
Report To:	Regeneration Committee	Date:	8 March 2012
Report By:	Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment	Report No:	RC/12/03/02/SJ/JH
Contact Officer:	Head of Regeneration & Planning	Tel No:	01475 712401
Subject	Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive – European Regional Development Fund: New Call for Applications – Transport Projects		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to approve the submission of applications to the European Regional Development Fund for transport projects.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Expressions of interest were submitted on 31 October 2011 in respect of Port Glasgow Regeneration and Gourock Pier and Railhead Development Area. Following appraisal by the Managing Authority, an invitation was then extended to submit Stage 2 in-depth applications. These were submitted on 18 January 2012 for consideration by the Advisory Group in March 2012 with formal approval by the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) expected by end March 2012.
- 2.2 The use of emergency powers was sought as a decision was needed prior to submission of the applications which required to be submitted with Scottish Government by 18 January 2012 and authority to take the action recommended was granted by Councillors McCabe, Ahlfeld and Nelson and the Corporate Director, Inverclyde CHCP (in the absence of the Chief Executive).
- 2.3 Subsequently, the Scottish Government has informed applicants that consideration of applications is now scheduled for end of April 2012, with decisions probably not announced until May 2012. Officers are in dialogue with the Managing Authority in respect of the eligibility of the projects as part of the appraisal process.
- 2.4 Officers have been invited to deliver a presentation to the Advisory Group on 8 March 2012.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Committee note the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to:
- (a) agree to the submission of applications under the ERDF Transport Call
 - (b) delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Environment to accept the grants in relation to the Port Glasgow Regeneration project and the Gourock Pier and Railhead Development Area project if successful.

Stuart Jamieson
Head of Regeneration and Planning

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Whilst the focus of the latest round of ERDF funding is on transport related projects, regeneration remains the central theme of Priority 3 – Urban Regeneration. To meet European Commission targets, proposals for funding towards clean and sustainable public transport interventions are being sought, linking areas of need with areas of opportunity, as part of an integrated development plan.
- 4.2 Applications have been invited from the 13 local authority areas in Scotland currently eligible for support under Priority 2, for areas which have been hampered by high levels of social and economic exclusion.
- 4.3 There is currently between £10m and £15m available under Priority 3 – Urban Regeneration and the maximum grant intervention rate is 40%.
- 4.4 Two project proposals were submitted:
1. *Gourock Pier and Railhead Development Area* – which includes development of the pierhead, public transport interchange and Kempock Street one way relief road.
 2. *Port Glasgow Regeneration* – which forms part of a Partnership Development Framework for the regeneration of Port Glasgow Town Centre and includes upgrading Port Glasgow Bus Station, the environs and gateway to the town as well as soft and hard landscaping.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications – NA

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
	Gourock Pier & Railhead Development Area	2012/13	Total Project Costs: £4.66m Grant Requested @ 40% - £1.864m Match Funding Contribution of £2.796m		

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Head of Environmental and Commercial Services has been consulted on this report.
- 6.2 The Head of Regeneration and Planning Service has been consulted on this report.
- 6.3 The Chief Financial Officer comments that funding has already been set aside therefore there is no extra financial commitment required were the Council be successful in its application.

7.0 USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS

- 7.1 The use of emergency powers was sought as a decision was needed prior to submission of the applications which required to be submitted with Scottish Government by 18 January 2012.