

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Director Environment and Community Services - Geoff Field
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Relevant Executive Member:	The Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Nicky Walker
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Submitted to:	Executive Sub-Committee for Property
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Date:	4 February 2026
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Title:	Updated Members Small Scheme Allocations
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Report for:	Decision
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Status:	Public
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Council Plan priority:	A successful and ambitious town
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Key decision:	No
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Why:	Decision does not reach the threshold to be a key decision
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Subject to call in?	Yes
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Why:	The decision is not urgent
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Proposed decision(s)

That the Executive Sub-Committee for property approves the eligible Updated Members Small Scheme project allocations, following applications from Members, and assessment by Council Officers:

- APPROVES the updated allocation of funding to deliver the approved projects.

Executive summary

The Members Small Schemes allocation was agreed by Executive to the value of £150,000 for the 2025/26 financial year, funded from the resources set aside for this as part of the approved Council Capital Programme. This allocation allows Members to apply for grant funding up to the value of £15,000 to make improvements within their ward. Match funding from service areas could be sought where the project cost exceeded the £15,000 limit, to further enhance the value of proposed projects.

Applications were received and assessed by Council Officers to identify the suitability, affordability and deliverability of the proposals. Due to an administration issue, two schemes were omitted in error. Following further analysis, these schemes have been

identified as being suitable for funding allocation. The schemes highlighted in green in table 1 provide the details of the two additions.

The updated tables 1 and 2 in appendix 1 shows the applications that were received. Following Officer assessment, it was identified that two of the projects could not be delivered. These projects and rationale are identified within table 2 in appendix 1.

This decision will allow the projects to be designed (where appropriate) and scheduled for implementation at the earliest opportunity, in line with budget allocation. The updated total value of funding requested from the Members Small Scheme allocation was £173,400.

The updated proposed schemes approved by Officers is £143,400. There is a request for £103,050 for proposed scheme match funding, with £93,050 for the proposed approved schemes.

The implications of the recommendation have been considered by the appropriate Council Officers and are set out in the main body of the report.

1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

1.1 The report aims to gain approval to allocate funding to make local environmental improvements submitted by Members. The improvements aim to enhance the local areas for all the relevant community, improving accessibility and local environment.

1.2 The applications that were made can be found in appendix 1.

1.3 The Small Schemes Allocation will allow elected Members to enhance their local areas and further their work as community champions which actively contributes to the Council's ambitions as detailed in the Council Plan 2024- 2027.

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	<i>The Members Small Scheme allocations provide funding for members to make localised improvements within their wards. This improves accessibility and attractiveness to the local area.</i>
A healthy Place	<i>The proposals with the report will make improvements that encourage physical activity, by improving road safety and creating play areas. They will also contribute to local environmental improvements.</i>
Safe and resilient communities	<i>The proposals will improve Road Safety through installation of traffic calming and pedestrian crossing points.</i>
Delivering best value	<i>The proposals are gaining match funding from service areas to deliver improvements that are mutually beneficial for local and organisational goals.</i>

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Sub Committee for property approves the eligible Updated Members Small Scheme project allocations, following applications from Members, and assessment by Council Officers:

- APPROVES the updated allocation of funding to deliver the approved projects.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The recommendation allows a suitable use of the Members Small Scheme grant, and empowers Councillors to make real changes to their wards.

3.2 The approved schemes ensure that the overall budget has not been exceeded.

4. Background and relevant information

4.1 The Members Small Schemes allocation was agreed by Executive to the value of £150,000 for the 2025/26 financial year, funded from the resources set aside for this as

part of the approved Council Capital Programme. This allocation allows Members to apply for grant funding to deliver environmental improvements within their ward up to the value of £15,000.

4.2 Match funding from relevant Service Areas could be sought where the project cost exceeded the £15,000 limit, to further enhance the value of proposed projects. This had to be discussed with the relevant service area in advance of submission.

4.3 Members were sent details of the application process and types of schemes that could be eligible. A workshop was made available to all Members to attend to discuss the process, and raise any queries as required.

4.4 One application per ward was permitted, meaning that each ward Member needed to liaise, as to their collective priority. 11 applications were made/processed to the grant funding opportunity: covering the wards of Acklam, Ayresome, Berwick Hills and Pallister, Coulby Newham, Hemlington, Kader, Marton East, Marton West, Newport, Nunthorpe and Trimdon.

4.5 The two previously omitted schemes included for consideration are in Central and Longlands and Beechwood wards.

4.6 Applications were received and assessed by Officers to identify the suitability, affordability and deliverability of the proposals. The updated tables in appendix 1 shows the applications that were received.

4.7 Following further analysis, the two additional schemes have been identified as being suitable for funding allocation. The schemes highlighted in green in table 1 provide the details of the two additions.

4.8 Following the Officer assessment, it was identified that two of the projects could not be delivered. These two projects and rationale are identified within table 2 in appendix 1.

4.9 It is recommended that the applications assessed by Officers are approved, and those that are not, rejected.

5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

5.1 All Ward Members were provided the opportunity to make an application to the Members Small scheme allocation. Details of the process were communicated with all Members, and a workshop that could be attended to raise any queries.

6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

6.1 Do nothing – this is not recommended as the proposals have been assessed by Officers for suitability. Those that were not suitable have been omitted, and the value of those proposed to proceed are within the available funding allocation.

6.2 Approve all schemes – this is not recommended as two of the schemes are not deliverable (rationale of these schemes can be found in appendix 1).

7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	<p>The updated proposed schemes totalling £143,400 are funded from the Members Small Schemes budget within the approved Council Capital Programme. Where match funding has been requested, this has been approved by the relevant service area.</p> <p>It should be noted that all expenditure on the approved projects may not be fully spent in 2025/26 and some expenditure may be incurred in 2026/27.</p> <p>Any unspent amounts of the funding available each year for Members Small Schemes in the Capital Programme will be carried forward to future years.</p>
Legal	<p>There are no legal implications surrounding the approval of the schemes. Any legal implications surrounding individual projects will be addressed as part of scheme development and delivery.</p>
Risk	<p>The proposed scheme allocations are within the grant funding allocation approved by Executive. There are no risks associated with the approval of the schemes. Any risks associated with individual projects will be assessed as part of scheme development and delivery.</p>
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	<p>The proposed schemes are based around Environmental improvements. This will not impact upon Human Rights, Equality duty or community cohesion as they are accessible for everyone to utilise.</p>
Reducing Poverty	<p>The schemes proposed will improve the local environment for all.</p>
Climate Change / Environmental	<p>The schemes proposed will improve the local environment for all.</p>
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	<p>The schemes proposed will improve the local environment for all.</p>
Data Protection	<p>There are no data protection implications associated with approving the funding for environmental improvements. Any data protection issues surrounding the implementation of the proposals will be addressed as part of scheme development and delivery.</p>

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Approved projects delivered	Chris Orr	31/3/2026

Appendices

1	Table of applications received
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
n/a		

Contact: Chris Orr

Email: chris_orr@middlesbrough.gov.uk