

## **Town Centre Fund and Place Fund – Review of programme delivery noted.**

**3** There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability regarding an update on the Town Centre Fund and Place Fund, advising that

- (1) the Town Centre Fund was launched in March 2019 when the Scottish Government, in partnership with COSLA had announced a £50m fund to help boost Scottish Town Centres and the funding was provided directly to local authorities to allocate against the themes of the Town Centre Action plan;
- (2) the Council had received an initial 2019/20 allocation of £3,010,000 from the Town Centre Fund and in September 2020, the Scottish Government had announced an extension of the programme, with Glasgow receiving an additional £1,096,000 of funding;
- (3) following conclusion of the 2-year Town Centre Fund, the Scottish Government's Programme for Government had established the Place Based Investment Programme, which aimed to create a programme that linked and aligned place-based initiatives and the establishment of a framework designed to implement the Place Principle;
- (4) the Place Fund was launched as a 5-year funding programme running from 2021/22 to 2025/26 and the Council had received a total of 4 Place Fund allocations, however although launched as a 5-year programme, the Council were notified by the Scottish Government in October 2024 that no funding would be received in 2024/25, this decision was taken by Scottish Government to offset wider financial pressures at the time;
- (5) the Council had received a total of £15,506,000 of funding from the Town Centre Fund and the Place Fund, as detailed in the report and this combined investment had supported, or was currently supporting, the delivery of over 100 projects, 64 of which were led by community-based organisations across the city;
- (6) together, the Town Centre Fund and the Place Fund had delivered over £15m of grant funding, helping to unlock an estimated £75m plus in additional capital investment which was estimated to have created around 130 construction jobs annually and up to 120 FTE additional jobs within the projects developed and this significant funding had also contributed to the preservation of Glasgow's built heritage, as detailed in the report;
- (7) a number of challenges in the administration of funding had been identified across both funding programmes, including efficient distribution of grant, and capacity issues with community grantees, however, it was recognised that funding had been critical in increasing community capacity and had proved a catalyst for wider positive change; and
- (8) the Council continued to engage with the Scottish Government regarding future capital regeneration funding and would continue to request that future

place-based investment awards to the city was based on an equitable apportionment, reflecting Glasgow's scale and regeneration needs.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Messrs Ewan Curtis and Michael Gray, the committee noted the presentation and the report.

Bailie Martha Wardrop and Councillor Graham Campbell noted their interest in this item.