

EX34. Town Centre Update and Capital Fund 2019/20

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services providing an update on the work relating to Falkirk's town centres, including an update on the work to develop a Falkirk town centre partnership and a suggested approach to the delivery of works relating to the Scottish Government's recently announced Town Centre Capital Fund allocation for 2019/20.

The Scottish Government launched a £50 million capital fund to help regenerate and boost the performance of town centres. The Town Centre Fund supported Councils to ensure their high streets were more diverse, sustainable and successful in the face of changing and evolving retail patterns. Falkirk's allocation of the fund was £1,976,000 and required to be utilised by March 2020.

The town centre working group had progressed its vision and action plan and recommended the formation of a new town centre partnership, 'Revitalising Falkirk', to take forward the regeneration of the town centre. The Executive was invited to nominate three elected members to represent the Council on the body.

A summary of suggested projects was set out proposing that funding was allocated to develop the following projects in Falkirk, Grangemouth and Bo'ness to help address the needs of these town centres:-

Falkirk	Signage review and upgrade works.
	Car Parking – off street/car parks review and investment.
	CARS II – opportunity to extend and protect heritage buildings in Falkirk town centre.
	Public Realm improvements to Newmarket Street and Lintriggs.
	Luggage lockers to support local tourism expectations.
	Exploration of Falkirk High and Grahamston stations opportunities re accessibility and connection to town centre in connection with recently completed Abellio/Scotrail Station Travel Plan.
	Wifi to town centre – providing town centre user connectivity and digital opportunities.
	Public Art Project opportunities to two locations: High Street and Grahams Road.
Grangemouth	Grangemouth 'Making Places' outcomes to be progressed.

Demolition options to longstanding vacant and unlettable commercial assets.

Wifi to town centre - providing town centre user connectivity and digital opportunities.

Conservation Audit of Grangemouth town centre.

Engagement with private owners on development options.

Bo'ness Wifi to town centre – providing town centre user connectivity and digital opportunities.

Vacant property opportunities to be explored to support the move back to economic use.

Access/configuration improvements to library for community and service benefit.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) to participate in the “Revitalised Falkirk”, the Town Centre Partnership on the basis of the terms of reference contained in Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (2) to participate in the Falkirk Town Centre partnership, nominating one member from each political group by slate, noting that the SNP nomination was Councillor Meiklejohn and the Labour nomination was Councillor Reid;**
- (3) the approach to delivery of the Council’s allocation of town centre capital funds for 2019/20, as summarised in this report;**
- (4) that officers proceed to finalise project delivery arrangements and costs for each of the priority projects as summarised in the report, and**
- (5) to receive a further report on the progress of these proposals for final decision.**