
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	16 June 2022
Report By:	Interim Director, Environment & Regeneration	Report No:	E+R/22/03/05/SJ
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Subject:	General Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on a number of projects.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Since the impact of COVID-19, Committee has been advised of a number of points via an expedited business report or update
- 2.2 Section 4 provides Members with a general update on a number of general progress updates.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee are asked to:

- 3.1
- a) Note the development of a Clyde Green Freeport bid;
 - b) Note the development of the Greenock Town Centre Levelling Up Fund bid;
 - c) Note the requirement to update the terms of reference for the three Town Centre Regeneration Forums and nominate Chairs for the forums from the appropriate ward members;
 - d) Note the implementation date for the change in Food Waste uplifts;
 - e) Note the use of an Emergency Powers report to allocate £5,000 to the cost of consultant support for the Green Freeport bid;
 - f) Note the use of an Emergency Powers report for the interim grounds management model continuing until 31 December 2022 to allow assessment of the sustainability and effectiveness of shared services.

Stuart Jamieson
Interim Director, Environment and Regeneration

4.0 UPDATE

Green Freeports

- 4.1 A series of updates have been provided in December last year and in March this year to Committee in respect of a potential bid for a Green Freeport within the Metropolitan City Region.
- 4.2 On 23rd March 2022 the UK Government, in collaboration with the Scottish Government, issued the prospectus for two Green Freeports within Scotland.
- 4.3 The Green Freeport bidding prospectus sets out Scottish and UK governments' expectations for Green Freeports. Both governments expect ports, businesses, local government, and other local partners to come together to bid for Green Freeport status. Partners from across the public and private sectors need to closely collaborate in order to produce the most competitive bids.
- 4.4 The Green Freeport model closely aligns to the offer set out in England. Green Freeports are based upon 4 main objectives:
 - promote regeneration and high-quality job creation
 - promote decarbonisation and a just transition to a net zero economy
 - establish hubs for global trade and investment
 - foster an innovative environment.
- 4.5 The bidding prospectus describes how the Governments expect bidders to show how the Green Freeport incentives will be used to achieve the 4 objectives.
- 4.6 The bidding process opened on 25 March 2022 and will close at 10am on 20 June 2022. Glasgow City Council commissioned Mott MacDonald consultants to develop a City Region Clyde Green Freeport bid utilising the four port tri modal bid previously reported to Committee. As the bid has developed it has focussed on land around the railhead at Bellshill, Glasgow Airport and sites on the Clyde, stretching from KGV in Glasgow to Greenock. Sites are being identified for Customs and Tax purposes and Officers will provide a verbal update on progress at Committee.

Levelling Up Fund

- 4.7 On 23rd March 2022 the UK Government, issued the prospectus for the Levelling Up Fund Round 2.
- 4.8 The Levelling Up Fund is designed to invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK. The £4.8 billion fund will support town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets.
- 4.9 Across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (NI), unitary authorities (including metropolitan borough councils), London borough councils and district councils in two tier areas in England are eligible to submit bids for the second round of the Levelling Up Fund which was announced in the 2022 Spring Statement.
- 4.10 In April Officers provided an All Member Briefing on proposals for Greenock Town Centre. Since the briefing the challenges identified around the bull ring, including connectivity and active travel, have been developed and discussions are ongoing with Transport Scotland. Bid submission is 6th July 2022.

Town Centre Regeneration Forums

- 4.11 Town Centre regeneration Forums were established a number of years ago in Port Glasgow Greenock and Gourock. Budget and decisions for the three forums require the endorsement of the Environment and Regeneration Committee.

4.12 Resourcing of the three forums was traditionally supported by colleagues from Riverside Inverclyde however since the structural changes in the operation of Riverside Inverclyde this function has been fulfilled by the Councils Regeneration team.

Membership of the three forums has generally been made up from

- Elected Members from the relevant ward and one Member has taken on the role of Chair;
- Community Council Reps from the local Community Councils;
- Federation of Small Businesses/Chamber of Commerce;
- Traders Reps;

Supported by Council staff

4.13 Terms of Reference exist for the Greenock and Gourock Forums however Officers have not been able to source any document for Port Glasgow. The documents which exist for Greenock and Gourock were last updated several years ago.

4.14 Since the election in May the ward member composition has changed and it is felt appropriate that terms of reference should be established / updated. On the basis that ward members are likely to continue involvement, suggested chairs of each of the forums should be established in order that meetings continue under appropriate stewardship and that common terms of reference are agreed by a future meeting of this Committee.

Food waste saving

4.15 As part of the 2022/23 budget implementation of the Food waste saving was due to commence on 4th July 2022.

4.16 Due to resource limitations the implementation date requires to be moved to 18th July. There will be limited impact on the overall financial impact of the saving as the staffing implication has already been realised.

Use of Emergency Powers

4.17 Emergency Powers have been used on two occasions during the pre/ post election period. On 7th April Cllrs McCormick, Clocherty, Jackson and Curley approved the allocation of £5,000 to provide consultant support to the Green Freeport Bid. On 7th June Cllrs McCormick, Cassidy, Clocherty, and Robertson approved that the interim grounds management model continues until 31 December 2022 to allow assessment of the sustainability and effectiveness of shared services at a cost of £22,900.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

5.1

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Feasibility Studies Environmental Services	Employee Costs	2022/23	£5,000	n/a	Emergency Powers
		2022/23	£22,900	n/a	Emergency Powers

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

5.2 Legal

None.

5.3 Human Resources

None.

5.4 Equalities

Equalities

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
X	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

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?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

5.5 Repopulation

N/A

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 None.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.