

EX6. Economic Recovery Plan Action Plan – Update Report

The Executive considered a report by the Acting Director of Development Services which provided an update in relation to support for the area's economy delivered during 2020/21 and set out proposed support to be delivered in 2021/22 as part of delivery of the Council's three year Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan.

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to have a direct impact on businesses in all sectors and the wider workforce of the Falkirk area. Measures had been delivered since November 2020 to assist in the response. However some measures had been impacted by the national lockdown or the provision of additional business support from government. These funds continued to be required and were committed for delivery in 2021-22. The interventions set out in the report for 2021-22 proposed continued support for the local business community, workforces and town centres and would help sustain recovery activity over the 3 years of the plan. By accessing additional external funding support from UK and Scottish Governments, it was anticipated that further impact could be achieved towards the area's economic recovery. These would also help lay foundations for a longer term recovery reflecting the Council's Investment Zone and net zero aspirations.

The report provided information on:-

- Delivery of Business Support Schemes
- Economic Recovery Measures – funding support during 2020/21
- The Revenue Allocation for 2020/21
- Financial Support for Business
- Town Centre Fund Additional Capital Allocation
- Proposed Economic Recovery Revenue Allocation for 2021/22
- National & Forth Valley Regional Recovery Measures

The Executive adjourned at 10.50am and reconvened at 11.05am with all members present as per the sederunt.

Following discussion, the Acting Director of Development Services gave an undertaking to provide a report to a future meeting regarding the stopping up order in relation to Bo'ness Road.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the progress on the Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan;**
- (2) agreed the proposed allocation of funds for economic recovery purposes as set out in section 4 of the report;**

- (3) noted the work being undertaken at a Forth Valley regional partnership level including proposals for a funding bid to be submitted to the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund, as set out in section 4.9 of the report, and**
- (4) agreed to request a report on the approach to the additional funds being made available to the Falkirk area under the 'Levelling Up Fund' and the 'Community Renewal Fund' to a future meeting.**