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| Report To: | Education & Communities Committee | Date: | 12 March 2019 |
| Report By: | Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development | Report No: | EDUCOM/34/19/HS |
| Contact Officer: | Hugh Scott | Contact No: | 01475 715459 |
| Subject: | Craigend Resource Centre | | |

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of Inverclyde Council's application to the Regeneration Capital Fund (RCGF) 2018 on behalf of Craigend Resource Centre and to seek delegated authority to accept the grant if awarded. Phase one of this application was agreed in principle by the Scottish Government in October 2018 with a recommendation to go to Stage 2 with the final outcome in March 2019.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Craigend Resource Centre (CRC) is currently occupying premises at McLeod Street, Greenock without the benefit of a formal lease, the previous one having expired. The Environment and Regeneration Committee has previously approved leasing arrangements over the years, matching the changing aspirations of CRC's management. They are currently progressing with funding for a major expansion of the premises.
- 2.2 A feasibility study commissioned by CRC and carried out by MCM Associates in 2013 examined the future viability and development of the centre and architectural plans were drawn up at that time. Acknowledging the need for further community engagement, in 2016 CRC commissioned Community Enterprise to carry out a community consultation and research study concluding the need to develop the centre.
- 2.3 The total capital project cost of the redevelopment of the centre is £2,317,129 with a conditional grant offer from the Big Lottery Fund of £1,130,000 and a Regeneration Capital Fund bid application of £1,187,129. The conditional offer of the Big Lottery Fund is that planning permission and match funding are secured within 12 months (summer 2019). CRC have advised that successful funding from the Regeneration Capital Fund is vital in order for the project to proceed. If the Regeneration Capital Fund was unsuccessful, it is unlikely that CRC will secure match funding within the restrictive time-scale.
- 2.4 The Council's Education and Communities Committee approves a recurring cost of £119,000 per annum to support the running costs of CRC. This follows the governance agreements including an annual heads of terms funding agreement and set outcomes to match the need of the local community.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee:

- 3.1 Notes the progress of the Stage 2 funding application for Regeneration Capital Fund on behalf of Craighend Resource Centre,
- 3.2 Grants delegated authority to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisation Development after consultation with the Head of Legal & Property Services and Chief Financial Officer to accept the Regeneration Capital Grants Fund (RCGF) on behalf of Inverclyde Council. Appropriate Head of Terms agreement will be established with Craighend Resource Centre.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Craigend Resource Centre (CRC) is currently occupying premises at McLeod Street, Greenock without the benefit of a formal lease, the previous one having expired. The Environment and Regeneration Committee has previously approved letting arrangements over the years, matching the changing aspirations of CRC's management. They are currently progressing with funding for a major expansion of the premises.
- 4.2 A feasibility study commissioned by CRC and carried out by MCM Associates in 2013 examined the future viability and development of the centre and architectural plans were drawn up at that time. Acknowledging the need for further community engagement, in 2016 CRC commissioned Community Enterprise to carry out a community consultation and research study concluding the need to develop the centre.
- 4.3 The Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, delivered in partnership with COSLA and local government, supports locally developed regeneration projects that involve local communities, helping to support and create jobs and build sustainable communities. Applications to the fund are made on an annual basis and, where justified, can potentially cover more than one financial year (subject to Spending Review restrictions).

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

5.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Years | Proposed Spend this Report | Virement From | Other Comments |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|---|
| Craigend | Capital programme | From 2019/20 | Up to £1187k | | Grant would be received by the Council and paid out to Craigend on the basis of expenditure incurred. |

Annually Recurring Costs/(Savings)

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | With Effect from | Annual Net Impact | Virement From (If Applicable) | Other Comments |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 02475 | | | 119 | | |

Legal

- 5.2 No implications

Human Resources

- 5.3 No Implications

Equalities

- 5.4 No Implications

Repopulation

- 5.5 The maintenance of a high quality Community Centre enhances the attractiveness of Inverclyde as a place to live.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The CMT has considered the Business Plan prepared by Craigend and are supportive of the proposed development. Legal and Property Services and Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None