

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET22 June 2017Joint Report by Deputy Chief Executive and Director of EnvironmentROADS REVENUE PROGRAMME 2017/18 – PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING SCHEME
DETAILS**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Participatory Budgeting (PB) element of the Roads Revenue Programme for financial year 2017/18.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the mechanism detailed in the report to allow a “participatory budgeting” exercise to take place to apportion £600,000 of the Roads Revenue budget allocation.

BACKGROUND

3. The Roads Revenue Programme covers routine maintenance, winter maintenance footway resurfacing and patching and carriageway resurfacing and patching. The total allocation for 2017/18 financial year is £5,664,600.

4. At the meeting of the Cabinet on 23 March 2017, it was explained that the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 is intended to strengthen community planning and give local communities a stronger role in planning, service delivery and improving outcomes. Councils are now required to promote and facilitate the participation of members of the public in the decisions and activities of the authority, including in the allocation of its resources.

5. As part of this process and to increase community decision making, £600,000 will be available for a number of residential schemes across East Renfrewshire which would not necessarily feature on a priority basis. Local residents will decide which schemes progress by voting.

6. Members requested, before final approval for that part of the Roads Revenue Works Programme Report is given, that a detailed design of the participatory budget exercise be brought before Members and this is set out below.

REPORT

7. The additional funds made available for investment in roads is seen as a key opportunity for the Council to pilot PB locally on an issue that is consistently identified as a top priority for local residents through the Citizens’ Panel survey.

8. 33 potential roads schemes have been identified and are located across four locality areas of East Renfrewshire (See Appendix A):

- Levern Valley (Barrhead, Neilston & Uplawmoor)
- Newton Mearns
- Thornliebank & Giffnock
- Netherlee, Stamperland, Clarkston, Busby, Eaglesham and Waterfoot

9. These localities are a core part of the Council's community engagement arrangements, to be used in any engagement which may be targeted at specific community areas, and were presented to Cabinet in January 2016. They are formed from natural community areas which local people recognise, they match, as far as possible, the boundaries of school catchment areas and they mirror the local areas used by the new Health and Social Care partnership. Each area has a roughly equal population and wide cross section of community groups based on the demographics of the local area.

10. Residents and business owners within East Renfrewshire will be eligible to rank their top three schemes in their chosen locality. The voting system will be available through Citizen Space, the Council's online consultation tool.

11. Each of the roads schemes is estimated at between £35,000 and £100,000 and each locality area is guaranteed at least £100,000 of the available budget and up to a maximum of £150,000. The process for allocating the budget across the four localities will be in accordance with the mechanism identified in Appendix B.

12. The Participatory Budgeting scheme will be underpinned by a publicity and communications programme that will ensure local residents are aware of the opportunity to influence this substantial level of investment in roads across the authority area. Members should be aware that this is very much a pilot scheme, the priority being to give local people a key role in a decision making process, as opposed to a rigorous test of the voting process itself. A plan setting out the key stages of the PB process, as well as how the voting process will work, is set out in Appendix C.

13 It is important to note that this is the first time a process of this kind has been carried out in East Renfrewshire and this will be a learning experience. Measures will be in place to ensure a robust and reliable voting process. However it is likely that improvements to the process will be identified whilst it is ongoing which will inform and enhance any future participatory budgeting approaches.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

14. The 33 potential roads schemes that have been identified for the PB process are located across four locality areas of East Renfrewshire as set out in Appendix A. £600,000 has been set aside from the Roads Revenue Works programme for this purpose.

15. The extent of the additional works may require utilisation of external consultants to design and implement the works in addition to the Council's own design staff and internal Road Contracting Unit.

CONSULTATION

16. Local residents will decide which schemes progress by voting. The detailed assessment process for which is outlined in Appendix B.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

17. The Roads Service, Community Planning Team and Communications Team have worked collaboratively on this project.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

18. It is critical that the selected schemes are confirmed by September to allow for design and delivery of these schemes. There are no further implications in terms of property, legal, IT, equalities and sustainability.

CONCLUSIONS

19. The 2017/18 Revenue Works Programme is designed to provide the best available spend within the available resources. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 is intended to strengthen community planning and give local communities a stronger role in planning, service delivery and improving outcomes. As part of this process and to increase community decision making, £600,000 is available for a number of residential schemes across East Renfrewshire which would not necessarily feature on a priority basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20. It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the mechanism detailed in the report to allow a “participatory budgeting” exercise to take place to apportion £600,000 of the Roads Revenue budget allocation.

Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from - Shona Fraser, Environmental Services Manager, Telephone 0141-577-3417, roads@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or Tracey Butler, Community Planning Team Leader

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June 2017

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Future of Community Engagement Arrangements in East Renfrewshire, Cabinet, 28 January 2016
- Roads Revenue Works Programme 2017/18, Cabinet, 23 March 2017

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Appendix A

Levern Valley (Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor)

Commercial Road, Barrhead	(Part Only- Footway)	£45,000
Commore Avenue, Barrhead	(Carriageway)	£40,000
Crebar Drive, Barrhead	(Carriageway)	£50,000
Cruachan Way, Barrhead	(Carriageway)	£35,000
Nethererton Drive	(Footways)	£50,000
Harelaw Avenue, Neilston	(Footway)	£50,000
Kirktonfield Road, Neilston	(Carriageway)	£50,000

Newton Mearns

Corrou Road, Newton Mearns	(Carriageway)	£80,000
Lomond Drive, Newton Mearns	(Carriageway)	£80,000
Kinloch Road, Newton Mearns	(Carriageway & Footway)	£100,000
Balgray Road/Carswell Road, Newton Mearns	(Footway)	£50,000
Hazelwood Avenue, Newton Mearns	(Part Only- Carriageway - Poplar Avenue to Firwood Road)	£100,000
Kings Drive/Kings Gardens	(Carriageway)	£40,000
Casthill Drive/Broomhill Avenue	(Part Only- Carriageway)	£60,000

Giffnock & Thornliebank

Berryhill Drive, Giffnock	(Carriageway)	£75,000
Etive Drive, Giffnock	(Carriageway & Footway)	£100,000
Merrycrest Avenue, Giffnock	(Carriageway)	£100,000
Merryton Avenue, Giffnock	(Carriageway)	£100,000
Giffnock Park Avenue/Briarlea Drive, Giffnock	(Carriageway)	£50,000
Ashlea Drive, Giffnock	(Carriageway)	£50,000
Rowand Avenue, Giffnock	(Carriageway & footway)	£100,000
Belmont Drive, Giffnock	(Carriageway & Footway)	£100,000

Netherlee, Stamperland, Clarkston, Busby, Eaglesham and Waterfoot

Morven Drive, Clarkston	(Carriageway)	£65,000
Norwood Drive	(Footway)	£100,000
Woodvale Avenue	(Footway)	£70,000
Rockburn Drive, Clarkston	(Carriageway & Footway)	£100,000
Oakley Drive, Netherlee	(Carriageway & Footway)	£100,000
Orchy Drive/Orchy Gardens, Stamperland,	(Carriageway & Footway)	£100,000
Woodbank Crescent, Clarkston	(Carriageway & Footway)	£100,000
Sunbury Avenue, Clarkston	(Carriageway)	£40,000
Craighlaw Avenue, Waterfoot	(Footways)	£100,000
Bonnyton Drive Culs-de-sac, Eaglesham	(Carriageway & Footway)	£100,000
Lynton Avenue	(Carriageway)	£65,000

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Appendix B

PB Assessment Process

Stage 1

- 4 Areas
- Each area allocated £100K
- Voting preferences for favourite scheme entered into spreadsheet.
- Highest scored scheme in each area automatically goes through as it will be less than or equal to £100K.

Stage 2

- All second placed schemes are placed onto spreadsheet.
- Total value and individual area values assessed.
- Assess individual area maximum of £150K.
- Look for any area that exceeds £150K.
- If so that second place scheme has to be removed and replaced by a lower value scheme that meets the maximum £150K criteria ie The next popular scheme that meets the maximum £150K.
- This is replicated for all areas above £150K.

Stage 3

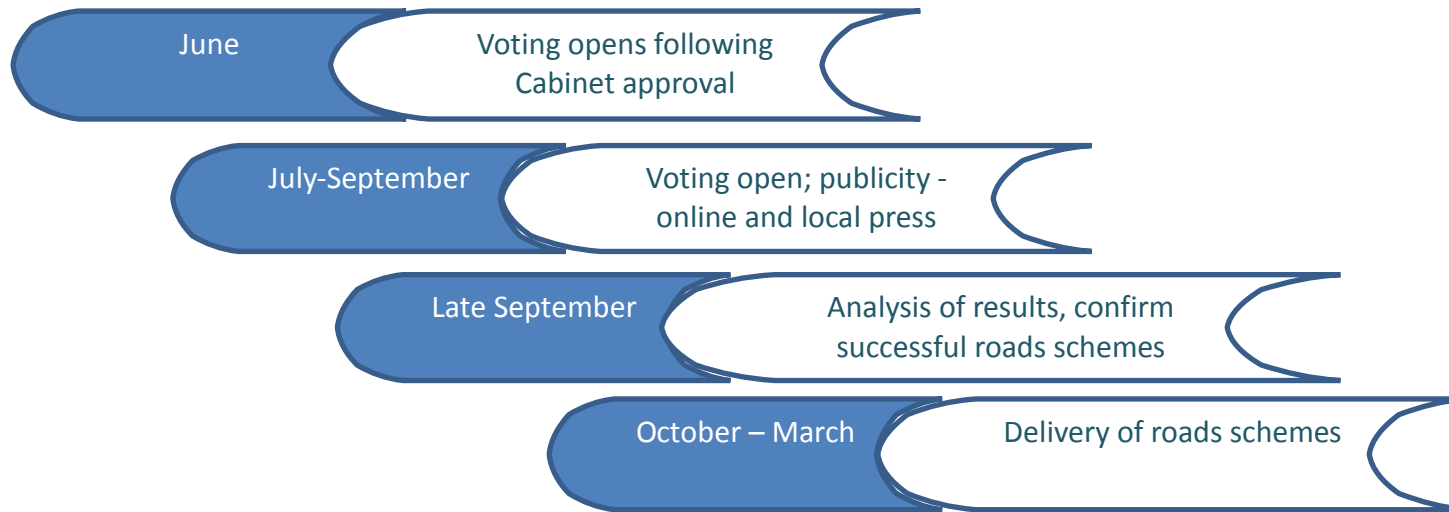
- After this exercise assess the total value & remaining allocation.
- Go to area with the lowest value spent on it & assess whether there is a scheme on the popularity basis which can be accommodated.
- Repeat this process until the allocation is used or until such times as there are no schemes of a sufficiently low value. The £600K must not be exceeded as there may be overspend in the individual schemes.

If a significant underspend occurs once the schemes are completed this will be monitored and it may be that the next most popular schemes can be accommodated to ensure a full spend.

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Appendix C

Timeline



Voting Process

- Local residents and business owners will be directed to the Citizen Space consultation page on East Renfrewshire Council's consultation hub at <https://getinvolved.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/> where they can place their votes
- Voters will be required to complete fields for name, email address and postal address
- Voters will be asked to select their preferred locality (this does not need to be the area they live – they may work or use facilities in that area)
- Citizen Space will then direct the voter to the list of potential roads schemes in that locality where voters will be asked to identify their 1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences

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