

Appendix B
TOWN CENTRE FUND - CAPITAL GRANT 2020-2021 - GUIDANCE

SCHEDULE 2

DISTRIBUTION OF TOWN CENTRE FUND CAPITAL GRANT 2020/21

The Town Centre Fund Grant offer per local authority is set out below:

Local Authority	Allocation
Aberdeen City	£ 484,000
Aberdeenshire	£ 1,179,000
Angus	£ 387,000
Argyll and Bute	£ 444,000
City of Edinburgh	£ 954,000
Clackmannanshire	£ 245,000
Dumfries and Galloway	£ 548,000
Dundee City	£ 264,000
East Ayrshire	£ 611,000
East Dunbartonshire	£ 339,000
East Lothian	£ 462,000
East Renfrewshire	£ 353,000
Falkirk	£ 711,000
Fife	£ 1,560,000
Glasgow City	£ 1,096,000
Highland	£ 1,066,000
Inverclyde	£ 235,000
Midlothian	£ 331,000
Moray	£ 443,000
Na h-Eileanan Siar	£ 80,000
North Ayrshire	£ 507,000
North Lanarkshire	£ 1,168,000
Orkney Islands	£ 72,000
Perth and Kinross	£ 714,000
Renfrewshire	£ 527,000
Scottish Borders	£ 511,000
Shetland Islands	£ 73,000
South Ayrshire	£ 382,000
South Lanarkshire	£ 902,000
Stirling	£ 387,000
West Dunbartonshire	£ 307,000
West Lothian	£ 658,000
Scotland	£ 18,000,000

This follows the same TCF allocation methodology as agreed between Ministers and Council Leaders in March 2019: Based on an equal weighting of the number of towns in a local authority (determined by the NRS Settlements and Localities data, where a town is a locality with a population equal to or greater than 1,000 people) and the local authority population.

SCHEDULE 4

TOWN CENTRE CAPITAL FUND 2020-21 - GUIDANCE NOTE

Purpose

1. The purpose of this note is to provide local authorities as “grantees” guidance on the aims and allocation of the ring-fenced £18m Town Centre Fund for 2020-21, to be distributed through the local authority capital settlement.

Town Centre Fund 2020-21

2. On 16th June 2020, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance announced a £230 million Economic Recovery Stimulus Package to help invigorate Scotland’s economy. The package:
 - **bolsters the remaining pipeline of 2020-21 construction activity - to give additional support to the sector as re-start is now s underway;**
 - Accelerates digital transformation, and supports the most vulnerable groups to access digital services;
 - brings-forward an early boost to our ambition for a green economy; and
 - Supports promising, early stage growth companies through existing Tech-start and Scottish Investment Bank initiatives.
3. As part of this recovery package, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities & Local Government announced on 10 September 2020 that **£30m capital funding for regeneration** would be invested through two existing funding mechanisms, the Town Centre Fund and Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF). This aims to stimulate local construction activity across Scotland and support disadvantaged areas in the recovery.
4. Town Centre Fund and RCGF are delivered in partnership with COSLA and through local authorities as grantees. We duly engaged with COSLA and the Settlement & Distribution Group on plans for allocating funding this way, subsequently agreed by Council Leaders. The agreed approach involves £18m through Town Centre Fund in 2020-21, and £12m being invested through RCGF. **The Town Centre Fund local authority allocations are summarised in Schedule 2** and follow the same Town Centre Fund allocation methodology as agreed between Ministers and Council Leaders in 2019.

Wider expectations and support

5. The aim of this additional £18 million fund is to stimulate local construction activity and support employment across Scotland, and local authorities should ensure this is prioritised in investment decisions. **All grant expenditure must be complete by 31 March 2021**, therefore it is expected that local authorities will prioritise projects which are established and can progress in time to meet this deadline. Expenditure is defined as *“It is expected that work will be completed; or, at least work or contracts signed or commenced within 2020/21”*.

National and local commitments

6. COVID-19 has had a profound impact on the way that we work and has changed our perceptions of the communities around us. It has forced us to look local. That theme runs throughout our Programme for Government (PfG) 2020-21 with new commitments around **local supply chain development and 20 minute neighbourhoods** - where people can meet their needs within a 20 minute walk from their house – enabling people to live better, healthier lives and supporting our net zero ambitions. As part of the Work Local Challenge Programme we will work with partners

on innovation and deployment of local work hubs and office space solutions to enhance workplace choices.

7. This is also the time to build on the progress we have been making **on Community Wealth Building**. This is a way of working that looks to reorganise our local economies to maximise local opportunities and resilience – ensuring that local people and businesses have a genuine stake in producing, owning and enjoying the wealth they create.
8. We will develop a network of **Climate Action Towns** targeted at small towns with little historical involvement in climate action. This will support them to reduce what they use, recycle more, and cut their emissions and become carbon neutral, as part of our aim to ensure that Scotland's response to the global climate emergency is a truly national endeavour.

Town Centre Action Plan

9. The Town Centre Action Plan published in 2013 was the Scottish Government's response to the National Town Centre Review. It focused on national and local solutions, encouraging action across public, private and community sectors. The Scottish Government and local government subsequently agreed the **Town Centre First Principle (TCFP)**, which requested that government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of proportionate and best value decision making. The Scottish Government and COSLA agreed to adopt the **Place Principle** to help overcome organisational and sectoral boundaries, to encourage better collaboration and community involvement, and improve the impact of combined energy, resources and investment. The principle was developed by partners in the public and private sectors, the third sector and communities, to help them develop a clear vision for their place.
10. We are taking forward a **collaborative review of the progress and scope of the Town Centre Action Plan**. This will build on our UK leading town centre first approach which has shaped recent announcements by our counterparts elsewhere in the UK. The purpose of this review is to consider the impact and lessons from the TCAP, and the impact of COVID-19 on our town centres, as part of a wider package of national towns recovery and renewal work.
11. Empowered communities, localism and valuing the skills and assets of our communities have long been central to our approach to regeneration. The review provides an opportunity to amplify that by embracing the Place Principle and TCFP, promoting town centre living, building a future that takes account of our ambitions for a healthier, greener country, and with a focus on social renewal and equality through the Social Renewal Advisory Board.

Scotland's Towns Partnership

12. The Scottish Government funds Scotland's Towns Partnership to provide information, support and services which contribute to the vibrancy, vitality and viability of our town centres and neighbourhoods; and, to support the development of partnerships including Business Improvement Districts.
13. There are a range of tools and resources to support how partners can understand, audit, plan, and improve their town centres. It is expected that local authorities will use a range of tools and approaches to ensure investment decisions are based on an understanding of town centre performance and ownership; shared visions and plans with local communities, partnership and stakeholders fully engaged; and, identification of physical infrastructure changes that will contribute to maximisation of investments and achievement of those visions.

Tools and resources

- [Understanding Scottish Places](#) (USP): a unique and dynamic online tool which shows how every town in Scotland with a population of 1,000 or more is interacting with its surrounding settlements and performing against a range of indicators and inter/dependency relationships.

- [USP Your Town Audit](#): add to USP a six-day study which provides the standard benchmark for measuring the health of a Scottish town.
- [Place Standard](#): a framework designed to support communities, public, private and third sectors to work efficiently together to assess the quality of a place.
- [Town Centre Toolkit](#): guidance on designing and planning town centres to be attractive, accessible and active, focusing on urban design, quality, sustainability and use of town assets.

Support

14. Additional support is offered by Scotland's Towns Partnership in partnership with other key organisations such as: Scottish Futures Trust; Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, or South of Scotland Economic Partnership, and Architecture and Design Scotland to support the development of investment decisions or work with local authorities individually or across neighbouring or regional authorities, to build momentum, share learning, and to maximise funding.
15. Local authorities will have their own good practice in terms of monitoring and evaluating the benefits, impacts and outcomes of investment as part of relevant strategies and programmes; and, to ensure that they meet their duty to achieve Best Value. Additional support could also be offered to discuss how best to identify and collect data; assess impact; and, share formats that could contribute to consistent and wider learning.