

Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund (NIIF) update noted.

3 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) providing an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund (NIIF) and governance arrangements, advising

- (1) that a report was submitted to Area Partnerships in August 2024 outlining the criteria of the NIIF and a process was agreed to ensure that all NIIF decisions were aligned to external audit requirements, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) that between May and July 2025, NRS had prepared detailed NIIF reports for each area partnership that included estimates for proposed NIIF ideas and spend to date, with estimated costs for NIIF ideas presented to the August/September 2025 meetings totalling £13,070,936.78 in estimates, that was more than half of the NIIF budget;
- (3) of a breakdown of spend and estimates that had been considered for approval at each area partnership, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (4) that NRS were currently formalising appropriate governance arrangements for the funding of murals through NIIF and were working closely with procurement colleagues to agree an approach for the delivery of murals; and
- (5) of the procurement legislation, continued management of the NIIF process and governance arrangements, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.

After consideration, the Partnership

- (a) noted the report;
- (b) expressed its disappointment with the length of time it had taken for NRS officers to cost works within the ward, particularly since the Partnership had made decisions in 2024 however no funds had been released to date;
- (c) highlighted its frustration that the report had not provided any costings to allow them to make meaningful decisions and that the appendix attached to the report detailed that 0% had been committed however estimated totals were £388,013.77; and
- (d) expressed its desire for murals within the ward and for more guidance to be provided for local communities to consider.