

Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund (NIIF) - Update noted etc.

5 With reference to the minutes of 5th September 2025 noting an update on the progress in relation to the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund (NIIF), there was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability providing a further update on the matter,

(1) advising

- (a) that in terms of the Council's Standing Orders, which set out the procurement process in relation to the purchase of goods, services and works by or on behalf of the Council, NIIF proposals should not be costed by external contractors or suppliers before submission, and only costed by officers in Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS);
- (b) that NIIF could not be awarded directly to suppliers or contractors who had been engaged with directly by Community Councils, local organisations or Area Partnership members;
- (c) that in cases where local organisations had provided their own quotes from contractors and when the Area Partnership had approved NRS to also provide an estimate, these ideas could not be progressed to costing by NRS and NIIF could not be awarded;
- (d) of an update in relation to the funding of murals through NIIF, as detailed in the report; and
- (e) that as this funding was capital expenditure it could be carried forward to be spent in future financial years, but that funding should ideally be fully committed by 31st March 2027; and

(2) detailing in the appendices to the report, the report submitted to the meeting of this Partnership on 3rd September 2024 which outlined the criteria for the fund, a breakdown of spend and estimates sent for approval for each Area Partnership along with the updated NIIF Community/Area Partnership Guidance which had been circulated to Partnership members in January 2025.

After consideration, the Partnership noted

- (a) the report; and
- (b) that a full NIIF report would be presented to the next meeting of this Partnership and would include estimates and progress updates on previously approved NIIF spend.