

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPONSOR: RICHARD MILLAR****2024/25 COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT PLAN Q2 UPDATE****Purpose**

This paper provides an update to the Board as to progress on the delivery of the approved 2024/25 Commercial Investment Plan. The Board is asked to note the content.

**Priority**

Routine.

**Background**

The 2024/25 Commercial Investment Plan was approved by the Board at its June 2024 meeting.

**Key Points for Noting**

The quarterly summary of progress is provided in Appendix 1. There is a small increase of ████████ to the planned full year expenditure. This is borne from the continuing development of The Falkirk Wheel Masterplan where additional design work was approved in respect of activity development, specifically playpark initial concept design as the existing playpark is now life expired, and the New Port Downie meeting hub where opportunities to improve accessibility and maximise income are being pursued.

The Investment Committee approved the following projects in the quarter;

- TFW Masterplan – design work to enable development of business cases to support the proposed; new Digital Experience, Visitor Centre remodelled entrance and upgraded toilets, expansion of Holiday Boat Hire, revitalised New Port Downie meeting hub and development of external activities.

All of the 24/25 proposed projects have now been approved in line with the Scheme of Delegation and current Scottish Government requirements. Projects are progressing as planned albeit the time taken to obtain Scottish Government approval for the Borron Street project has impacted programme and completion will be delayed into the early part of next financial year. This is not anticipated to impact funding.

Note the proposed residential investment opportunity at Dundashill is not requesting any investment funds from Scottish Canals this year and the proposal is set out in detail in a separate paper to the November Board.

### **Corporate Considerations**

- Strategic Priorities: The 24/25 Commercial Investment Plan aligns with Scottish Canals' Investment Strategy and supports Corporate Plan and strategic priorities around financial sustainability.
- Health & Safety: Nothing to note.
- Risk/Risk Appetite: The investment plan aligns with corporate risk appetite in that SC has a Cautious risk appetite to undertaking activities that provide value for money and guaranteed future revenue streams.
- Legal: Nothing to note.
- Financial: As per this paper. Commercial Investment spend is subject to Investment Committee approval and Scottish Government approval is sought, where appropriate, as per current Scottish Government advice on spend thresholds.
- Human Resources: Nothing to note.
- Fair Work First: Scottish Canals endeavours to comply with the SG Fair Work First criteria where applicable.
- Communication: As individual projects are delivered, internal and external communication requirements will be determined.
- Community & Third Sector: Nothing to note.
- Commercial: As per this paper which updates on commercial investment.
- Asset: The investment strategy seeks to maximise value from non-operational assets. The Borron Street project brings a long-term vacant property back into revenue generation whilst upgrading and protecting the fabric of the asset for the future.
- Environment: Opportunities to achieve carbon efficiency in consideration of Scottish Canals' net zero ambitions forms part of the due diligence on all investment projects.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The 2024/25 Commercial Investment Plan was approved by the Board at its June 2024 meeting. This quarterly update confirms a small increase to the forecasted spend [REDACTED] and informs on progress.

The Board is asked to note the content.

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