
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	31 August 2017
Report By:	Corporate Director, Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	ENV023/17/SA
Contact Officer:	Scott Allan	Contact No:	01475 712762
Subject:	Town & Village Centre Regeneration		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the allocation of funds for town and village centre regeneration.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Members will recall the report to this Committee on 2 March 2017 when funds were allocated for town and village centre regeneration. The report approved that £1.9m be allocated to Greenock, £0.25m to Port Glasgow and £0.25m to Gourock.
- 2.2 This report updates Members on progress in respect of these allocations with regard to Greenock and Port Glasgow. It also seeks authorisation for specific expenditure in Gourock as requested through the Gourock Regeneration Forum.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that:-

1. the Committee note progress in respect of the development of regeneration projects in Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow;
2. the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources be delegated to release funds in respect of the regeneration initiatives in Gourock as set out in paragraph 4.4.

Scott Allan
Corporate Director, Environment, Regeneration & Resources

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Members will recall the allocation of additional budget for towns and village centres at this Committee on 2 March 2017. The report advised that £1.9m be allocated to Greenock, £0.25m to Port Glasgow and £0.25m to Gourock.
- 4.2 The Greenock Regeneration Forum is progressing proposals for spend against this allocation associated with streetscape improvements to West Blackhall Street and Cathcart Square. This approach reflects the outcomes and priorities of the charrette exercise carried out in 2016. Efforts are being made to lever in matched funding to enhance the value of the Council contribution. It is likely that contributions will be sought from SPT in respect of proposals to enhance access and the environment around Greenock Central Station. Options will be considered at the next Forum meeting in September.
- 4.3 At the Port Glasgow Regeneration Forum, it was agreed that options would be considered for the improvement of the road and footpaths in Princes Street. The next meeting will consider alternatives and further explore opportunities. Like Greenock, this work aligns with priorities in the charrette carried out in 2016.
- 4.4 With respect to Gourock, significant investment has already been made through delivery of the £5.2m regeneration project. The focus of the regeneration forum has therefore been on supporting and developing the Gourock Heritage Group. The Group has a lease on rooms in the upper floor of the Municipal Buildings. As reported previously, there is an aspiration for the Group to take on the rooms adjoining the former Police Station (subject to the Art Club vacating this location later this year). As a prelude to the above, the Group proposes to set up as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), draft a business plan and commence funding applications with a view to an asset transfer of the old Gourock Police Station. To facilitate this action, we have received a request to utilise part of the regeneration funding to support continued occupancy of the current location in the Municipal Buildings, development of the business plan and preparation of funding bids. As this work supports both the objectives of regeneration and community ownership, it is recommended that the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources be authorised to release funds as appropriate.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 5.1 The financial implications are associated with a drawdown of funds as allocated at this Committee on 2 March for the regeneration of town and village centres.

5.2 Financial Implications

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Earmarked Reserves	Town & Village Centres	2017/19	2,500	n/a	Expenditure will be contained within overall budget allocation.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

5.3 None.

Human Resources

5.4 None.

Equalities

5.5 None.

Repopulation

5.6 None.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 None.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.