

Report To: Environment and Regeneration Committee **Date:** 28th April 2015

Report By: Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources **Report No:** ENV/008/16/AF

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Subject: Town Centre Regeneration Forums Progress

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on progress in relation to the Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow Town Centre Regeneration Forums.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Members decided at the Environment and Regeneration Committee on 20th October 2014 that approval was given to establishing the Port Glasgow Town Centre Regeneration Forum; a recommended outcome from the Port Glasgow Charrette and Masterplan.

Members further decided at the Environment and Regeneration Committee on 3rd September 2015 that approval be given to setting up the Greenock and Gourock Town Centre Regeneration Forums and that update reports be submitted to this Committee.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee note progress to date and that further progress reports will be brought back for Members' information and consideration in due course.

Aubrey Fawcett
Corporate Director, Environment, Regeneration and Resources

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Port Glasgow

The creation of the Port Glasgow Town Centre Regeneration Forum (PGTCRF) was a recommended outcome of the Port Glasgow Masterplan Report and Charrette that was commissioned by Riverside Inverclyde in January 2014.

4.2 Greenock

As part of the deliberations of the Members' Budget Working Group (MBWG) a range of policy development areas were identified. In this regard, the creation of the town centre working group was proposed for Greenock Town Centre. It was proposed that the working group be called Greenock Town Centre Regeneration Forum (GTCRF).

The main focus of the GTCRF has been to facilitate a charrette and masterplan report to guide future investment in the town centre. Riverside Inverclyde secured funding from the Scottish Government Mainstream Charrette Programme in the amount of £17,500 to undertake a charrette in Greenock. Glasgow based Architects Austin Smith Lord were appointed as consultants to lead the charrette. Austin Smith Lord utilised support from key agencies such as urban regeneration specialists Douglas Wheeler Associates, StudioGRAMS Design Consultancy, arts organisation WAVEParticle, Transport Planning and commercial property advisors Ryden.

4.3 Gourock

Like Greenock, the MBWG also proposed the creation of a town centre working group for Gourock Town Centre called the Gourock Town Centre Regeneration Forum (GTCRF).

The GTCRF highlights key areas within Gourock Town Centre that are appropriate for regeneration. A main focus of the Forum's activity is to initially oversee the development of further regeneration proposals which complement the recent significant investment in Gourock Town Centre.

4.4 All Forums should endeavour to:

- Focus their attention on sourcing external funding to enable priority projects to be implemented;
- Comprise of representation from a range of stakeholders including local Ward Members, Community Councils/representatives and businesses;
- Have quarterly meetings on predetermined dates; and
- Consult with other officers from a range of agencies and request their attendance on an ad hoc basis.

5.0 FORUM UPDATES

5.1 Port Glasgow

PGTCRF to date has had 5 meetings

Members of this Forum include:

Name	Organisation
Cllr Michael McCormick	Inverclyde Council, Ward 2
Cllr Stephen McCabe	Inverclyde Council, Ward 1
Provost Robert Moran	Inverclyde Council, Ward 2
Cllr Jim MacLeod	Inverclyde Council, Ward 1
Cllr Jim Grieve	Inverclyde Council, Ward 2
Cllr James McColgan	Inverclyde Council, Ward 1
Cllr David Wilson	Inverclyde Council, Ward 1
Tommy Rodgers	Port Glasgow Community Association

Anne Ross	Port Glasgow Community Association
Andrew Hurrell	Port Glasgow Community Association
Drew Alexander	Port Glasgow Traders Association
Alan Lyall	Federation of Small Businesses
John Yellowlees	ScotRail
Kirsteen McGinn	River Clyde Homes
Will Nisbet	Inverclyde Council Business Development
Aubrey Fawcett	Inverclyde Council/Riverside Inverclyde
Fiona Maguire	Riverside Inverclyde
Katrine Hoey	Riverside Inverclyde

The PGTCRF have consulted with other officers from a range of agencies and other local stakeholders, requesting their attendance on an ad hoc basis. These agencies include: Ironside Farrar, Ferguson Marine, RIG Arts and Inverclyde Council.

This Forum has been progressing positively with a range of issues being highlighted and resolved. The community expressed the need to brighten up Port Glasgow Railway Station to encourage more visitors into the town. Ri and RIG Arts submitted an application to the ScotRail Culture and Arts Fund for £5k to do a mural in the station's corridor with Ri agreeing to match fund this (£10k in total). This application was successful and the project is anticipated to commence in Spring 2016.

5.2 Greenock

GTCRF to date has had 3 meetings.

Members of this Forum include:

Name	Organisation
Cllr Jim Clocherty	Inverclyde Council, Ward 3
Cllr Martin Brennan	Inverclyde Council, Ward 3
Cllr Kenny Shepherd	Inverclyde Council, Ward 3
Cllr Math Campbell-Sturgess	Inverclyde Council, Ward 3
Will Nisbet	Inverclyde Council Business Development
Alan Lyall	Federation of Small Businesses
Claire Jefcoate	Oak Mall
Steven Watson	Chamber of Commerce
Frances MacFarlane	Greenock Central Residents Action Group
Heather Radford	West Station Traders Representative
Chris Jewell	Greenock Town Centre Retailers Group/Discover Inverclyde
Aubrey Fawcett	Inverclyde Council/Riverside Inverclyde
Fiona Maguire	Riverside Inverclyde
Katrine Hoey	Riverside Inverclyde

It was a recommended outcome from the Greenock charrette that additional community representatives are invited to join the Forum. Cardwell Bay and Greenock West Community Council will be invited to future meetings to make up for the disbanded Greenock Central Community Council.

The GTCRF have consulted with other officers from agencies and request their attendance on an ad hoc basis. These agencies include: Austin Smith Lord and Discover Largs.

Greenock Charrette

Pre-charrette activity included school visits and a mini consultation using a floor map in the Oak Mall by WAVEParticle. Led by Peter McCaughey, this sparked interest from a range of consultees and harnessed initial thoughts and ideas in preparation for the charrette workshops.

A series of briefing notes were sent out to a list of contacts using a database put together by Douglas Wheeler Associates (DWA). This list contained around 400 contacts. Posters and fliers were distributed by DWA to local shops and businesses within the town centre boundary.

Schools involved in the pre-charrette activity were also invited to attend.

Ri advertised the Consultation event on their billboards on Main Street and a banner was erected on the gates to the Town Hall with permission from Inverclyde Council.

The charrette took place on Wednesday 2nd – Friday 4th March in the Saloon at Greenock Town Hall with the final presentation taking place on Thursday 10th March. In addition, the Consultants hosted a pop up exhibition in the Oak Mall on Saturday 5th March. It was estimated that over 500 people participated over the course of the pre-charrette and charrette activity.

On 30th March, the charrette team presented a summary of ideas for the masterplan to the Forum. The next step is for the consultants to draft a masterplan report for ri & the Forum to review. Thereafter it will be reported to the appropriate committee for consideration.

5.3 **Gourock**

GTCRF to date has had 1 meeting to date.

Members of this Forum include:

Name	Organisation
Cllr Ronnie Ahlfeld	Inverclyde Council, Ward 5
Cllr Terry Loughran	Inverclyde Council, Ward 5
Cllr Chris McEleny	Inverclyde Council, Ward 5
Scott Canning	Kempock Street Traders Representative
Lynne Quinn	Gourock Community Council
Jackie McKelvie	Gourock Community Council
Alan Lyall	Federation of Small Businesses
Will Nisbet	Inverclyde Council Business Development
Aubrey Fawcett	Inverclyde Council/Riverside Inverclyde
Fiona Maguire	Riverside Inverclyde
Katrine Hoey	Riverside Inverclyde

It was suggested at the meeting on 15th January that representatives from Shore Street traders, Chamber of Commerce and West End and Cardwell Bay Community Council be invited to join this Forum.

The main topic of discussion at this meeting was the opportunity to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Gourock Highland Games by hosting a weekend long fringe events. A subgroup was created involving Councillor Ahlfeld, Gourock Community Council and Inverclyde Council's Corporate Communications team to bring forward proposals.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 **Financial**

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Port Glasgow					
Greenock – earmarked reserves	Town & Village Centres	2015-2016 2016-2017	£0.010 £0.060		Contained within the overall Earmarked Reserve allowance of £300k
Gourock					

Annually Recurring Costs / Savings

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments

6.2 **Legal**

There are no legal issues arising from this report

6.3 **Human Resources**

There are no human resources issues arising from this report.

6.4 **Equalities**

There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

YES (see attached appendix)

NO This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required)

6.5 **Repopulation**

It is anticipated that the projects derived from the Forums will help support repopulating the town centres in Inverclyde by making them more attractive.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Head of Regeneration and Planning has been consulted on this report.

7.2 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted on this report.