Item 4a
1st September 2026

Garscadden/Scotstounhill Area Partnership

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

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The Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund (NIIF) – Progress Update

Purpose of Report:
To provide the Area Partnership with a progress update in relation to the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund, including new estimates, summary of commitments and spend to date

Recommendations:
The Area Partnership is asked to note the contents of the report, review the content provided, confirm a decision on all estimates provided and identify any new proposals for NIIF to be costed.

1. Background

1.1 The Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund provides an opportunity to implement participatory budgeting at scale with an approved budget set in 2021/22 of £23million. The budget assigned the decision making in relation to this fund to Area Partnerships, with £1million allocated to each ward. This report provides an update regarding the Area Partnership's position in relation to this.

1.2 This funding is capital expenditure and therefore can be carried forward to be spent in future financial years, though funding should ideally be fully committed by March 2027.

2. Criteria for the Fund

2.1 Criteria is outlined in the guidance previously provided; however, the following should be noted:

2.2 Because the £1 million is designated for capital expenditure**, it must be spent on Council infrastructure** - Physical things in Council ownership.

2.3 The fund **is not intended to be used for "business as usual"** council activities such as dealing with individual service requests related to basic maintenance or repair of existing assets – for example: individual broken streetlights, blocked drains, potholes etc. These should be raised through the councils standard reporting processes.

2.4 The fund is not intended to be used for consultancy work, for example, the carrying out of community engagement work to find out what projects the community are interested in. It may, in circumstances where Council services require external assistance, be used for technical consultancy fees which are required to develop and deliver a capital project, such as architects or streetscape designers to help communities redesign civic spaces.

2.5 The fund **cannot be used to fund revenue costs**, such as future or ongoing costs related to maintenance, utilities, repair costs etc. Any revenue costs resulting from NIIF investment will need to be met from other sources. Area Partnerships are asked to consider this when reviewing suggestions for the use of NIIF.

2.6 NIIF **proposals should not be costed by external contactors or suppliers before being put forward**. All proposals need to be costed within GCC in line with procurement procedures.

2.7 Potential ideas for the use of NIIF will only be costed by NRS if these proposals have been discussed and approved at an Area Partnership meeting, then submitted through the process outlined in the attached guidance.

3. NIIF Deadlines and Action Required

3.1 As previously outlined, **NIIF should be fully committed by 31st March 2027**. Currently just under **£14m of the £23m** of the fund has been committed.

3.2 The current round of meetings is, therefore, a key decision-making point, as any requests for costings beyond that timeframe are extremely unlikely to be costed, approved and committed by that date.

3.3 **Area Partnerships are asked to fully review all estimates provided in this report and approve any they wish to progress.** Deferral of decision making is not recommended as this risks the fund being under committed by April 2027.

3.4 Where Area Partnerships are still considering submission of new proposals, these should be submitted at this round of meetings to allow time for these to be costed and approved at the next round of meetings.

3.5 Area Partnerships are asked to consider all estimates provided and review their current committed spend to inform decision making and allow funds to be fully committed within the agreed timescales.

4. Progress to Date

4.1 The tables in appendix 1 provide the following information:

- **Table 1: Proposals previously submitted for estimate.** Where an estimate has been provided, we ask that Area Partnerships confirm whether they approve the estimate for the work to be programmed and approve a percentage amount over the original estimate to allow for changes in costs. Where an estimate has not been provided, reasons for this are outlined.

- **Table 2: Proposals Requiring more information:** Where an estimate is still being progressed, a reason for this will be outlined clearly. If this relates to a lack of clear information to allow costing, we ask that Area Partnerships review this and provide the required information to allow this to be considered before the next scheduled meeting.

- **Table 3: Summary of Committed and Actual Spend to date:** This includes an update on any works currently underway and a breakdown of committed NIIF and actual spend to date. Area Partnerships should consider this when making decisions on any new estimates or proposals to ensure they have sufficient budget remaining to progress any new work