

Status Report on the Application to The Town's and Business (BID's) Districts Resilience & Recovery Fund (TBRR)

Report by Chief Officer – Place

Report for Information

1 Recommendations

Cabinet to note Scotland's Towns Partnership (STP) TBRR Fund award of £25,000 to One Dalkeith for the Virtual High Street project.

2 Purpose of Report

To provide Cabinet with information on the funding award by STP to One Dalkeith.

Date: 21/08/2020

Report Contact:

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3. Background

- 3.1 An application for £65,000 was made to TBRR Fund, administered by STP, as a collaborative approach between Economic Development, Communities and Lifelong Learning, SEAM and One Dalkeith to support community led economic development across the area as outlined in Midlothian Council's Economic Development Strategy for Growth 2020-25 and Economic Renewal Strategy.
- 3.2 An update from the Scottish Towns Partnership advised that the fund had been oversubscribed and an allocation of £17k was being held for Midlothian.
- 3.3 STP reviewed each of the strands from the initial application and it was decided that One Dalkeith's Virtual High Street project was the closest aligned to the Scottish Government fund objectives.
- 3.4 It was agreed with STP that One Dalkeith submit their application for the £25k for consideration.
- 3.5 STP awarded the full £25k to One Dalkeith on Wednesday 29th July 2020.
- 3.6 Virtual High Street: One Dalkeith created a local food marketplace online during lockdown to ensure that local people could access food locally, driving trade for those businesses that remained operational. Hyper-local is an increasing feature of the commercial landscape, retailers that do not embrace technology are likely to find themselves at a significant commercial disadvantage. Given adequate resourcing this initial effort could be efficiently and effectively developed to offer a complimentary range of mutually supporting services. This element will include 'Open for Business' maps, directories & Hyper-Local delivery mechanisms as important components of any Virtual High Street implementation.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital, Risk and Equalities)

- 4.1 **Resource:** No formal resource is required however Economic Development will support the project by:
 - Allocating a Business Gateway Adviser to the One Dalkeith project team
 - Refer business clients to list on the Virtual High Street improving their localised exposure as part of the National Scotland Loves Local Campaign
 - Publicising the project via the Locate in Midlothian channels
- 4.2 **Digital:** None
- 4.3 **Risk:** External project, no risk to Midlothian Council
- 4.4 **Ensuring Equalities:** Not applicable

5 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

By

- Community safety
- Adult health, care and housing

- Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- Sustainable growth
- Business transformation and Best Value
- None of the above

6 IT Issues

None identified.

Background Papers:

- STP Towns and Business Improvement Districts Resilience & Recovery Fund Guidance.