Item: 8

Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee: 10 November 2026.

Economic Development Grants.

Report by Director of Enterprise and Resources.

1. Overview

1.1. This report presents, for information, details of grants awarded in respect of economic development activities, for the period 1 April to 30 September 2026.

1.2. In March 2026, the Council approved the revenue budget for financial year 2026/27. This included an initial Economic Development Grants budget of £282,600, along with the capability to over-commit by 5%, which increased the budget to £296,700.

1.3. Spending to 30 September 2026 in relation to Economic Development Grants totalled £141,042 of which £88,647 relates to grant commitments made in previous financial years and £52,395 to current year commitments.

1.4. The budget available for approval from the Economic Development Grants budget as at 30 September 2026, amounted to £90,663, as detailed in Annex A to this report.

1.5. Grant approvals made in the period 1 April to 30 September 2026 totalled £206,037 including grants approved under delegated schemes for the same period which totalled £107,519 and are detailed in Annex B to this report.

2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:

i. Note spending to 30 September 2026 in relation to Economic Development Grants, totalling £141,042, of which £88,647 relates to grant commitments made in previous financial years and £52,395 to current year commitments.

ii. Note grant approvals made in the period 1 April to 30 September 2026 totalling £206,037 including grants approved under delegated schemes for the same period which totalled £107,519 as detailed in Annex B to this report.

3. Exempt and/or Confidential Information

3.1. Under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting in respect of any discussion relating to Annex B to this report. Annex B contains exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

For Further Information please contact:
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Implications of Report

1. **Financial:** Financial implications are detailed in the report and annexes to the report.
2. **Legal:** Budget monitoring procedures help the Council meet its statutory obligation to secure best value.
3. **Corporate Governance:** Approval of applications for financial assistance from Economic Development schemes of assistance which are within policy guidelines is delegated to the Director of Enterprise and Resources.
4. **Human Resources:** Not applicable.
5. **Equalities:** An Equality Impact Assessment is not required in respect of financial reporting.
6. **Island Communities Impact:** An Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required in respect of financial reporting.
7. **Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
   ☒Growing our economy.
   ☒Strengthening our Communities.
   ☒Developing our Infrastructure.
   ☐Transforming our Council.
8. **Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
   ☒Cost of Living.
   ☒Sustainable Development.
   ☒Local Equality.
   ☐Improving Population Health.
9. **Environmental and Climate Risk:** Not applicable.
10. **Risk:** Not applicable.

11. **Procurement:** Not applicable.
12. **Health and Safety:** Not applicable.
13. **Property and Assets:** Not applicable.
14. **Information Technology:** Not applicable.
15. **Cost of Living** The report includes details of grant award commitments made during the period to 30 September 2026, some of which could contribute to addressing negative impacts of cost of living on Orkney businesses and wider community interests.

List of Background Papers

None.

Annexes

Annex A: Budget Available for Approval, as at 30 September 2026.
Annex B: Approvals for Year to 30 September 2026, including applications approved under delegated powers.

Economic Development Budget Available for Approval as at 30 September 2026

Budget Available for Approval.	**£.**	**£.**
Annual Budget.		296,700
Less spending: Previous year commitments (note 1).	88,647	
Less spending: Current year commitments (note 2).	52,395	
Ledger totals as at 30 September 2025.		(141,042)
Current year commitments: Grants approved to date (note 3).	206,037	
Current year commitments: Less current year spending.	(52,395)	
Current year commitments outstanding (note 4).		(153,642)
Economic Development Grant Fund: Add back previous year commitment.		88,647
Current budget available for approval.		90,663

Note on terminology:

1. Spending: Previous year commitments.	Spending made in 2026/27 for grants approved in 2025/26 and earlier. Funded by transfer from Economic Development Grant Fund.
2. Spending: Current year commitments.	Spending made in 2026/27 in relation to grants approved in 2026/27.
3. Grants approved to date.	Total grants approved in 2026/27.
4. Current year commitments outstanding.	Balance still due to be paid on grants approved during 2026/27 transferred to Economic Development Grant Fund.