

AGENDA ITEM NO:

Report To: Interim Head of Legal Services **Date:** 17 June 2021

Report By: Regeneration Manager **Report No:**

Contact Officer: Jennifer Horn **Contact No:** 01475 715573

Subject: Request for use of Emergency Powers – Submission of the Community Renewal Fund application to the UK Government

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek member approval under Emergency Powers to allow the Regeneration Service to submit an application to the UK Government for the Community Renewal Fund.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The UK Community Renewal Fund is £220million of investment for 2021-22. The fund aims to help support local areas pilot new approaches and programmes aligning national and local provision. It aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK and also prepare them to take advantage of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund when it launches in 2022. Inverclyde is considered 1 of 100 areas of most need and is therefore defined as a Priority Place for the fund.
- 2.2 The UK Government has identified 4 investment priorities for the fund: investment in skills; investment for local businesses; investment in communities and place; and, supporting people into employment. Net zero is also a priority for the fund. The fund is predominately revenue (90% revenue/10% capital). Successful bids will be for 2021/2022 only and should be scaled accordingly to ensure that interventions are financially completed by 31st March 2022.
- 2.3 Inverclyde Council is the Lead Authority for Inverclyde. The Council invited applications to be submitted to the Council by noon on the 4th June. The Council has assessed the bids and seeks permission to submit successful bids to the UK Government on the 18th June. The UK Government has indicated that they will let applicants know in July.
- 2.4 Twelve applications were submitted on the 4th June deadline from a range of organisations totalling £7.8m million. Three of the applications did not meet the gateway criteria for the fund and nine were taken forward for further assessment. Seven applications totalling £2.3m are considered to meet the criteria set out by the UK Government and will be progressed through an application to the UK Government which will be submitted by Inverclyde Council by 12 noon on the 18th June.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Convener and Vice Convener of the Environment & Regeneration Committee and the most senior Member of the Committee not having the same political affiliation be asked to give approval to the Regeneration Service to submit the application, supporting the 7 bids which meet the UK Government's criteria, by 12 noon on the 18th June

Stuart Jamieson
Interim Service Director of Environment and Economic Recovery

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The UK Community Renewal Fund is £220million of investment for 2021-22. The fund aims to help support local areas pilot new approaches and programmes aligning national and local provision. It aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK and also prepare them to take advantage of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund when it launches in 2022. Inverclyde is considered 1 of 100 areas of most need and is therefore defined as a Priority Place for the fund.
- 4.2 The UK Government has identified 4 investment priorities for the fund: investment in skills; investment for local businesses; investment in communities and place; and, supporting people into employment. Net zero is also a priority for the fund. The fund is predominately revenue (90% revenue/10% capital). Successful bids will be for 2021/2022 only and should be scaled accordingly to ensure that interventions are financially completed by 31st March 2022.
- 4.3 Inverclyde Council is the Lead Authority for Inverclyde. The Council invited applications to be submitted to the Council by noon on the 4th June. The Council has assessed the bids and intends to submit successful bids to the UK Government on the 18th June.
- 4.4 The UK Government has indicated that they will let applicants know in July 2021.

5.0 UK Community Renewal

- 5.1 Inverclyde launched the invitation to bid to the Community Renewal Fund on the Council's website on the 10th May following the guidance that was given by the UK Government
- 5.2 An information session was held with interested organisations on the 17th May.

5.4 Applications

- 5.5 Thirteen applications were submitted in total. Twelve made the deadline of 12 noon on the 4th June 2021, but one was late coming in after 11pm.
- 5.6 The twelve applications submitted on the 4th June deadline are from a range of organisations totalling £7.8m million. Three of the applications did not meet the gateway criteria for the fund and nine were taken forward for further assessment. Seven applications totalling £2.3m are considered to meet the criteria set out by the UK Government and will be progressed through an application to the UK Government which will be submitted by Inverclyde Council by 12 noon on the 18th June.
- 5.6 The applications cover all the strategic priorities identified in the UK Government Community Renewal Prospectus and are in line with the strategic priorities of the Council.
- 5.7 The table below shows the applicants, strategic priority theme, amount bidding for and start and end dates.

Proposal Name	Description	Investment Priority (Skills, Business, Community, Employment)	£ requested*	Start Date	End Date
Project Neptune, West College Scotland	Project aims to transform the vital economic asset of Inverclyde, the marine economy, through equipping local people with the skills to enter marine and tourism jobs, build the digital capability of local tourism businesses, support 5.8marine businesses to	Skills Business, Employment	295,501	09/08/2021	31/03/2022

	<p>collaborate to develop circular economies and help local people create new enterprises.</p> <p>Partnership project between West College Scotland, Inverclyde Trust, Verdancy Group, Travel Tech for Scotland, Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce and University West of Scotland.</p>				
West Care Academy, West College Scotland	An integrated skills innovation programme aimed at enabling local people to enter the Care sector, release local Care workers to develop their skills and build the collaboration, innovation and leadership capability of local Care businesses to meet the challenges of a post pandemic society.	Skills Business Employment	213,514	09/08/2021	31/03/2022
Steps 2 Progression, Inverclyde Council	To reach out to 200 Inverclyde residents who are 16-24 year olds, who are 'not known' or 'economically inactive', who live in the highest 10% of the Scottish Multiple Index of Deprivation and support them through an intensive programme of identifying barriers to employment, creating an action plan to progress the individuals onto their choice of employment pathway. By working more closely with the young people the team will be better placed to meet their needs, they will be better supported and empowered to continue their employability journey.	Employment	300,000	02/08/2021	31/03/2022
Inverclyde Sustainable Jobs Fund, Inverclyde Council	Complementing Inverclyde Council's existing employability programmes providing work placements to client groups who are not specifically eligible for mainstream workforce development programmes, this programme will focus on affording these clients access to paid work experience and training in sustainable technologies particularly focusing on green, green recovery and	Employment	580,000	31/07/2021	31/03/2022

	marine related sectors.				
Inveractive, Inverclyde Leisure.	Community based physical activity and wellbeing project targeting participants 16+ residing in SIMD areas of Inverclyde suffering from long covid and poor mental health. The 12 week programme provides access to local specialised group activities, free access to leisure facilities e.g. gym, swimming, and dedicated advisors who will support participants to achieve individual goals. The project aims to increase physical health, wellbeing, confidence and self-efficacy. Aims to support people with rehabilitation after contracting the virus, offering participants personalised advice to assist in rehabilitation and support a journey back to good health and wellbeing.	Community	500,000	01/08/2021	31/03/2022
The Senses Project, RIG Arts	Funding used to establish a dedicated Art Therapy service in Inverclyde, through funding Art Therapists, art project workers and two artists' residencies to deliver clinical art therapy workshops, community engagement, public art, greening project in collaboration with Broomhill Gardens and Community Hub, and pop up art events around Greenock.	Community	153,043	02/08/2021	31/03/2022
Gourock Park – A Green Recovery, Gourock Park Steering Group c/o Inverclyde Shed	The project seeks to commence the regeneration of Gourock Park into an active community hub in an area which borders some of Scotland's most deprived areas. Activities include: masterplan consultation and feasibility work; horticultural hub; making space; community cultural events; enhancing sports facilities.	Community Skills, Employment, Business	298,340	01/08/2021	31/03/2022
TOTAL (up to a maximum of £3m per place)			2,340,398		

5.8 Following submission to the UK Government on the 18th June, the UK Government have indicated that they will let applicants know of the outcome in July.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

6.2 Legal

A successful application will mean that the Council will enter into a funding agreement with the UK Government and then subsequent funding agreements with the successful applicants.

6.3 Human Resources

There are no HR implications arising.

6.4 Equalities

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES (see attached appendix)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

X

YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

NO

6.5 Repopulation

No impact

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 None

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None