Greater Pollok Area Partnership

Report by: Programme Manager, 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 arrangements for support and governance of this, and a summary of commitments and spend to date

Recommendations: The Area Partnership is asked to note the contents of the report, review the content provided in the attached tables to confirm its accuracy and identify any new proposals for NIIF to be costed before the next meeting.

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.   Management and Governance of the fund

2.1   In September 2024, the Director of Service Delivery, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS), provided a report outlining the challenges experienced in implementing the fund and dealing with the volume of requests to date. The report also advised that a new process was being devised to manage this.

2.2   In December 2024, a small team of staff were tasked with reviewing the current process for NIIF and the backlog of requests already received, as well as devising clear guidance and processes for its management going forward.

2.3   This has involved a significant amount of work to review information held in Area Partnership minutes, within NRS services and across council departments.

2.4   As a result, a full breakdown of current committed spend, new proposals still to be costed and spend to date can now be provided.

2.5   It should be highlighted that due to previous challenges in the management of this information, the information provided may contain gaps. We would therefore ask that Area Partnerships review what is provided and advise of anything they believe was previously requested or approved, that does not appear in this report.

2.6   It should also be noted that some proposals discussed at Area Partnerships previously have been listed in this report but have yet to be progressed for estimate. We ask that Area Partnerships first review these lists and confirm that they have been approved and should now be sent for estimate within NRS.

2.7   Clear guidance has been created to assist community members and Area Partnership Chairs in identifying proposals for the use of the fund which meet the criteria and contain the required information to enable NRS to progress these. This is attached at Appendix 1.

3. Criteria for the Fund

3.1 Criteria is outlined in the guidance attached at Appendix 1, however, the following should be noted:

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

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 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.

3.6 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.

3.7 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.

4. Process for NIIF requests

4.1 As outlined above, all proposals for the use of NIIF must be approved at an Area Partnership meeting before being passed to NRS to be costed.

4.2 NRS Neighbourhood Liaison Managers will attend each meeting, present the report produced by NRS and record all approved new proposals on an agreed template to be used internally by NRS. These will be reviewed and costed where possible. They will also provide support and guidance to Area Partnerships on the criteria and information required for NIIF requests.

4.3 The officers will also record decisions related to any estimates provided and advise NRS when an estimate has been approved for work to commence. To allow this to be more streamlined, we ask that Area Partnerships discuss and approve a % amount that costs can go over the original estimate without seeking further approval.

4.4   This enhanced process will ensure that all proposals and decisions related to NIIF are documented, including all required information, without relying solely on the minutes. We are confident that this process will ensure a sufficient level of information is provided to allow proposals to be costed more timeously.

5.   NIIF enquiries and Updates

5.1   The new process outlined in the attached appendix will ensure full updates are provided at each Area Partnership meeting on spend and progress. This should negate the need for enquiries out with the meeting cycle to seek information on progress of either work underway or estimates.

5.2   However, it is recognised that more general enquiries about the NIIF funding or the process related to this may require a response. For this reason, the Programme Management Office for NIIF have created a NIIF mailbox which will be monitored by the team - NIIFEnquiries@glasgow.gov.uk

5.3   This should **not** be used for suggesting NIIF proposals or requesting estimated costs as such requests should go via Area Partnership meetings. However, it will ensure a clear communication channel is in place for any more general queries.

6.   Progress to Date

6.1   The tables at the end of this report will be provided as standard at future Area Partnership meetings and provide a breakdown of:

- Proposals previously submitted for estimate**: Please note for this round of reports we are asking that Area Partnerships review these and confirm whether these should proceed to being costed if an estimate has not already been provided**. At future meetings, this table will only contain new estimated costs provided by NRS for AP approval.
- Proposals Requiring more information: where an estimate can not be progressed, a reason for this will be outlined clearly. If this relates to a lack of clear information being provided 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.
- 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. **It should be noted that work is still underway to review the actual spend with individual teams within NRS and ensure this has been recorded accurately and appears in the ledger. Final Actual spend for all completed works will be provided in the next round of reports**

1 - Proposals submitted for estimate:

Date of AP Meeting Originally Proposed	Reference Number	Proposed Item Description & Location	Estimate request sent to NRS Ops Team Date	Estimate Received Y/N	Estimate Amount	Comments
18/09/2024	03-007	Plant more trees and plants to make the place look better and encourage wildlife – Greater Pollok				Other funding streams have facilitated progress in this area. Decision to be taken on whether NIIF can provide additionality to this. AP to confirm if they still wish to progress and provide locations. If agreement reached to progress this request – a more detailed costing and proposal would be provided.
18/09/2024	03-008	Clean rivers and build bird viewing station surrounding Pollok				NIIF funding **could** be utilised for specific cleanups. Previous "one off" clean ups have cost in the region of £12k. However, it is recommended that any funding allocated for a cleanup be part of a wider strategy including community engagement and enforcement action otherwise the riverbank is at risk of returning to the same undesirable state within a short period of time. The funding of regular cleanups is unlikely to be financially sustainable. **AP are asked to give this further consideration and provide location for the bird viewing station.**
18/09/2024	03-009	Requested adequate park signage in relation to dogs and park behaviour		N		NRS officers have inspected the location which revealed that the fenced area which residents were utilising as a dog run was actually temporary fencing put in to allow new tree planting to establish. Officers are reviewing whether the fencing is still required – if no longer required, the fencing may be removed.

18/09/2024	03-010	Repair potholes and road surfaces – Crookston Road and Leithland Road		N		NRS update advised that should be addressed via Business as Usual and reported through the appropriate channels.
18/09/2024	03-011	Improve drainage systems – Maybole Street				AP to confirm desire to progress this request and to provide exact location as previous indications noted at shops, however there are none at this address. NRS will provide estimate if AP deicide to proceed.
18/09/2024	03-012	Improve pavement surface – throughout Pollok ward				AP to provide specific locations before NRS can provide more accurate estimate of costs – this also may be a BAU request. £116,100 allocated to this in principle (figures came from community report)
18/09/2024	03-013	Total removal of cycle lanes – Brockburn Road/Linthaugh Road & Braidcraft Road		N		NRS advised that removal of infrastructure like this goes against Council policy and would not be delivered upon request like this. The decision to implement such infrastructure, as part of approved Active Travel Plans would have been via City Administration Committee and likely with external grant funding.
18/09/2024	03-014	Introduce railings to the open space – Barrhead Road (opposite Tesco) to prevent schoolchildren running across the busy road.				AP to advise if this is still to be progressed. NRS will then consider this. Further information from AP on the exact location and issues would assist with this being assessed.
18/09/2024	03-015	Improve surfaces on pavements and reduce kerb heights to support wheelchair users – Househillwood area				AP to confirm desire to progress this request. AP will also need to provide accurate locations for works before NRS can proceed with detailed costings.
18/09/2024	03-017	Improve drainage systems at traffic lights – Braidcraft Road, junction with Levernside Road		N		NRS advised that this is being progressed as Business as Usual.

18/09/2024	03-018	Improve drainage systems from Braidcraft roundabout towards Cardonald College		N		NRS advised that this is being progressed as Business as Usual.
18/09/2024	03-019	Tackle persistent flooding to make the pavements more accessible – junction of Peat Road & Priesthill Road		N		NRS advised that this is being progressed as Business as Usual.
18/09/2024	03-020	Improve drainage and address flooding – Crookston Road		N		NRS advised that this is being progressed as Business as Usual.
18/09/2024	03-021	Improve drainage systems – Nitshill Shops on Maybole Street		N		NRS advised that this is being progressed as Business as Usual.
18/09/2024	03-022	Improve surfaces on pavements and roads and reduce kerb heights to support wheelchair users, people with mobility issues and pram users – between Hapland Road and length of Braidcraft Road				AP to confirm their desire to progress this request. AP will also need to confirm exact locations of requests for dropped kerbs. Dropped kerbs estimated at £1000 on both sides or road – e.g. constructed in pairs.
18/09/2024	03-023	Lowering of kerbs to aide accessibility – Silverburn & Househillwood area				AP to confirm their desire to progress this request. AP will also need to confirm exact locations of requests for dropped kerbs. Dropped kerbs estimated at £1000 on both sides or road – e.g. constructed in pairs.
18/09/2024	03-024	Improve lighting in Househill Park to make it safer for young people, women and dog walkers. Included note; 'If funded city wide, Greater Pollok NIIF to be reimbursed'				Consultation with Place Making conducted to review lighting and safety options within Househill Park. Greenspace Scotland are due to release findings report soon. Findings from this will be presented to AP for consideration. Also noted that any lighting installations would have to be funded through NIIF as there are no other capital funding streams earmarked for this.

18/09/2024	03-026	Requested that condition of recently planted trees are looked at.		N		NRS noted that this is BAU but provided the following; service reviewed condition of planted trees and planned supplementary activity to support their establishment over planting season.
18/09/2024	03-027	Introduce trees and raingardens to reduce flooding across Greater Pollok				AP to confirm their desire to progress this and to clarify exactly what they are requesting before NRS can provide accurate costing estimates and tie in with the City's wider programme to introduce rain gardens.
18/09/2024	03-028	Improve and create more social spaces for different ages with more tables and seating options – add more bins.				AP to confirm their desire to progress this and to specify exact locations for implementation before NRS can provide accurate costing estimates for viable options.
27/11/2024	03-029	Requested fix of blockages – Braidcraft Road, Linthaugh Road & Brockburn Road				Historic request taken from minutes – can AP confirm their desire to progress this and provide more information about the nature of this request. Once confirmed, this will be sent to NRS for consideration.
27/11/2024	03-031	Requested that enforcement powers are utilised with regards to dog fouling		N		NRS update – This would be considered as Business as Usual and should be addressed via requests via the appropriate channels.
27/11/2024	03-032	Request for mechanical sweeper to resolve flooding		N		NRS update advised that this is considered as a service request and carried out as Business as Usual via Streetscene but request specific location to target.

2 - Proposals Requiring more Information:

Date Proposed	Reference Number	Proposed Item Description & Location	Information Required
18/09/2024	03-025	Install lined directions – junction of Priesthill Road & Peat Road	NRS require more information on what is actually being requested here before accurate costings can be provided.

3- Summary of spend to date:

This table provides details of all committed and actual spend. This includes estimates received and approved, where work has yet to commence and no actual costs have been accrued.

Date of AP Meeting Originally Proposed	Costing Template Reference Number	Details of works	Approved Estimate	Actual Spend	Status	Comments
20/09/2023	03-001	Replace an existing item of play equipment and additional seating area at the play park – Levernside Road	£4,000.00	£0	Not Started	Additional funding subsequently allocated from Scottish Government Play Area Renewal Funding becomes available May 2025.
20/09/2023	03-002	Surfacing replacement for MUGA works – Cornalee Gardens.	£25,000.00	£0	Not started	To be incorporated into the Citywide Play Area programme. To be built into the tender.
18/09/2024	03-003	Improve and fix children's park – Cleeves Road Play Area	£55,000.00	£0	Programmed	Works programmed but not yet started. Match funding available from Scottish Government play area renewal funding in 2025/26. Would recommend works are done in one phase – service will review how they obtain input from local families. Timescales for this will be confirmed by NRS.
18/09/2024	03-004	Improve play area by extending it and introducing play equipment adapted for children with additional needs.	£180,000.00	£0	Programmed	Works programmed but not yet started. Match funding available from Scottish Government play area renewal funding in 2025/26. Would recommend works are done in one phase – service will review how they obtain input from local families. Timescales for this will be confirmed by NRS.
18/09/2024	03-005	Create free sports and play facilities for kids – Nitshill (Weensmoor Road Play Area)	£80,000.00	£0	Programmed	Works programmed but not yet started. Match funding available from Scottish Government play area renewal funding in 2025/26. Would recommend works are done in one phase – service will review how they obtain input from

						local families. Timescales for this will be confirmed by NRS.
18/09/2024	03-006	Improve the grounds and improve accessibility and create seating areas – grounds surrounding Nitshill War Memorial	£40,000.00	£0	In Progress	Service will provide an update once timescales for tender process are known. Prices have been received from contractors.
18/09/2024	03-033	Lowering of pavement to make area safer at SWAMP on Brockburn Road	£3,000.00	£0	Not Started	Not commenced. NRS will programme works and advise of timescales.

Totals:	**£387,000.00**	**£0**

*Running Total	**£387,000.00**
Total Budget	**£1,000,000.00**
Remaining NIIF Allocation:	***£613,000.00**

*Running Total shows all ACTUAL SPEND for 'COMPLETED' WORKS & ESTIMATED SPEND for 'INCOMPLETE WORKS' This is then subtracted from the AP £1 million allocation to show remaining NIIF.