**PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME - guidance note**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this note is to provide local authorities as “grantees” guidance on the aims and allocation of the **Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP)**, distributed through the local authority capital settlement. The guidance may be subject to change during the term of the programme and any changes will be communicated through circulation of a revised note.

**Aims**

1. When published in September 2020, the [Programme for Government](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2020/09/protecting-scotland-renewing-scotland-governments-programme-scotland-2020-2021/documents/protecting-scotland-renewing-scotland/protecting-scotland-renewing-scotland/govscot%3Adocument/protecting-scotland-renewing-scotland.pdf?forceDownload=true) contained a commitment to establish a Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) which is intended to link and align place based initiatives and establish a coherent local framework designed to implement the Place Principle. The PBIP will invest up to £325m to support community led regeneration and town centre revitalisation and seeks to build on the successful work of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) and Town Centre Action Plan.
2. Local government is a key partner in delivering the Place Based Investment Programme and Scottish Government and Council Leaders have agreed that Local Government will receive a share of the funding over 5 years to support and advance place-based investment and build on the strong partnership currently existing through the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund and the Town Centre Action Plan.

**National and Local Commitments**

1. The funding will be for local authorities to allocate, working collaboratively with local communities, along with business and the third and public sectors, to support shared local plans and aspirations.
2. It is expected that local authorities make investment decisions that accelerate our ambitions for place, 20-minute neighbourhoods, town centre action, community led regeneration and community wealth building. The funding is also expected to contribute to net zero, wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage including child poverty, and community involvement and ownership, including the repurposing of buildings, maintenance and repairs, reallocating external space and community led land acquisition. It will also create opportunities to work in partnership with other funding programmes and coordinate these at a local level alongside other local authority programmes and plans. Local authorities should make use of tools and support developed by the Scottish Government and other key partners. Local Authorities will wish to consider how this investment may support their contribution to delivering reductions in Child Poverty as part of their statutory commitment and reporting.
3. In practice this means that consideration will be given to how place based investments align with other planned investments in the locality in order to streamline delivery and increase impact. Consideration will also need to be given to addressing the core questions which will be set out in the Place Based Investment Framework to ensure that the investment is relevant to the needs of the locality, fits with other local actions and provides a basis for collaboration with partners.
4. Local Authorities will wish to consider how place based approaches and the investment delivered through PBIP can compliment and align with other potential funding sources being delieverd through UK Government.
5. Scottish Government and COSLA have engaged the Improvement Service to support evaluation of the impact of the funding.

**Place Based Framework and the Place Principle**

1. Place is already at the forefront of key policy areas, including the Place Principle, Infrastructure Investment Plan and the draft National Planning Framework 4. The PBIP will ensure this is reflected on the ground - making sure that money spent in places has the greatest collective benefit possible. Opportunities to align with proposals and policies set out in existing or emerging local development plans as appropriate, within the context of the emerging Draft NPF4, should be considered.
2. **The Place Based Framework**, which is still under development, will seek to achieve a consistent appraisal process for all local capital investments. It will propose that before investing in a place it is first necessary to have established a shared plan for that place, a shared route map and a meaningful oversight structure. The framework will ask decision makers to consider a series of basic questions designed to understand the fundamental narrative of a place, the local plans and aspirations, how separate activities will dovetail into an overall programme for change, and how collective leadership will be realised and sustained.
3. 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. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/place-principle-introduction/>

**20 Minute Neighbourhoods**

1. The Draft National Planning Framework 4 sets out a commitment to embed the concept in local development plans and national planning policy. The places we live have a direct impact on our health and the environment. A whole place approach is required in order to actively focus on planning our homes, everyday local infrastructure, including schools, community centres, local shops and healthcare to allow people tolive well locally, accessing most of their basic needs within an approximately 20-minute walk from their home. The place quality within the 20 minute neighbourhood should be driven in participation with the local community and be such that civic and local identity is engendered and local economies and activities emerge to further support the community.
2. 20 minute neighbourhoods are complemented by safe walking, wheeling and cycling and local transport options to support travel further afield. In rural areas, where settlement patterns are more dispersed, the concept will help to make sure investment decisions deliver the maximum benefits for individuals and their communities.

**Town Centre Action Plan and Town Centre First Principle**

1. The **Town Centre Action Plan** (TCAP), 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. An independent review of the TCAP *‘A New Future For Town Centres’*, was commissioned by Scottish Ministers and published on 3 February 2021. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-future-scotlands-town-centres/> The Review considered the impact and lessons from the TCAP, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our town centres, and developed a new vision for the future of our towns with advice on the means to achieve it. A joint interim response with COSLA was published in March 2021, and the Scottish Government is considering the recommendations in detail with its partners from local government, communities, business and third sector organisations to develop a full joint response and delivery plan.
2. Following the publication of TCAP, the Scottish Government and local government subsequently agreed the **Town Centre First Principle** 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, seeking to deliver the best local outcomes regarding investment and de-investment decisions, alignment of policies, targeting of available resources to priority town centre sites, and encouraging vibrancy, equality and diversity. It committed to a collaborative approach which understands and underpins the long-term plan for each town centre. <https://www.gov.scot/policies/regeneration/town-centre-regeneration/>

**Tools and Resources**

1. There is a range of tools and resources to support how partners can understand, audit, plan, and improve their places. It is expected that local authorities will use a range of tools and approaches to ensure investment decisions are based on an understanding of performance and ownership of places; 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.

* [Understanding Scottish Places](http://www.scotlandstowns.org/understanding_scottish_places_launch_musselburgh) (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.
* [Place Standard](http://www.scotlandstowns.org/place_standard): a framework designed to support communities, public, private and third sectors to work efficiently together to assess the quality of a place. A new web-resource on place-based working is in development and will contain on-line resources, case studies and toolkits to support place-based working and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods.
* [USP Your Town Audit](https://www.usp.scot/StaticPage/UspAudit): add to USP a six-day study which provides the standard benchmark for measuring the health of a Scottish town.
* [Town Centre Toolkit](http://www.scotlandstowns.org/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**

1. The PBIP provides an opportunity to build on work by local authorities to develop and implement local development plans, local place plans and town centre action plans, and to realise transformative ambitions arising from those plans. Additional support is offered by Scotland’s Towns Partnership, 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.
2. 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.