**Item 6**

**12th September 2023**

**Glasgow Community Planning Partnership**
**Pollokshields Area Partnership**

**Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability**

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# Neighbourhood Infrastructure Fund – progress update

**Purpose of Report:**

To provide the Area Partnership with a progress update in relation to the process to support the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Fund including a summary of commitments to date.

**Recommendations:**

The Area Partnership is asked to note the contents of the report and advise of any approvals.

## 1. Introduction and progress to date

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

1.2 In parallel, the Centre of Civic Innovation within NRS has been developing a citizen engagement model to support this process as well as assist with future initiatives. An update in relation to this work is provided below.

1.3 It is worth noting that this funding is capital expenditure and therefore can be carried forward to be spent in future financial years.

## 2. **Progress Update of Fund**

2.1 Commitments to date total **£16k** as a part-share towards the Queens Park Development Plan Consultation.

2.2 A special meeting of the Pollokshields Area Partnership took place on 8th June 2023 to discuss further ideas to allocate the Fund. Across the Infrastructure categories, the following in-principle allocations were proposed:

- Road Resurfacing and Patching - None
- Footway Improvement - **£100k agreed in principle**
- Street Lighting Investment - **£100k agreed in principle**
- Drainage Repairs including gully cleaning. - **£60k agreed in principle.**
- Traffic Signals - None
- Street Furniture - None
- Other

- Greenspace improvements - **£100k agreed in principle, with particular attention to drainage issues in parks and upgrading Maxwell Park**
- Sport and Physical activity - **£100k agreed in principle, with particular attention to upgrading multi-use games areas.**
- Dropped kerb works - **£20k agreed in principle**
- Redeployable CCTV - **£10k agreed in principle, with particular attention to Bellahouston Park. 8-10 weeks lead-in time for installation.**

2.3 Council officers have been asked to consider options to meet these in-principle allocations and proposals for specific investments will be brought to future Partnership meetings for approval.

2.4 A total of £6m has been redirected from the overall £23m NIF fund, to be topped up in future budget years, for road repairs and the details relating to the ward are attached in the appendices to this report. Area Partnerships are still expected to allocate the full £1m initially awarded. These road repairs are scheduled to be fully completed within the 2023/24 financial year.

3. **Centre of Civic Innovation – Community Engagement Process – update**

3.1 Further to the update provided at the previous Area Partnership regarding to the process being developed to involve greater community involvement to inform the decision making process for the fund, between January and June this year, a pilot programme of work was undertaken to work in 3 Wards of the city; Calton, Canal and Greater Pollok. This work is being led by the Council's Centre of Civic Innovation, to research existing systems, identify opportunities and co-design and test possible solutions with citizens with a view to advising Community Empowerment Services on how they could roll out the local decision-making system for NIIF city-wide.

3.2 The system has been co-designed with over 200 stakeholders across the city and combines digital, face-to-face and in place options to take part as well as a partnership approach to engagement and involvement.

3.3 The Council's Centre of Civic Innovation are working with Community Empowerment Services to run the system in a live testing environment in Calton and Greater Pollok with the following timeline:

- 23 June to 18 July - Citizen Voice: Identify Local Priorities and submit ideas for the NIIF
- 2 & 3 August - Area Partnerships review ideas and select list for costing
- 3 to 23 August - Lists submitted to NRS for costing
- 1 Sept to 1 Oct - Citizen Voice: Final Options go to citizen vote
- 9 & 10 October - Area Partnerships make final decision

3.4 Ideas are currently in the process of being costed before local people vote on the final ideas to be funded for final decisions to be presented to the two Area Partnerships for approval. Feedback thus far has been extremely encouraging including higher than average participation rates through this innovative way of working.

3.5 By prototyping the systems in these neighbourhoods, we will be able to test and evaluate both the system and the methods as well as assessing any capacity and development requirements to roll out at scale. The final report will be used by Chief Executives Department to support their ongoing review of Community Empowerment Services and all Area Partnerships will be kept updated in relation to the outcome of the three pilot areas to inform adoption within other areas moving forward and timescales.

**4. Recommendations**

The Area Partnership is asked to note the contents of the report and advise of any approvals.