

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Environment, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee

8 November 2017

PLACEMAKING: PUBLIC REALM AND LIGHTING INVESTMENT

Report by Director (Environment)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report outlines proposed expenditure on placemaking projects within Perth and surrounding towns to support commercial and community development, along with economic growth.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Perth City Plan, approved by the Council in February 2016 (Report 16/71 refers), outlines the City Development Board's aspirations for the City. It sets out the long term vision for Perth as one of Europe's great small cities. With a focus on the themes of economic development and placemaking, the Plan embodies the aims and objectives of a wide range of partners from private and public sectors. Its purpose is to deliver jobs, a high quality environment and a great quality of life. To enable this, the City Plan identified opportunities for improvement and new areas for growth, improving the visitor experience, especially at night, as well as making more of the River Tay and surrounding countryside for tourism and recreation.
- 1.2 Lighting also forms part of Perth's new cultural approach as research has identified that 57% of our residents have never visited the city centre after 6pm. As such, the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee approved the Sustainable Lighting Strategy and Action Plan at its meeting in June 2016 (Report No. 16/246 refers). The evidence that this can bring about economic benefit has been demonstrated through the Norie-Miller Light Nights in January – February 2017, which attracted almost 51,000 visits. This has also demonstrated that the inventive use of light and open space can create a significant cultural attraction.
- 1.3 Both documents balance a long term perspective with a commitment to early action. A range of improvements to public spaces, lighting, digital infrastructure, key routes and enhanced use of roads for public transport, cycling and pedestrians are identified and outlined within the Perth City Plan and City Of Light Action Plan.

- 1.4 At the Council meeting on 22 June 2016, capital funding of £8.9 million was allocated to placemaking and £5 million to the lighting strategy (Report No. 16/277 refers) to support both the City Plan and the Lighting Action Plan. Both funding streams were also to be used for towns outwith Perth, as part of an overall ambition to improve the quality, accessibility and use of public spaces through investment in public infrastructure and lighting, with the proviso that any projects would produce significant economic benefit. The resources for the Placemaking and Lighting capital programmes were agreed at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in April 2017 (Report No.17/153 refers).

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The implementation of improvements to public spaces, routes and creative lighting within Perth and the area's towns need to be phased to integrate with, and complement, additional capital funding. This includes capital for digital infrastructure, street lighting and major transport improvements on the strategic road and rail networks and River Tay estuary. The approach aims to minimise disruption and maximise the efficient use of resources with potential for spaces and routes to be adapted for enhanced shared use by car, bus, cycling and pedestrians. Improvements should provide for flexible use of space and its occupation for markets, events and alfresco use, along with the development of public art to provide enhanced retail and tourist environments.
- 2.2 Improvements to public spaces, routes and lighting also need to complement planned public, commercial and community development of adjacent buildings. Funding for improvements to spaces and lighting provides potential leverage to trusts, social enterprises, business and community groups by attracting additional external funding for equity or grant assistance to improvements to adjacent private or community owned property.
- 2.3 Based on the above, an indicative programme for implementing improvements to public spaces, routes and lighting has been developed for both Perth city and the area's towns (Appendix 1). This is based on the budgets available as agreed by the Council in June 2016 (para 1.4 refers).
- 2.4 Approval of the Placemaking budget included a programme for investment in key public realm projects. In addition, detailed design and supply of lighting has been procured to assist the delivery of the Lighting programme. This will prioritise initial lighting along the riverside in Perth and build on the success of the Norie Miller lighting event. It will also align with additional proposed public realm projects to maximise efficient use of resources.
- 2.5 Funding for complementary transport infrastructure within the city is being sought via the Tay Cities Deal which, along with potential sponsorship and external funding, may provide additional resources to extend or adapt the programme. Any variations to the programmes and associated resources will be considered by future reports to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Perth Placemaking Implementation Programme

Fergusson Gallery - Pontoon footpath

- 2.6 Accelerated capital funding from the placemaking budget has been used to develop a footpath link from the pontoon at Fergusson Gallery. This has already assisted the use of the pontoon following the successful Boating on the Tay launch event in June. In the longer term, it will link with the potential development of the building for alternative use as a result of the relocation of the Fergusson Gallery collection and broader improvements of Tay Street.

Mill Street – completion of current phase

- 2.7 Again capital funding from the placemaking budget has been identified to cover potential increased costs associated with the completion of works to Mill Street in 2017.

St Paul's Square – creation of courtyard

- 2.8 Designs and proposals are being developed, to create an external courtyard for public use through adaptation of St Pauls in 2017/18. This will both preserve and protect the main elements of the building and provide more space for performances and markets in the city to encourage more people to visit the city. Opportunities have also been identified for lighting the space and building to allow it to be used, and bring it to life, at night through lighting projections. A number of parties have already expressed interest in using the space and specialist consultants have been appointed to identify additional new operators, uses and events within this space and other buildings/sites in the city.

Perth City Hall/Vennels – development and lighting of public space and pedestrian routes

- 2.9 The scope of designs and works around the City Hall have been extended to include additional investment in the key pedestrian routes to and from the area. It will also support lighting of buildings and spaces in 2019/20, using resources from the placemaking budget to complement the capital programme for the cultural venue and surrounding space. Design work will commence following appointment of the lead consultant agreed at Council on 16 August 2017 (Report No. 17/216 refers).

King Street - Perth City Centre Golden Route

- 2.10 Designs will be developed for enhanced pedestrian space, lighting and cycle ways in 2017/18 to link with the improvements of Perth Railway Station, Bus Station and the adjacent development sites. A framework for developing, procuring and integrating designs is under discussion with Network Rail.

Green Network links

- 2.11 Further designs will be developed for enhanced cycle way improvements in 2017/18. These will link with improvements to the cycle network and attract potential external funding via Sustrans and the Tay Cities Deal.

City Greening

- 2.12 Plans will be developed for a range of designs of street furniture, planting and planters, incorporating lighting, in 2018/19 to help create dynamic changing spaces and routes (including vennels) within the city centre. Discussions have commenced with local businesses regarding the potential use and occupation of spaces, as well as with Beautiful Perth regarding the development of designs and funding.

South Street transport hub and route

- 2.13 Designs will be developed for shared use of South Street for buses and cyclists in 2021/22 to allow for the development of Mill Street/Murray Street. This will enhance public transport provision and release network capacity.

Tay Street – development of lighting and enhanced pedestrian space

- 2.14 Initial lighting infrastructure will be installed in 2018 at Norie Miller, Perth, the Queen's Bridge and key buildings on Tay Street. This is to support ongoing events in the area and support the night time economy. Further enhancement of pedestrian space will be undertaken in 2022/23.

Mill Street/Murray Street – development of enhanced pedestrian space

- 2.15 An enhanced pedestrian space and lighting will be developed in 2019/20, following transport improvements and the development of public transport and cycle routes.

Digital connectivity and information provision

- 2.16 Interactive Digital Kiosks and linked WiFi infrastructure are being developed in the current financial year within the city centre to improve information provision and signage for visitors to the city, linked to the Smart Cities programme.

Rural Towns Implementation Programme

Alyth Town Centre

- 2.17 Accelerated capital funding from the placemaking budget has been used to fund and develop proposals for improvements to Alyth Square in 2018/19. This is to complement work already undertaken, as well as realising community aspirations for improvements, as part of Placecheck work.

Aberfeldy Square

- 2.18 An enhanced pedestrian space and lighting will be developed in Aberfeldy Square in 2018. This is for environmental improvements and flexible use of space for markets, events and alfresco use, reflecting previous proposals, developed in conjunction with the community through the Charrette process.

Auchterarder

- 2.19 An enhanced pedestrian space and lighting will be developed for Auchterarder in 2019/20, reflecting previous proposals developed in conjunction with the community through the Charrette process. This is for environmental improvements and flexible use of space and its occupation for markets, events and alfresco use to complement a potential Business Improvement District.

Promotion and management of use of space

- 2.20 Complementary guidance to support the promotion, management and maintenance and use of improved routes, spaces and lighting in collaboration with business and residents is being prepared. This aligns with the proposed investment in placemaking, along with the planned investment in cultural facilities and creative industries. Its purpose is to support the dynamic use of space for events, markets, alfresco use and public art as well as conversion and improvement of property. This will provide a basis for consultation with businesses and residents in the city to secure support for future participation.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Funding for placemaking is required to complement investment in transport, business support and the development of cultural activity based on the Perth City Plan, local planning and economic development frameworks as well as community priorities for improvements identified through Placecheck and Charettes. This will assist the promotion of a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy through improved retail and tourist environments. It is intended these will provide opportunities for increased business growth and community development through enhanced use of space and improvement of adjacent property.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Notes progress in the delivery of the programme of placemaking projects in Perth and Aberfeldy, Alyth and Auchterader
 - (ii) Notes that specific capital allocations will be agreed through the capital budget monitoring process by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee; and
 - (iii) Requests the Director (Environment) to bring forward a further report promoting the management and use of public space to a future Committee for consideration.

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Approved

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes/None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement /Perth City Plan	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	Yes
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	Yes
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement in terms identifies the following priorities:
- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
 - (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
 - (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
 - (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
 - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations
- 1.2 The activities contribute to the Community Plan's strategic objectives of 'Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy', and a 'Safe Welcoming Environment' and the outcomes of 'a thriving, expanding economy' and 'employment opportunities for all'.

Corporate Plan

1.3 Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013/2018 sets out five strategic objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

1.4 This report relates to Objective No (iii) 'Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy' and the outcome of 'Thriving, expanding economy' by encouraging and supporting business growth and Objective No (v) 'Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations'.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 Capital funding of £8.9M and £5M have been allocated towards Placemaking and the City Of Light via the composite capital programme and a phased programme of investment agreed which aligns and integrates with other funding. This includes £500,000 proposed for works at Aberfeldy within the Conservation of Built Heritage programme and £200,000 proposed for Alyth Environmental Improvements. The works under the Perth City Centre Project, together with the Revenue Contribution, have also been rephased to align with other works being undertaken in the City Centre. Further movement of resources from within the programme for Green routes is required to support expenditure of £123,000 on digital kiosks and infrastructure. Additional funding via the Tay Cities Deal, sponsorship and external funding may enable the programme to be further amended and adapted.

Workforce

2.2 Resources from within the programme have been capitalised to support 1.5 FTE posts to support delivery.

Asset Management

2.3 Operational responsibility for the maintenance of assets will be undertaken via the Roads Maintenance Partnership, Street Lighting Partnership and Property Services.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS). The proposals have been considered under the Act and will have no or minimal environmental effects, it is therefore exempt and the SEA Gateway has been notified. The reason(s) for concluding that the PPS will have no or minimal environmental effects is that it is part of a strategic approach to invest in the city as part of broader collaborative action via the Perth City Plan and approved resource allocation which has already been assessed.

Sustainability

- 3.4 The proposals have been considered under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 using the Integrated Appraisal Toolkit and will contribute to the sustainable development of Perth and Kinross.

Legal and Governance

- 3.5 No issues as the proposals will use established procurement and contract measures.

Risk

- 3.6 Risks and the controls required to mitigate any risks will be reported through the Council's risk management process where the Council is the lead on individual projects.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Heads of Legal and Governance, Democratic Services and Finance have been consulted in preparation of this report.

External

- 4.2 Initial proposals were considered and supported as part of the consultation with the public and businesses on the Perth City Plan.

5. Communication

- 5.1 Communications promoting opportunities for participation will be undertaken via Perth City Centre Management media channels in relation to the delivery of the programme.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2.1 Report to Council 16 June 2016 (16/277)
- 2.2 Report to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee 19 April 2017 (17/153)

3. APPENDICES

- 3.1 Appendix 1 – Placemaking/Lighting Capital Programme