a relationship between how the council decided to allocate the funding and the level of community engagement. If a grant scheme is used then community organisations are more likely to be involved as delivery partners, whilst if the funding is used to support projects that have already been agreed, then involvement is more likely to have been based on historic engagement events.

The type of project funded is also relevant. There is generally a high level of community engagement with the redevelopment of vacant or underutilised sites when the development is linked to or benefits a specific organisation or group.

Engagement of communities in developing feasibility projects for future investment strategies relating to community green/growing space projects were also regularly reported.

Community involvement generally remains higher in rural areas. This may be because the number of projects funded in rural locations tends to be greater than in urban areas which appear to be more likely to focus on large scale projects.

Projects sought to tackle climate change mitigation through measures to reduce energy conservation and support sustainable travelling

Although the most commonly reported contributions to climate change mitigation related to improving energy efficiency, actions linked to reducing the impact of travel were also frequently reported. These took the form of reducing the need to travel by supporting the provision of local services or supporting and encouraging active travel. Examples were also provided of promoting recycling in the widest possible sense and utilising the embedded carbon in old buildings for future use. The responses received are illustrated in Figure Two.

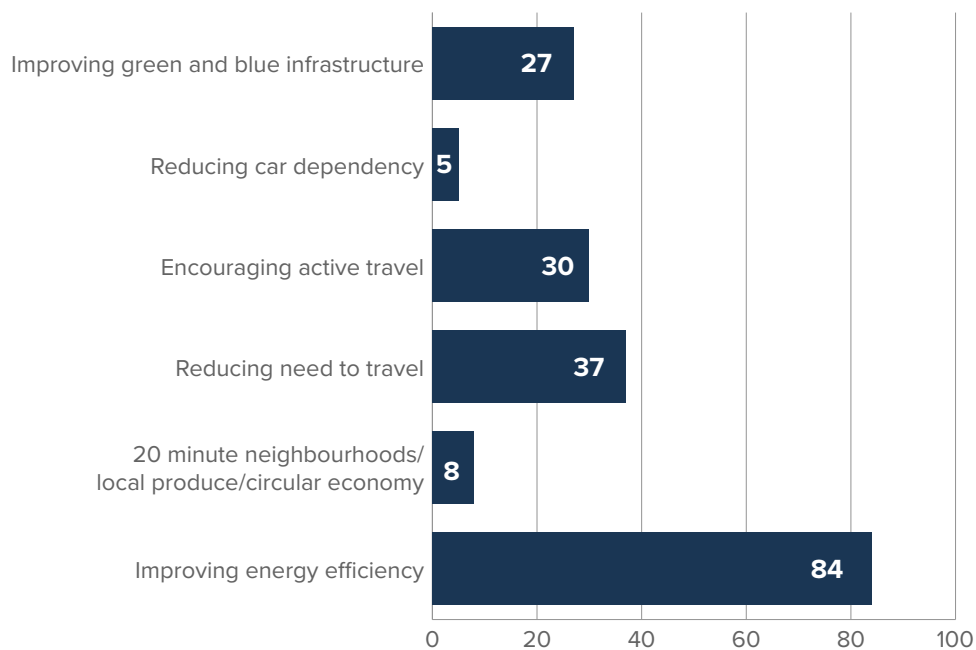


Figure Two. Contribution to climate change mitigation by number of projects

Some examples of the ways projects have contributed to climate change mitigation are set out below.

Business & Re-Use Hub, Killin (Stirling)

Stirling Council turned a former supermarket in Killin into a local business and re-use hub.

“We anticipate a legacy which reflects behaviour change and a wider culture change across the region. Building on the existing thrift shop and the work of ‘RecyKillin’, we will create a culture of people aiming for net zero. The project will attract attendees and customers from outwith the area, creating Killin as a destination place based on its commitment to net zero and the environment. ‘Remakery’ contributes to the decarbonisation of our local economy. By working to ensure that products are used by households for their full useful lifetime, will not only divert waste from landfill but will also prevent manufactured replacement.”

Clydebank Activity Centre, Clydebank (West Dunbartonshire)

West Dunbartonshire Council developed a canal side activity centre in Clydebank which delivers various bike related activities and classes.

“The Activity Centre will provide guided bike rides as well as bike maintenance classes and bike hire. It will focus on the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and encourage active travel for local journeys.”

Town Centre Living Pilot, Irvine (North Ayrshire)

North Ayrshire Council have redeveloped a disused town centre office block with a focus on energy efficiency. Funding was used to pay for initial consultation fees.

“Developed to achieve ‘Passivhaus’ certification, which is the gold standard for energy efficiency in homes.”

Port of Entry Development, Lochboisdale (Na h-Eileanan Siar)

Improving the travel facilities at Lochboisdale port.

“To integrate active travel with public transport and ensure that delivery of walking, cycling and wheeling is promoted and supported”.

Economic growth was promoted through job creation and encouraging increased use of public spaces

As reported last year, there is continued evidence of the ways projects are supporting economic growth by creating jobs directly in the delivery phase and in the longer term through additional employment opportunities in local businesses and organisations. Yet again this was the most frequently reported contribution to economic growth.

Other projects that were likely to support economic growth were based on general improvements to shopfronts and the public realm in retail districts. This was based on the premise that if an area was more attractive then there would be increased visitor numbers who would be likely to spend longer in the area resulting in increased consumer spending in the local economy. There were 15 projects of this type accounting for a total investment of just over £3million.

The responses received are illustrated in Figure Three.

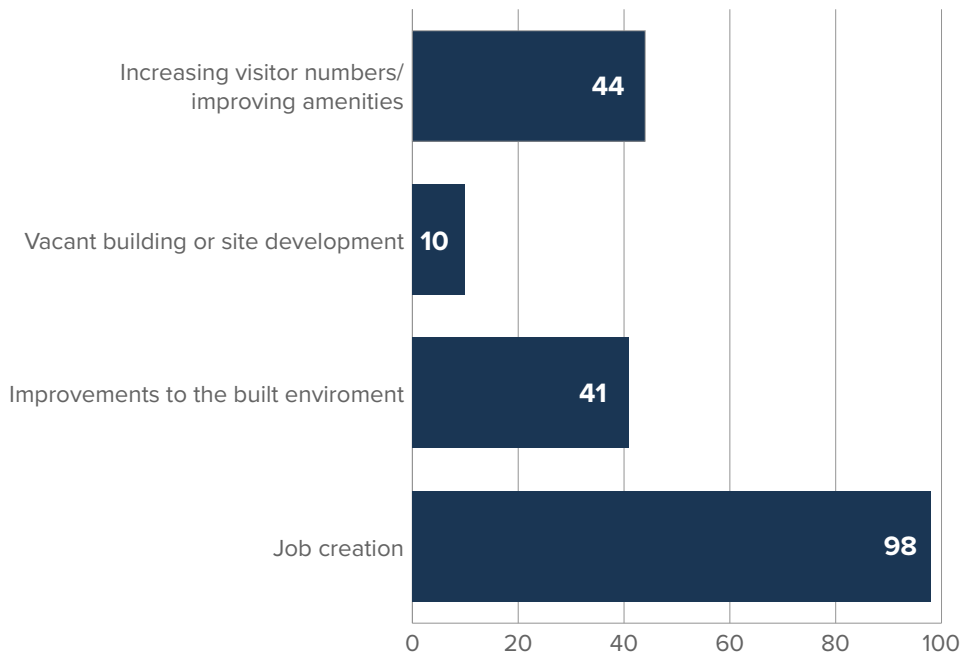


Figure Three: Contribution to economic growth

Some examples of the ways projects have contributed to economic growth are set out below.

Buckie Harbour Development, Buckie (Moray)

Moray Council purchased a property at Buckie harbour that will be developed to support an offshore wind farm.

“Well placed to support the offshore wind industry and attract supply chain business that can include parts supply, vessel support, diving, lubricants, training etc which will create employment opportunities. Ocean Wind is the developer for the Moray West offshore wind farm and have chosen Buckie harbour as their location for their O&M operations, which are anticipated to start in 2024/25 and last a minimum of 25 years.”

E-Commerce App “Lokali”, Inverurie+ (Aberdeenshire)

A localised e-commerce app has been produced to increase awareness of local small businesses and the products they offer.

“Post Covid, more consumers want to support local but retain the convenience of online purchasing. This project addresses both. It will provide a free - and thereafter cost-effective means for smaller businesses to have an online presence where otherwise they might not have the time or money to maintain a dedicated site. It will lead to a more resilient high street economy that benefits from footfall and online trading opportunities.”

Gasholder Development, Granton (City of Edinburgh)

Part of a large-scale project to redevelop the site and surroundings of the long disused Granton Gasholder. This includes the creation of a green space as well as new retail and work facilities.

“Acts as a catalyst to the wider regeneration by allowing the sites around the gasholder to be built out. The wider regeneration will support local inclusive growth through jobs created through the 15-year construction period along with permanent jobs supported through creation of commercial, leisure and retail space.”

Events Infrastructure, Dundee (Dundee City)

The council has improved infrastructure to safely host large public events.

“Ensuring more large-scale events can be put on attracting people to the city and supporting local people.”

Local authorities took different approaches to addressing inequalities

Whilst improving accessibility for individuals who may experience physical challenges remains the most common approach to addressing inequality, there has been a greater focus this year on how wider inequalities could be addressed. Programme funding has been used to address health inequalities by supporting initiatives to tackle mental health and reduce social isolation. A contribution has

been made to tackling poverty by increasing the services available in areas of deprivation and encouraging the development of access to services/attractions that are free or are low cost. In this second interim evaluation, there is increased evidence that addressing inequalities is an increasingly important factor in determining how Programme funding should be used.

The responses received are illustrated in Figure Four.

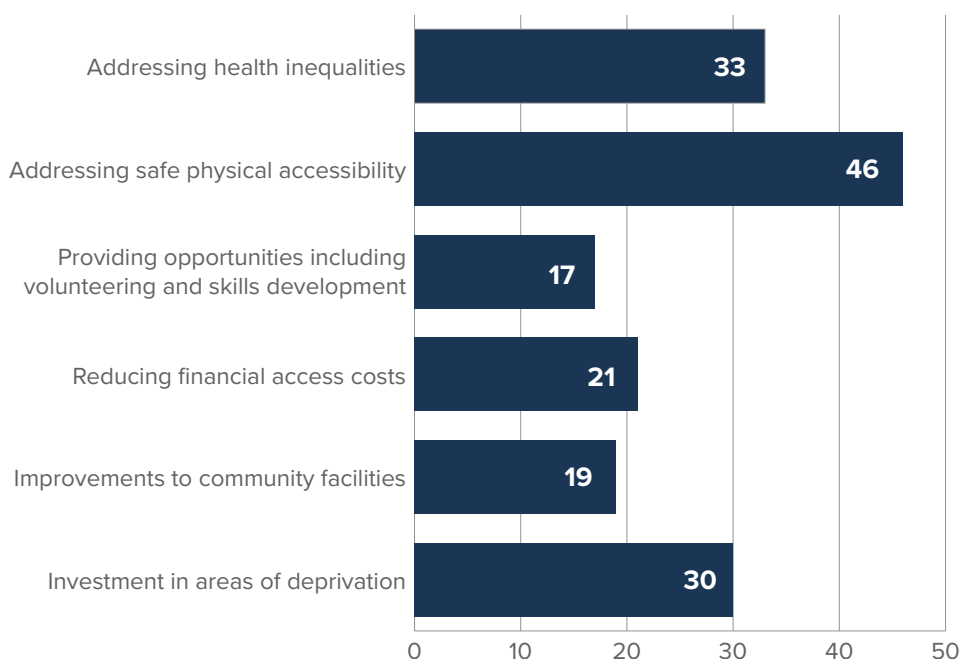


Figure Four: Contribution to addressing inequalities

Some examples of the ways projects have contributed to addressing inequalities are set out below.

Ropemakers Close, Perth (Perth & Kinross)

Funding was used to transform a disused city centre public toilet into an activity centre for individuals who have experienced mental health issues.

“It offers a reason for people with mental health issues to get out of bed and increases their sense of ownership and belonging.”

Sculpture House, Paisley (Renfrewshire)

A vacant council property was renovated and transformed into artist studios and community workspaces to improve wider community access to arts.

“An inclusive community space in one of Scotland’s most deprived areas, provides local residents access to creative opportunities and learning.”

Level Station Placemaking, Leven (Fife)

Improving connectivity of the new Leven railway station to the rest of the town.

“Improving access to public transport which in turn will encourage and assist residents of Levenmouth to access education and employment opportunities. 30% of residents in Levenmouth do not have access to a car and so are severely limited as to how they can access education and employment opportunities.”

Community Astroturf Project, Arbroath (Angus)

Provision of a 3G astroturf pitch for Arbroath and surrounding communities.

“Provided a range of free activity during term-time and the holidays primarily targeted at children and families in areas of deprivation. This has helped reduce barriers to sport and physical activity participation.”

Caveats

As has already been highlighted, the information returned by local authorities varied considerably and as a result, in some instances, a detailed analysis was not possible. If insufficient or incomplete data was provided, then this was excluded from the analysis. This is not likely to have skewed the findings as those local authorities that did provide more robust information are representative of the larger cohort.

It should be noted that to display the results in a meaningful way it has been necessary to categorise the elements supported by projects. The categories

chosen were based on those most frequently used. However, for some projects more than one category could have been applied. To avoid double counting the most appropriate category was selected- however there was a degree of subjectivity in the selection made. For example, East Ayrshire's 'KSRHT' project involved the refurbishment of a vacant room in Kilmarnock Railway Station for use as a counselling space with residents being entitled to six free therapy sessions.

Potentially this could be categorised as 'addressing health inequalities' or 'reducing financial access costs'. Given the primary purpose of the service is addressing mental health issues it was considered it fitted best into the category related to reducing health inequalities.

Conclusions

This second overview report considers the impacts to which Programme funding in 2022-2023 has contributed. There are, perhaps not surprisingly, some similarities with the findings reported in relation to the results of the investment in 2021- 2022.

The Programme continues to play an important role in attracting additional funding from both national and local funding sources. It offers additionality by supporting the delivery of projects that would not otherwise have proceeded or enhancing and improving existing projects for which funding has already been identified.

In relation to climate change mitigation, there continues to be evidence of the effectiveness of activities in terms of improving energy efficiencies. There has been an increased focus on reducing the adverse impacts associated with travel by encouraging active travel and increasing the availability of locally based services and attractions.

Economic outcomes continue to be supported through direct job creation and improvements to the public realm that support the development of new and the continuation of existing local businesses.

Whilst community involvement in both determining funding priorities and delivering projects has been reported, the extent to which this appears to take place remains at similar levels as in the previous year. The overview report in 2023-2024 will seek to explore in more detail the factors that underpin community involvement. This will include identifying how the fund is applied or disseminated – acknowledging that this is done by local authorities in the way that best meets individual priorities.

There is a greater focus on addressing inequality. As well as supporting projects improving physical accessibility, increased numbers of projects that contribute to reducing health, social, and economic inequalities have been funded.

In the coming year additional support will be provided to local authorities so that they are better able to report on the outcomes to which the Programme investment contributes and the impact it helps create.

Whilst welcoming and appreciating the flexibility offered and five-year commitment from Programme funding, local authorities continue to express some concerns about the ongoing revenue implications that may arise and the variations in the amount of individual annual awards.

Appendix One Case Studies

Aberdeen City Council

Key Learning Point:

Active travel can be promoted in a variety of creative and innovative ways – for example through the use of public art installations.

Aberdeen City Council determine how to allocate Programme funding by making an open call for applications.

Applications are submitted using an online portal via the council's website and accompanying guidance notes are provided. Applications are scored using the following criteria: community involvement, inequality, climate change mitigation, and links to other local policies. Where necessary, further clarification is sought. Each element is given a score out of 10, but most projects tend to focus on addressing a specific area e.g. reducing inequality.

The Council highlighted that their larger-scale projects often involve partnership working. This is often a requirement to enable such projects to go ahead. Smaller scale projects, such as the installation public artwork at the Tillydrone Gateway, involve considerable community consultation and engagement.

The Council have used creative ways to encourage active travel by erecting sculptures on cycle and foot paths. In terms of economic benefits, the Council highlighted that many of their projects related to regeneration work and improving public attractions to draw in more visitors and encourage tourism. Examples of this are increasing the accessibility of the City Art Gallery and the Tollbooth Museum. Projects, such as 'The Hub' offer local residents the opportunity to learn new skills and increase their employment prospects.

Summary of Projects Funded

Name	Aberdeen Art Gallery Auto-Opening Doors
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution: £45k Total: £55k
Funding: Sources	Other Local Authority Sources
Partnerships	Nucore, Record Doors
Tools Used	N/A
Result	Improving the access to the building following customer feedback by installing auto opening doors
Contribution to Climate Change	N/A
Support for local economy	Drives city centre footfall
Addressing Inequality	Specifically addresses access

Name	Castlegate Arts Access Improvements
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £75k Total: £95k
Funding: Sources	Castlegate Arts Ltd
Partnerships	Aberdeen Arts Centre, David Chouman Architect
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Improving access using lifts in Castlegate Arts Centre
Contribution to Climate Change	N/A
Support for local economy	Increase revenue by providing another space for hire along with being able to support local professionals with office space
Addressing Inequality	Improved access for individuals with mobility issues

Name	Tillydrone Gateway Feature
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £69k Total: £69k
Funding: Sources	All PBIP
Partnerships	Donside Village Community SCIO
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	A second piece of public art to act as a gateway feature to the community of Tillydrone
Contribution to Climate Change	Encouraging active travel
Support for local economy	N/A
Addressing Inequality	Raises the profile of a deprived area in a positive way and encourages civic pride

Name	Restoration of Historic Water Tower
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £50k Total: £215k
Funding: Sources	Railway Heritage Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Pilgrim Trust, FCC
Partnerships	Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust
Tools Used	Previous use of method
Result	Restoration of Historic Office Buildings and Water Tower
Contribution to Climate Change	Improving green and blue infrastructure
Support for local economy	Additional museum attraction to visitors of Aberdeen
Addressing Inequality	Improved access

Name	Fersands Nursery Garden Improvements
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £33k Total: £98k
Funding: Sources	Fersands Fountain SCIO
Partnerships	Fersands and Fountain SCIO, Fersands Family Centre, Tinto Architecture
Tools Used	Developmental possibilities for community
Result	Improvements to nursery garden to increase learning opportunities for vulnerable children
Contribution to Climate Change	Use of recycled materials to minimise environmental impact
Support for local economy	Improved childcare supporting parent's ability to continue working
Addressing Inequality	N/A

Name	Greyhope Bay Renewable Power
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £44k Total: £44k
Funding: Sources	All PBIP
Partnerships	JCE Energy
Tools Used	Place standard
Result	Increasing renewable energy to the Greyhope Bay Centre
Contribution to Climate Change	Improving energy efficiencies
Support for local economy	Improves visitor facilities and supports local renewable energy business
Addressing Inequality	N/A

Name	Quarry Centre Play Area Refurbishment
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £50k Total: £50k
Funding: Sources	All PBIP
Partnerships	N/A
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Replacement of unfit play area
Contribution to Climate Change	Reducing the need to travel
Support for local economy	N/A
Addressing Inequality	Additional investment into an SIMD designated area

Name	West End Peace Garden Project
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £11k Total: £41k
Funding: Sources	SEC Recovery & Renewal, Donations, AllChurches, Dunderdale
Partnerships	Church Vestry, David Chouman Architect, Church Congregation, LCE Construction
Tools Used	Developmental possibilities for community
Result	Church garden revitalisation to encourage wider community use
Contribution to Climate Change	I Encouraging active travel by making local neighbourhoods more appealing for walking
Support for local economy	
Addressing Inequality	Providing facilities for young carers

Name	Hub Upgrade
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £9k Total: £20k
Funding: Sources	Mollison Fund, National Lottery
Partnerships	Zero Waste Scotland
Tools Used	Previous use of method
Result	Upgrading premises to be more user and environmentally friendly as well as more accessible
Contribution to Climate Change	Improving energy efficiencies
Support for local economy	Space available for rental bringing more people into the local area and economy
Addressing Inequality	Ensuring the facilities are more accessible and safer for all

Name	The Bridge Centre Torry
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £87k Total: £223k
Funding: Sources	Other Local Authority Sources, Rank Foundation, Crombie Trust, Bethany Christian Trust, Robertsons Trust, Milne Foundation, Trade Widows, Police Scotland
Partnerships	King's Community Foundation
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Project to refurbish The Bridge Centre to create a sustainable and accessible community centre in Torry
Contribution to Climate Change	Improving energy efficiencies
Support for local economy	Provision of cooking classes and other skills-based classes to upskill members of the local community
Addressing Inequality	Provides opportunities in the community, building also made fully accessible

Name	Tollbooth Museum External Improvements and Repairs
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £345k Total: £1.35million
Funding: Sources	UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Other Local Authority Sources
Partnerships	HES
Tools Used	N/A
Result	Tollbooth museum closed since the pandemic due to a large crack in an internal archway considered a potential risk to health and safety. Other repairs required to external areas such as roofing, stonework, parapets and pointing, all needing to be addressed before reopening
Contribution to Climate Change	
Support for local economy	Re-opening would drive city centre footfall
Addressing Inequality	N/A

Argyll & Bute Council

Key Learning Points:

A 'pipeline' of approved projects has been drawn up which can be delivered when funding becomes available.

The council have used funding to support job creation which will also encourage population retention in rural and island communities.

Investment is aligned with community needs, addressing inequalities, supporting community wealth building, and sustainability.

Argyll & Bute Council do not have an open grants programme but work with local communities to develop a 'pipeline' of projects. These are identified through active engagement with their communities and public sector partners and then considered and approved through the council's committee process. Projects progress to delivery as and when funding becomes available. This approach allows the council to manage potential demand and builds on established relationships with local communities and businesses.

The funding has been critical to the delivery of projects and, in a number of cases, to enable projects get over the line by making up final funding shortfalls. One example of this is the Port Ellen Community Hub project on Islay. The Islay Development Trust spent three years trying to bring this project forward following the identification of need for the facility. The project secured funding from Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF), Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) and private investment. However, following the tendering process, on the ground delivery was finally made possible with PBIP bridging the funding shortfall due to inflation, COVID and island related cost increases.

The Community Hub plays an important part in reducing isolation and increasing wellbeing, providing a space to meet and for skills development, training and employment.

It was stated that the Port Ellen project "would not have been able to get over the line without the PBI funding (...) PBI is instrumental in the delivery of these projects and offers wellbeing and wealth delivery in the community".

As highlighted, the council are able to use PBIP in conjunction with other funds (e.g. RCGF) to increase impact and ensure projects proceed. The funds are also used in conjunction with the resources that are available to other partners such as Highland and Island Enterprise (HIE).

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“The future plan is to use funding to create foundations for the community to develop and build on.”

Other projects were specifically highlighted because of their contribution to climate change mitigation. Phase one of the Tobermory seawall and railings project, for example, was initially funded through Town Centre Fund in 2020, with additional phases being added in subsequent years. The council stressed the big difference it has made in limiting the extent of flooding in Tobermory, with residents being able to access key facilities such as shops even during periods of potential flood. Prior to the investment, the sea wall had not been working as designed, which limited access to vital community services including ferries. This project also supports the sustainability of businesses and has improved the appearance and safety of Tobermory town centre. In other building regeneration projects supported by the PBIP, consideration has been given to improving energy efficiencies through measures such as internal glazing, shutter reinstatement, and general enhancements to the fabric of listed historic buildings.

Active Travel improvements have been delivered as part of the Helensburgh Pier development, with the addition of streetlights and pavement widening, and within the Aros Waterfront Development. The Aros Waterfront Development also contributes to economic development with the new facility creating jobs. Such job creation initiatives may also help population retention. A further project within the Lochgilphead Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme, which received support from the PBIP, also led to improvements in a local restaurant and shop which resulted in supporting and creating jobs.

In all the projects funded, the council seeks to ensure that investment is aligned with community needs, addressing inequalities, supporting community wealth building, and sustainability.

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“PBI has allowed us to make significant changes to the area that we wouldn't be able to achieve otherwise. It allows us to invest in aspects that are driven by communities but for which other funding sources may not be suitable. It enhances and improves places and makes a real and lasting difference.”

Summary of funded projects

Name	Aros Waterfront Development
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £140k Total: £914k
Funding: Sources	Islands Infrastructure Fund, HIE, Tobermory Harbour Association, RCGF
Partnerships	Tobermory Harbour Association, HIE
Tools Used	Developmental possibilities for community
Result	Repairs to the pier, new pontoon, new slipway, accessible walkways, redevelopment of the boathouse into an outdoor activity hub, including training room/meeting space, café kiosk, showers/toilets/ changing rooms/lockers and creation of storage compounds at waterfront area of Aros Park
Contribution to Climate Change	Includes electric water taxi, reducing the need for car use
Support for local economy	Hub for community and business activity, facilities for water-based businesses and also includes catering facility
Addressing Inequality	Wheelchair accessible

Name	Helensburgh Public Realm Improvements
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £113k Total: £345k
Funding: Sources	Crown Estates Funding
Partnerships	N/A
Tools Used	Previous use of method
Result	Overall improvements to the wider waterfront development
Contribution to Climate Change	Improving green and blue infrastructure
Support for local economy	Encourages more people into the town due to visual improvements
Addressing Inequality	Improved pedestrian safety from resurfacing and lighting investments

Name	CARS Priority Buildings
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £200k Total: £551k
Funding: Sources	HES, Building Owner Contributions, Other Local Authority Sources
Partnerships	ZM Architecture Limited, Local Building Contractor
Tools Used	Previous use of method
Result	Extensive repairs to the external fabric preventing water ingress and to safeguard the future of two historic town centre properties.
Contribution to Climate Change	Improving energy efficiencies
Support for local economy	Investment should lead to a restaurant and residential premises being brought back into use
Addressing Inequality	Rural isolated community, investment helps to combat issues felt by ageing population by improving the built environment

Name	Port Ellen Playing Fields and Community Hub
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £44k Total: £1.58million
Funding: Sources	RCGF, CARES, HIE, Glenmorangie, Rural Communities Ideas into Action, Investing in Communities
Partnerships	South Islay Development, HIE
Tools Used	Developmental possibilities for community
Result	Investment into the community owned playing fields including the provision of a community hub and motorhome camping facilities
Contribution to Climate Change	Improving energy efficiencies
Support for local economy	Brings together a multitude of functions and facility space and also provides accommodation income from the motorhome investment
Addressing Inequality	Investment into a rurally isolated SIMD designated area

Name	Rothesay Fountain
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £15k Total: £15k
Funding: Sources	All PBIP
Partnerships	Isle of Bute BID
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Community driven project to reinstate the Rothesay water fountain after being tuned off during the COVID-19 pandemic
Contribution to Climate Change	N/A
Support for local economy	Visually uplifts the town centre area of Rothesay promenade to increase footfall and support local businesses as a result
Addressing Inequality	Supports the health and wellbeing of the community

Name	Tobermory Harbour Wall and Railings Phase 2
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £200k Total: £450k
Funding: Sources	Islands Programme
Partnerships	Tobermory Harbour Association
Tools Used	Previous use of method
Result	Increasing the height of the sea wall to protect retail units whilst also replacing the railings
Contribution to Climate Change	Improving green and blue infrastructure
Support for local economy	Supports the sustainability of businesses by mitigating the damaging impact from storms
Addressing Inequality	Creates a safer environment for children and adults

Clackmannanshire Council

Key Learning Point:

The council see the wider benefits and development opportunities in supporting community groups to manage projects.

The council allocate PBIP funding to those initiatives that are most likely to support their strategic goals. The size of the authority means that it is possible to establish and maintain links with local community groups.

The council prefer to support a small number of larger projects that are likely to have the greatest impact in preference to multiple smaller projects that may contribute less to strategic priorities.

In the first year of funding, 2021-2022, the council used funding to support one project this has increased to four in 2022-2023. Three of the funded projects were managed by community groups, with the other being managed by the council on behalf of a community group.

Projects, such as pump tracks, contribute to climate change mitigation by encouraging active travel, exercise, and providing facilities in local neighbourhoods. Pump tracks have the potential to provide economic benefits by encouraging tourism.

It was suggested that the funding offered additionality and that it “allows things that are nice to have, but not likely to otherwise receive funding to go ahead and reach completion”.

The council believe that giving increased autonomy to local community groups to manage projects can “build relationships and give confidence going forward for increased independence. It builds capacity in communities for the future”.

Summary of projects

Name	MUGA Pitch Tullibody Civic Centre
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £170k Total: £170k
Funding: Sources	All PBIP
Partnerships	Tullibody Community Development Trust
Tools Used	Developmental Possibilities for Community
Result	Transforming disused bowling green into all-weather, multi-sport facility
Contribution to Climate Change	Reducing the need to travel
Support for local economy	New facility that the community can use to generate income/visitor attraction
Addressing Inequality	Facility provides opportunities for improving health and wellbeing in an area of multiple deprivation

Name	MUGA Pitch for Hawkhill Community Centre
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £149k Total: £149k
Funding: Sources	All PBIP
Partnerships	Hawkhill Community Association
Tools Used	Developmental Possibilities for Community
Result	Transforming underutilised and hard to access grass pitch into all-weather, multi-sport facility
Contribution to Climate Change	Reducing the need to travel
Support for local economy	New facility that the community can use to generate income/visitor attraction
Addressing Inequality	Facility provides opportunities for improving Health and wellbeing in an area of multiple deprivation

Name	Clackmannan Pump Track
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £140k Total: £140k
Funding: Sources	Previous years PBIP allocation, SportScotland
Partnerships	Clackmannan Development Trust, Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface and Clackmannan Community Council.
Tools Used	Developmental Possibilities for Community
Result	Building of pump track in Clackmannan
Contribution to Climate Change	Reducing the need to travel
Support for local economy	Potential visitor attraction
Addressing Inequality	New opportunities for youth and provision of a facility in an area of deprivation

Name	New Play Facilities, Wimpy Park, Alloa
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £45k Total: £45k
Funding: Sources	All PBIP
Partnerships	Wimpy Park Community Group
Tools Used	Developmental Possibilities for Community
Result	Development of walled garden in Alloa into playpark for children
Contribution to Climate Change	Improving Green and Blue Infrastructure
Support for local economy	Visitor attraction to the local area.
Addressing Inequality	Investment into an area of deprivation

North Lanarkshire Council

Key Learning Points:

The council have used learning from previous funds to develop a 'pipeline' of potential projects so that advance planning can take place.

To build on engagement levels consideration is being given to the inclusion of a participatory budgeting element in the capital programme.

Funding is linked to the delivery of 'Town Visions' which local communities have helped to develop.

The council develops a long list of potential projects before the start of each financial year. These can go ahead when funding is agreed. Providing a 'pipeline' in this way means that it is possible to plan ahead proactively, rather than reacting to funding announcements. This process was put in place as part of the learning from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Fund.

Improving economic outcomes and opportunities for all is a key priority and the Economic Regeneration Delivery Plan (ERDP) 2023-2028 which seeks to support the "ambition to make North Lanarkshire the place to live, learn, work, invest and visit."

The ERDP has four key themes:

- ▶ Developing housing that promotes improved quality of life and creates a better place to live
- ▶ Reshaping town centres to ensure they provide modern and attractive centres that meet the needs of communities
- ▶ Improving business and industrial infrastructure, creating opportunities for investment and for companies to start up or relocate
- ▶ Improve connectivity and develop new opportunities by transforming road, rail and digital infrastructure

There are eight recognised town centres in North Lanarkshire, and each has, a Town Vision providing an overall conceptual design of what the town centre could look like in the years ahead. This is supported by a Town Centre Action Plan which highlights specific short, medium and long-term projects to achieve the vision. These are not the same as Masterplans but focus on what the public, private, community and voluntary sectors can do to regenerate town centres over the next twenty-year period. These are being developed in phases.

The Town Visions were approved in 2020 with extensive consultation to develop and agree individual visions taking place in each town. Engagement took place both online and in person using public spaces - usually libraries. To engage as many individuals as possible anchor organisations are involved. In smaller communities it is easier to reach out and engage with individuals. To build on engagement consideration is being given to include a participatory budgeting element in the capital programme moving forward.

PBIP funding is often used to contribute to supporting the delivery of agreed projects that are part of Town Visions. In most instances it is not used for discrete projects but is aligned with other funding to deliver projects that are part of the Town Action Plan and which communities have been involved in developing. An example of this is the redevelopment of the former YMCA in Motherwell. The Grade B listed building was in a state of disrepair and had not attracted any interest from private developers. The Council took forward redevelopment with PBIP providing the funding for external fabric repairs focussing on the listed building elements. This has resulted in improvements to the local area and will provide 49 units for social housing. It has been suggested that civic pride in local assets has increased by carrying out projects such as this alongside improvements in the public realm.



“We want to make sure that projects have funding to proceed rather than ring fencing money that may not be spent.”

The funding may also be used to enhance existing projects - as happened with Springhill Community Hub. In this case it was possible to do further work to a new build community facility, particularly around the external environment and play facilities.

The projects funded have contributed to reducing inequality, for example by helping to provide social housing, and enhancing active travel/green routes which link deprived communities in peripheral areas into town centre services, educational, and employment opportunities.

Funding is being applied to help mitigate against climate change by encouraging, in a “friendly manner” the use of active travel. Actions taken involve including renewable technologies in building developments and increasing energy efficiency in restoration projects. Examples of this include providing electric vehicle charging points and using ground source heat pumps in industrial units. Funding is also contributing towards increasing the number of allotments, enabling residents to grow their own fruit and vegetables. This not only contributes towards people making healthier lifestyle choices, it can also help to alleviate cost of living pressures caused by rising food prices.

Funding will be used to support economic growth through contributing to the redevelopment of a small industrial estate on the edge of Motherwell Town Centre, Braidhurst Industrial

Estate. This will contain six refurbished units alongside ten new build start-up industrial units, two of which will be for community use.

As part of the development process at Braidhurst an open day was held with local schools and colleges to highlight the range of employment roles that are available within the construction and built environment sectors. By doing this, as well as raising awareness of future employment opportunities, it is hoped to develop a local ‘talent pipeline’ to meet future construction sector labour demand. Given the council’s ambition to improve local infrastructure there are likely to be increased employment opportunities locally.

The key benefit of PBIP is that “it offers flexibility and helps manage long project lead in times”. As a result of the funding the council are better placed to plan a five-year programme and, “achieve more with larger projects and create a bigger impact for the wider area.”

The only challenges are meeting the revenue costs that can be required to maintain the completed capital works and uncertainty about the future when the five-year programme comes to an end.

Summary of projects

Name	Bellshill Community Active Travel Hub
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £48k Total: £58k
Funding: Sources	Scotland Loves Local
Partnerships	Social Track
Tools Used	‘Other’
Result	Delivered a modular unit within the car park next to new cycling and nature-based leisure facilities at the Bellshill Gateway to Strathclyde Country Park. The facility has space for bike storage to assist a local social enterprise to deliver programmes at the new BMX pump track and mountain bike trails, a space meeting space and external canopy.
Contribution to Climate Change	Encouraging active travel
Support for local economy	Adjacent to existing and planned active travel routes linking to Motherwell and Bellshill town centres
Addressing Inequality	Improved access to active travel information, bikes, addressing transport poverty and access to transport inequalities

Name	Bellshill Gateway Phase 1
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £500k Total: £1.4million
Funding: Sources	SportScotland, Scotland Loves Local, Nature Recovery Fund, Smarter Choices Smarter Places
Partnerships	Social Track, Clydesdale Colts, Scottish Bike Trials, Shotts Healthy living, Residents of Bankhead Avenue, Motherwell Community Board, Bellshill Community Council
Tools Used	Developmental possibilities for community
Result	Create a new gateway to Strathclyde country Park centred around new cycle facilities
Contribution to Climate Change	Reducing the need to travel
Support for local economy	Revitalised the local area
Addressing Inequality	Facilities are free to access and targeted to communities suffering from multiple deprivation

Name	Learn to Ride (LTR)
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £140k Total: £220k
Funding: Sources	Other Local Authority Sources, Smarter Choices Smarter Places, Country Parks for the Future Capital Programme
Partnerships	Social Track, Clydesdale Colts, Scottish Bike Trials, Shotts Healthy living, Motherwell Community Board, Bellshill Community Council
Tools Used	Developmental possibilities for community
Result	Creation of specialist areas suitable for teaching people how to safely ride bikes using mini road layouts and other training aids
Contribution to Climate Change	Encouraging active travel
Support for local economy	Encouraging visits to the local area
Addressing Inequality	The facilities are free to use

Name	28 Hamilton Road
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £120k Total: £120k
Funding: Sources	All PBIP
Partnerships	North Lanarkshire Properties
Tools Used	Town Centre Toolkit
Result	Funding the redevelopment of a vacant commercial unit in Hamilton
Contribution to Climate Change	Reducing the need to travel
Support for local economy	Bringing more modern business premises to the town centre
Addressing Inequality	Unit will be fully accessible, allowing for use by all groups

Name	Braidhurst Industrial Estate
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £1.1million Total: £6.6million
Funding: Sources	RCGF, Other Local Authority Sources
Partnerships	North Lanarkshire Properties
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Regeneration of industrial estate as a demonstrator project. Will result in 10 new net zero units – two of which offered rent free to community service organisations to combat isolation. Refurbishment of six council owned outdated units, installing EV infrastructure and an overhaul of parking and footpath/cycle path provision.
Contribution to Climate Change	Improving energy efficiencies
Support for local economy	Project will directly create 822m2 new industrial space (bringing a 0.66ha vacant and derelict site back into use) and 27.6 new FTE jobs while supporting 16 PYE construction jobs. In refurbishing 760m2 of existing industrial space and improving the entire estate it will also help safeguard 80 existing jobs
Addressing Inequality	The project will create new businesses and job opportunities in an area of high employment and economic deprivation

Name	Brandon Street (Former YMCA)
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £274k Total: £2.06million
Funding: Sources	Other Local Authority Sources
Partnerships	N/A
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	External fabric repairs to listed town centre building in Motherwell. Purchased in 2020 in poor state of repair, NLC have achieved planning permission for conversion to 6 residential units - work commenced in Feb 23.
Contribution to Climate Change	Reducing the need to travel
Support for local economy	Increased spending on local goods and services resulting from more residents living in the town centre
Addressing Inequality	10% of new units are wheelchair accessible. Redeveloping and repopulating our town centres is a key priority as part of our Economic Regeneration Delivery Plan

Name	Masonic Hall Motherwell
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £105k Total: £105k
Funding: Sources	All PBIP
Partnerships	N/A
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	PBIP used to acquire a listed building in Motherwell Town Centre but is currently in a poor state of repair. Feasibility study undertaken in 2021 showed that it was possible to achieve a development of 15 flatted units that will provide high quality, energy efficient, housing for social rent. NLC are now undertaking a Mini Masterplan of north Motherwell which includes this site.
Contribution to Climate Change	Reducing the need to travel
Support for local economy	Economic impact assessment completed as part of the business case which will demonstrate demand for construction employees. Result will also create an increase in the amount of people living in the town centre
Addressing Inequality	10% of new units are wheelchair accessible. Redeveloping and repopulating our town centres is a priority part of Economic Regeneration Delivery Plan

Name	Motherwell Mini Masterplan
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £42k Total: £42k
Funding: Sources	All PBIP
Partnerships	N/A
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Mini masterplan of an area around the Railway Station looking at options to redevelop various areas for residential accommodation and how any redevelopment would tie into the Town Centre
Contribution to Climate Change	Reducing the need to travel
Support for local economy	Redevelopment project(s) as an outcome of the masterplan would provide benefits
Addressing Inequality	Will include the NLC requirement to build Housing for Varying Needs standards and ensure that 10% of any potential new units are wheelchair accessible

Name	Motherwell Station Active Travel Links
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £48k Total: £71k
Funding: Sources	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Partnerships	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Transport Scotland
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Preparation of detailed designs and tender information for an active travel route linking from Motherwell Rail Station to Braidhurst Industrial Estate and Motherwell town centre
Contribution to Climate Change	Encouraging active travel
Support for local economy	Improved accessibility and connectivity of employment locations by sustainable transport.
Addressing Inequality	addressing transport poverty and access to transport inequalities

Name	Motherwell Station Active Travel Links (Detailed Design and Tender Prep)
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £18k Total: £66k
Funding: Sources	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Partnerships	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Transport Scotland
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Preparation of detailed designs and tender information for an active travel route linking from Motherwell Rail Station to Braidhurst Industrial Estate and Motherwell town centre
Contribution to Climate Change	Encouraging active travel
Support for local economy	Improved accessibility and connectivity of employment locations by sustainable transport.
Addressing Inequality	addressing transport poverty and access to transport inequalities

Name	Ravensraig Active Travel Phase 1
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £870k Total: £1.82million
Funding: Sources	Other Local Authority Sources, Vacant and Derelict Land Fund, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Partnerships	Sustrans, North Lanarkshire Access Panel, Ravensraig Limited, Green Action Trust, Local Community Groups, Residents, Community Councils, Member Groups of Motherwell and Wishaw Community Boards, New College Lanarkshire, NatureScot, Scottish Water
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Construction of a foot and cycle path between Ravensraig and Craigneuk
Contribution to Climate Change	Encouraging active travel
Support for local economy	Infrastructure constructed supports economic growth putting Ravensraig, and its employment sites in easier reach of the local workforce, providing job opportunities for the neighbouring community of Craigneuk
Addressing Inequality	Provides improved and more equitable access to Ravensraig and the opportunities it provides at New College Lanarkshire, emerging employment zones, and to exercise and recreation

Name	Ravenscraig Active Travel Phase 2
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £350k Total: £1.4million
Funding: Sources	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Vacant and Derelict Land Fund
Partnerships	Sustrans, North Lanarkshire Access Panel, Ravenscraig Limited, Green Action Trust, Local Community Groups, Residents, Community Councils, Member Groups of Motherwell and Wishaw Community Boards, New College Lanarkshire, NatureScot, Scottish Water
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Construction of a foot and cycle path between Ravenscraig and Craigneuk
Contribution to Climate Change	Encouraging active travel
Support for local economy	Infrastructure constructed supports economic growth putting Ravenscraig, and its employment sites in easier reach of the local workforce, providing job opportunities for the neighbouring community of Craigneuk
Addressing Inequality	Provides improved and more equitable access Ravenscraig and the opportunities it provides at New College Lanarkshire, emerging employment zones, and to exercise and recreation

Name	Motherwell, Ravenscraig, and Belshill Active Travel Hubs Feasibility Study
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £29k Total: £29k
Funding: Sources	All PBIP
Partnerships	Forth Environmental Link
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Undertake a demand analysis and feasibility study into providing active travel hub facilities in Motherwell town centre, Ravenscraig, and Bellshill Gateway to Strathclyde Country Park.
Contribution to Climate Change	Encouraging active travel
Support for local economy	Improved accessibility and connectivity of employment locations by sustainable transport, increasing dwell time at businesses
Addressing Inequality	Addressing transport poverty and access to transport inequalities

Name	Cumbernauld Community Park Allotments
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £100k Total: £350k
Funding: Sources	Campsies
Partnerships	Airdriehead Allotment Group
Tools Used	Developmental possibilities for community
Result	Establishment of community allotments/gardens at this site and enable the productive re-use of this plot for community 'growing' space
Contribution to Climate Change	Local source of food
Support for local economy	Aids in reducing food poverty issues and enabling people to live healthier lives
Addressing Inequality	The allotment includes wheelchair accessible raised beds and wide tarmacked pavements to allow access to the whole site

Name	Hillrigg Community Allotments
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £100k Total: £506k
Funding: Sources	Other Local Authority Sources, Vacant and Derelict Land Fund
Partnerships	Hillrigg Allotment Association
Tools Used	Developmental possibilities for community
Result	Provide allotments/gardens at Hillrigg, near Airdrie and enable the productive re-use of this plot for community 'growing' space
Contribution to Climate Change	Local source of food
Support for local economy	Aids in reducing food poverty issues and enabling people to live healthier lives
Addressing Inequality	The allotment includes wheelchair accessible raised beds and wide tarmacked pavements to allow access to the whole site

Name	Kings House
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £259k Total: £859k
Funding: Sources	Other Local Authority Sources
Partnerships	New Supply, Legal Services
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Redeveloping a former office block in Wishaw town centre. Project aims to purchase this large site and redevelop the area into social housing
Contribution to Climate Change	Increasing opportunities to use public transport
Support for local economy	More residents within town centre location increasing access to local businesses and amenities
Addressing Inequality	Creation of low-cost social housing stock aimed at families with a low income and fully accessible property design for all disabilities

Name	Main Street Coatbridge
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £87k Total: £1.24million
Funding: Sources	Other Local Authority Sources
Partnerships	N/A
Tools Used	'Other'
Result	Part of a wider acquisition of 10 properties to redevelop an area of Coatbridge town centre to provide 46 residential units for social rent. The PBIP money has been used to purchase one of the ten properties required to make this redevelopment possible.
Contribution to Climate Change	Reducing the need to travel
Support for local economy	Construction of these units will support construction jobs and support the existing high street economy by increasing footfall
Addressing Inequality	Repopulating town centres is a key priority as part of the Economic Regeneration Delivery Plan in North Lanarkshire which ultimately aims to improve economic outcomes and opportunities for all

Name	Springhill Community Hub
Funding: Amount	PBIP Contribution £75k Total: £1.48million
Funding: Sources	Environmental Key Fund, RCGF, Other Local Authority Sources
Partnerships	Getting Better Together - Shotts
Tools Used	Developmental possibilities for community
Result	Creation of modern community hub situated within land previously owned by North Lanarkshire Council. Project will form part of a cohesive regeneration scheme seeing the renewal of the hall and the establishment of a bespoke facility to meet the needs of local people. It will also include the redevelopment of the surrounding community owned land to include sports, play, community growing and family areas that will provide a new focal point for community life and active participation within Springhill
Contribution to Climate Change	Improving energy efficiencies
Support for local economy	Creation of a permanent full-time position and 20 volunteering positions. Creation and support of construction jobs during the construction phase of the project
Addressing Inequality	Facilitation of learning opportunities, health and social care services, services for parents and children, better access to green spaces, arts and cultural activities, community food growing opportunities and services for older people

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