



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 30 JUNE 2021

SUBJECT: PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Council on the Place Based Investment Programme and recommend spend for 2021/22.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Council in terms of Section III A (2) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to long-term financial plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Council approve spend of this year's allocation for the Placed Based Investment Programme for the procurement and preparation of Buckie Harbour for offshore wind support business.**

3. PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The 2020 Programme for Government committed to establishing a Place-Based Investment Programme (PBIP), linking and aligning place-based funding initiatives. The aim of the PBIP is to ensure that all place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and accelerate ambitions for place, 20-minute neighbourhoods, town centre action, community led regeneration and community wealth building.
- 3.2 The Place Principle, which underpins this approach, was adopted by Scottish Government and COSLA as a basis for collaborative working to ensure that future local investment is relevant to local communities for the benefit of local people. Bringing relevant services, enterprise, and communities together to make our towns, villages, and neighbourhoods more viable. The PBIP alongside the developing Place Framework are designed to make the Place Principle real.
- 3.3 Local Government will receive a share of the funding over 5 years to support and advance place-based investment and build on the strong partnership currently existing through the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, which will also have its funding continued through the PBIP. Local Government will

receive a share of this capital funding, with £38m in 2021/22; £33m in 2022/23; £23 in 2023/24; £23m in 2024/25; and £23m in 2025/26.

- 3.4 The allocation for Moray for 2021/22 is £770k capital funding with an expectation that works will be delivered by 31 March 2022 or at least contracts let and work commenced.
- 3.5 The main objectives of the Place Based Investment Programme 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 our ambitions for net zero, wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage, community involvement and ownership.
- 3.6 It is expected that local authorities make investment decisions which will accelerate our ambitions for place, 20-minute neighbourhoods, town centre action, community led regeneration and community wealth building. The funding is also expected to contribute to net zero carbon, wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage, and community involvement and ownership, including the repurposing of buildings, maintenance and repairs, reallocating external space and community led land acquisition.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Buckie Central East was identified as a priority area within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and work with the community produced Buckie Central East Locality Plan 2019-2029.
<http://www.yourmoray.org.uk/downloads/file128000.pdf>
- 4.2 One of the actions from the locality plan is to work together to enable the community to access employment, volunteering and community activity opportunities.
- 4.3 The harbour area sits within Buckie Central East, there are a number of vacant or derelict properties on Commercial Road Buckie that diminish the character of the area and contribute to a perception of decline rather than an area where young people achieve their aspirations as articulated in the Locality Plan.
- 4.4 The Locality plan recognises that “the renewable sector is starting to attract more people from the area and there is a desire within the community that this be developed in the coming years to bring specialist training and employment opportunities”.

- 4.5 Ocean Winds the developer for the Moray West Offshore windfarm aim to secure a government Contract for Difference at the next auction round later this year or Q1 2022. This is a key milestone for the project. At the time of writing this report the Council is still in discussion about the role Buckie Harbour could have in supporting this development.
- 4.6 In addition to the two existing windfarms in the Moray Firth- Beatrice with operating capacity of 0.588GW, Moray East at 0.95GW capacity and 0.95GW planned for Moray West a further 5GW of offshore wind is expected to be licensed for development in the Moray Firth over the next decade and shore based development will be an essential part of delivery.
- 4.7 With the existing and increased development expected, Buckie is well placed to support this industry and attract supply chain business that can include parts supply, vessel support, diving, lubricants, training etc...
- 4.8 In order to provide for regeneration activity in Buckie Central East and support the action to create employment opportunity it is proposed to use the £770k for the purpose of procuring and preparing vacant and derelict sites or key properties on Commercial road and for associated harbour development that will facilitate the off shore wind development and its supply chain and training needs.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

Economic development is a key priority in the corporate plan and as a result of the pandemic the need for economic investment has grown considerably.

As a priority area within the LOIP Buckie Central East has produced a locality plan, creating job opportunities related to renewables is part of that plan.

(b) Policy and Legal

The proposal will meet the terms of the Place based investment programme as it community led regeneration through the Locality Plan produced for Buckie Central East, provides inclusive growth by creating employment opportunities in a priority area and contributes to net zero through provision for the renewables industry.

(c) Financial implications

The grant of £770k must be spent or committed with works started by March 2022.

(d) Risk Implications

The area needs regeneration and the purchase of vacant and derelict sites for redevelopment is the first step to achieve this. There will be

some risk around the purchase process as it is dependent on a willing seller.

(e) Staffing Implications

The programme for this work will be done within existing resources.

(f) Property

N/A

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

The funding is to address economic disadvantage and therefore should provide positive benefits.

(h) Consultations

The Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), the Legal Services Manager, the Head of Financial Services, Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer and the Equalities Officer have been consulted and comments received have been incorporated into the report.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 It is proposed to use the 2021/22 Place Based Investment Programme funding for the purpose of Harbour developments in Buckie Central East to provide for future offshore wind development and create employment opportunities through regeneration.

Author of Report: Jim Grant, Head of Economic Growth and Development

Background Papers: Documents on file in Economic Growth & Regeneration section.

Ref:

<http://spman.moray.gov.uk/MANComRepDraftSite/DevServLib/2021%2006%2030/Place%20Based%20Investment%20Programme.docx>