
Report To: Regeneration Committee **Date:** 7th May 2009
Report By: Corporate Director
Regeneration & Resources **Report No:** ECP/DIR09/017
Contact Officer: Aubrey Fawcett **Contact No:** 01475 712001
Subject: Area Renewal Fund

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members on progress in relation to the Area Renewal Fund and seek approval for the establishment of implementation groups and early funding proposals.

2.0 Summary

2.1 The Council agreed, as part of its budget-setting meeting on 12 February 2009, to establish an Area Renewal Fund of £500,000 and a Play Areas Fund of £250,000 – both to be provided out of General Reserves.

2.2 A further report was submitted to Policy and Resources Committee on 31st March 2009 where it was agreed that the Area Renewal Fund be overseen by the Regeneration Committee and that proposals for expenditure be submitted formally by the Corporate Area Renewal Group via the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Resources.

2.3 A meeting of the Corporate Area Renewal Group took place on 27th March 2009 and it was agreed that a report be submitted to the next Regeneration Committee outlining the initial implementation groups to be established and early funding proposals.

3.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note progress and approve the proposals outlined in Section 5 below.

Aubrey Fawcett
Corporate Director, Regeneration and Resources

4.0 **Background**

- 4.1 This £500,000 Fund was established at full Council on 12 February 2009 to support the various area renewal initiatives underway or about to get underway in the area.
- 4.2 Policy and Resources Committee had previously agreed to establish a Corporate Area Renewal Group at its meeting on 23 September 2008. This Group (jointly chaired by the Corporate Directors for Regeneration & Resources and Environment & Community Protection) includes representatives from the local Registered Social Landlords and the Scottish Government's Housing Investment Division. The Group has met three times during 2009.
- 4.3 The Group has been tasked with bringing forward suggestions for the spending of the £500,000 with the simple criterion that the spend must help a particular area renewal initiative and must not exceed £100,000. This is to try to ensure that the £500,000 is used to support as many specific area renewal projects as possible.

5.0 **Proposals**

A meeting of the Corporate Area Renewal Group took place on 27th March 2009 and reviewed the proposed establishment of Implementation Groups as outlined to Members at Policy and Resources Committee on 23rd September 2009. The Group considered the areas for early attention, taking cognisance of developments currently being progressed and those areas requiring more timeous action, and proposed the early re/establishment of Implementation Groups in the following areas:

Implementation Group	Lead Officer
Greenock South West (covering Cumberland Road Area, Peat Road/Hole Farm, and Bow Farm)	David McCready, RCH
Greenock Central/West (Drumfrochar Road/ Broomhill Area)	Aubrey Fawcett, IC
Port Glasgow (Town Centre and Clune Park)	Neil Graham, IC
Gibshill	Neil Graham, IC
Woodhall, Port Glasgow	Aubrey Fawcett, IC

The Group considered how the funding could be disbursed among the areas and proposed the following:

- Each Implementation Group would develop an Action Plan for its area and submit to the Corporate Area Renewal Group for consideration prior to submission to Committee;
- To assist with the development of the Action Plans initial pump priming funding would be used for the following areas –
 - Retail capacity assessment for Greenock South West at an estimated cost up to £25,000
 - Masterplanning of the Drumfrochar Road/ Broomhill Area at an estimated cost up to £30,000 (assuming additional contributions from riverside Inverclyde and River Clyde Homes)
- To provide match funding for the Town Centre Regeneration Fund a maximum of £100,000 for each of Port Glasgow and Greenock Town Centres, Members will be briefed on the details of the proposals in due course.

6.0 Financial Implications

Financial Implications – One Off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Total Spend Available	Virement From	Other Comments
General Reserve	Area Renewal Fund	2009/10			
Retail assessment for Greenock SW			£25,000		
Masterplanning for Drumfrochar Road/ Broomhill Area			£30,000		
Match Funding for bid to Town Centre regeneration Fund for Port Glasgow and Greenock Town Centres			£200,000		

6.0 Consultation

6.1 Finance Services.

6.2 Legal Services.

6.3 Human Resources and Organisational Development Services.

7.0 Equality Policy

7.1 This report has no adverse implications for the Equality Policy of the Council.