Item 10

31st January 2025

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Newlands/Auldburn Area Partnership

Report by Head of Policy and Corporate Governance

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Next stages for Community Engagement on the NIIF Programme

Purpose of Report:

This report provides the Area Partnership with an update on the next stages for community engagement on the NIIF Programme.

Recommendations:

The Area Partnership is asked to

Note:

a) the contents of the report;

Consider:

b) How the process of NIIF allocation should continue
c) How the partnership wishes to split the remainder of the £1m allocation
d) What support is required from the Communities Team

1. Current NIIF landscape

There is a mixed picture across Area Partnerships (APs) regarding allocations for the NIIF, understandable given the complexity and other challenges faced within the programme. Even within the initial pilot wards there are remaining funds to allocate. Each AP is different in terms of levels of engagement of community councils and other community representatives, particularly given some will have geographic areas of the ward with either no, or inactive, community councils. Even within those wards with good community council coverage, there are varying levels of participation and engagement outwith the regular cycle of AP meetings.

Whilst Community Councils are a key route to engaging communities, local community-based groups often have unique advantage in engaging communities. Their deep connections, trust and understanding of the local context allow them to assess specific needs effectively and foster meaningful participation.

A handful of APs have allocated nothing or virtually no funds and carried out limited community engagement – waiting for a version of the participatory budgeting (PB) process that was carried out in the pilots. Some have allocated more significant sums but have deliberately held some funds back for specific purposes e.g. to engage with young people, or geographic areas of the ward with no community councils, or areas where the AP has less understanding of community wants/needs.

2. Challenges

Generation of ideas: some of the ideas gathered by communities are vague and therefore difficult to cost, so we need to make sure that clear and detailed information is given to avoid delays.

Timescale: all the funds for each AP must be allocated by March 31st 2027.

Community engagement: following all the agreement on shortlisted ideas and understanding of costings, ideally, the AP will want to carry out a wider community voting process.

Allocation across the ward: for those APs with substantial funds still to allocate, the Partnership will need to consider a fair approach to disburse funds. Population and deprivation are obvious routes for consideration and available data can assist, but local discussions are essential in considering criteria Some areas have looked to split funds across the community council areas, though this may be more challenging in areas without full community councils coverage

3. Solutions

The new NRS team leading on governance for NIIF will provide a progress paper to the next round of APs, with an up-to-date picture on the costings and allocations agreed for each ward. They will also provide information on the new internal processes for the NIIF and templates for the recording of ideas, so that we can avoid delays due to lack of clear information.

In the meantime, at this February meeting, each AP should decide on their process going forward, so that come April, they are ready to proceed. In the case of some APs, it will be a

straightforward continuation of whatever they have been doing up until now to finish allocation.

In the case of APs with larger funds still to allocate; it is recommended that the process begins with a meeting with all the community councils of the ward, to gather their ideas jointly. Their ideas list, based on community knowledge and experience, will be a starting point and this could quickly be expanded with ideas from local third sector and community organisations active in the area.

Between now and the April round of meetings it will be possible to generate a community council ideas list, alongside any other proposals raised by communities, such as Local Place Plans (LPP) and Liveable Neighbourhood (LN) Projects. In the case of LPPs and LNs – there will need to be some prioritisation of what is put forward – these plans have many different outcomes and are likely to exceed NIIF resources.

If the remaining funds of an AP are earmarked for a theme or place, it is discussed and agreed in February how that will be moved forward – and the Communities team will co-ordinate the actions around this with other Community Planning partners. This may also provide useful information that will assist with the development of ward plans.

Additionally, a NIIF calculator to assist with allocation across the ward has been created. It means the £1m can be split in different ways between the community council areas of the ward – population and deprivation can be factored in at different levels, or not. It is arguable that infrastructure issues affect everyone, regardless of deprivation, however, there may be some areas of the ward that need more improvement than others. It is for each AP to decide how they want to use this data.

Issues to be agreed:

- How does the AP want the process of NIIF allocation to continue?
- How does the AP want to ‘split’ the remainder of the £1m allocation?
- What support is required from the Communities Team?