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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18 January 2024</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Director, Environment &amp; Regeneration and Chief Financial Officer</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>ENV006/24/SJ</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Stuart Jamieson</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712764</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Levelling Up Fund - Update</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of the report is to update the Committee in respect of the status of the Greenock Central Levelling Up Fund Project

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- notes the current position and the progress on the Greenock Central Levelling Up Fund Project

**Stuart Jamieson**  
**Director, Environment & Regeneration**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

3.1 Inverclyde Council were successful in attracting over £19.4m from the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 towards our transformative £21.57m town centre regeneration project.

3.2 The Project objectives are:-

Regeneration of the town centre will make Greenock:

- more attractive
- bring in more visitors
- create new opportunities

Key improvements include:

- redesigning and lowering the A78 flyover to ground level to improve access and create better connections to the town centre
- replacing the bullring roundabout with a new low-level road, connecting different parts of the town centre.
- developing new public spaces for the local community
- modernising retail space in the town centre by demolishing the A78 Dual Carriageway and 40% of the Oak Mall

New space will be created for a new learning quarter and campus. It will also create opportunities for a new cultural centre and quarter in the town centre around the Glebe Building.

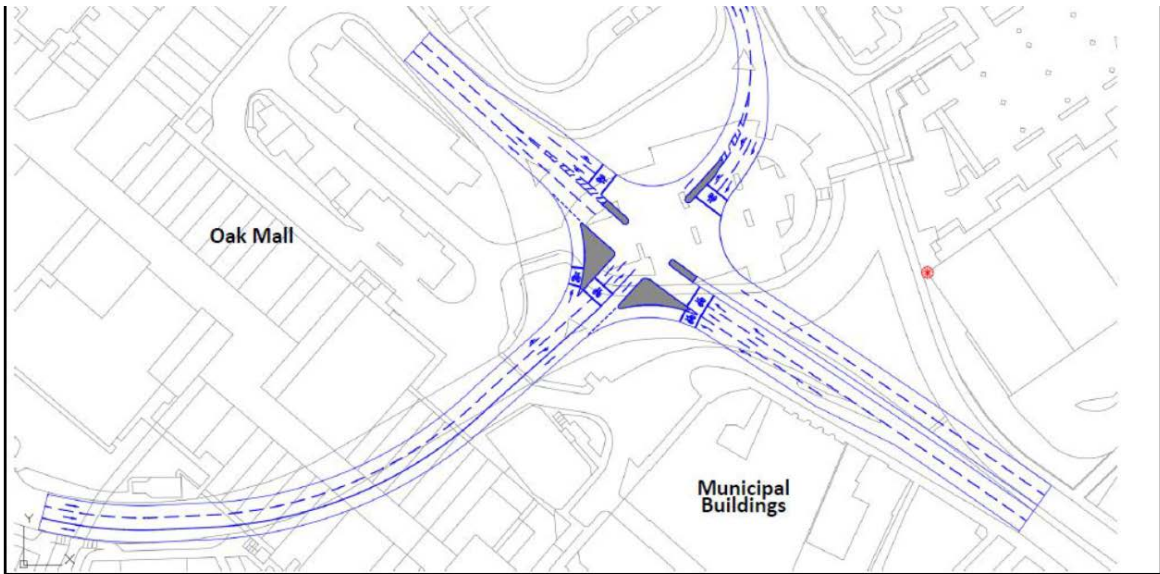
Lastly, the improvements will make the town centre more accessible for residents and visitor.

3.3 Since accepting the award a variety of governance groups have been established including Transport Scotland, the owners of the Oak Mall, and the Council.

3.4 Contract awards have been made under appropriate frameworks for both project management and contractors to design stage. Detailed surveys have been carried out from a structural, M+E and demolition perspective and works packages designed including the public realm.

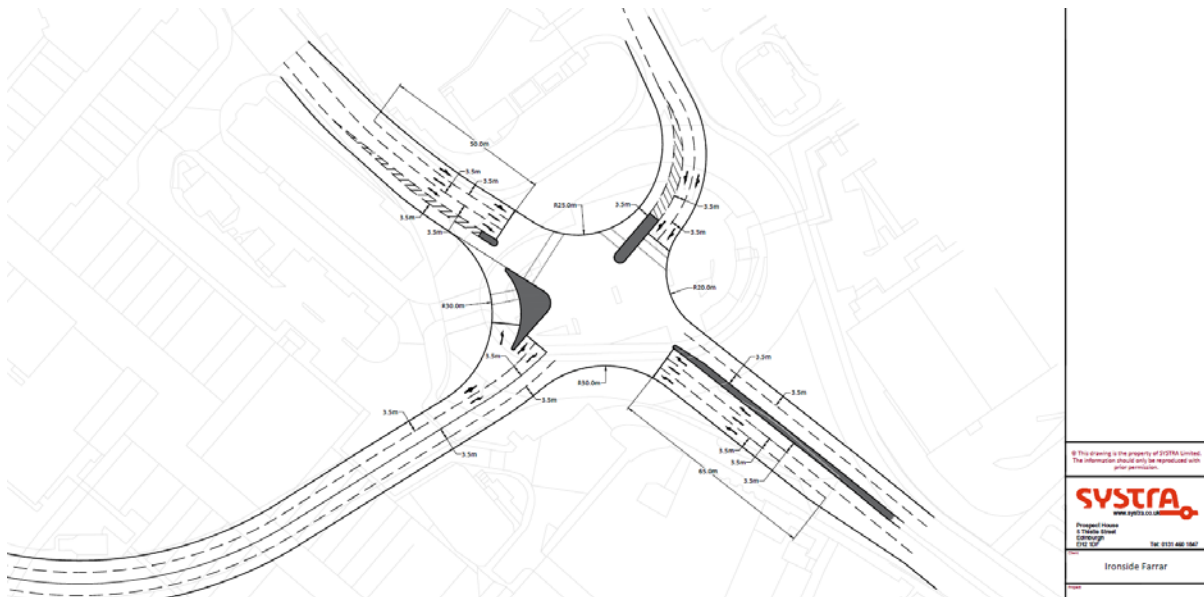
3.5 The roads elements of the project and how the roads impact on the wider public open space are key. Detailed engagement has being ongoing through the design team with Transport Scotland. Traffic surveys have been carried out on the junction and based on these surveys two signalised junction solutions are under consideration as a replacement to the bullring:-

Option 1a



This solution benefits active travel arrangements due to its more compact footprint.

Option 1b



This solution provides a fully compliant junction in terms of growth. Diversion routes using established and new routes for the works have been identified and developed.

3.6 In addition to the junction layout initial urban layouts have been developed:-



- 3.7 The delivery of the project in respect of timescales is key from a LUF perspective. The latest programme indicates demolition of the Mall elements commencing in quarter 2 2024 and the roads demolition / contract commencement starting in quarter 3 2024 with contract completion in quarter 1 2026.
- 3.8 Communication is key to the project given the impact which the project will have. A communications strategy has been developed and this will start to roll out in Quarter 1 2024. It had been hoped to utilise the redundant M&Co premises in the Oak Mall for a permanent display however this has fallen through and an alternative location within the Mall is being considered.
- 3.9 Monitoring is a key element of the award of funding and regular returns are made along with positive engagement with the monitoring staff within the LUF programme.

**4.0 PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 The Committee are asked to note the progress on project and note that relevant reports will be brought back for Committee consideration on a regular basis.

**5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X

Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X

## 5.2 Finance

One off Costs

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					

## 5.3 Legal/Risk

N/A.

## 5.4 Human Resources

N/A.

## 5.5 Strategic

N/A.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 This report has been prepared following consultation with the Head of Physical Assets and Finance Services.

## 7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.