

Report To: Environment and Regeneration Committee **Date:** 12 January 2017

Report By: Corporate Director, Environment Regeneration and Resources **Report No:** RC/16/01/07/sj/sl

Contact Officer: Stuart W. Jamieson **Contact No:** 01475 715579

Subject: Gourock Heritage Project - Update

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update in respect of the Gourock Heritage Project.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Committee has considered a number of reports in respect of a heritage project in Gourock. In September 2016 the Committee granted approval to support a heritage centre proposal and Councillor Ahlfeld was granted an additional 12months to progress the proposal.
- 2.2 The Committee supported the Gourock Regeneration Forum in their desire to source a dedicated Officer to begin sourcing external funding and advice from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In this regard, the Gourock Regeneration Forum proposed that £10,000 from the £15,000 Gourock Community Spend allocation of the Environmental Improvements Fund be allocated to support this role which was match funded by Riverside Inverclyde.
- 2.3 The release of two of the upper floor rooms in the Gourock Municipal Buildings has been held in abeyance pending the outcome of the proposal.
- 2.4 A number of meetings have taken place since September and it is felt appropriate that the programme of development work for a potential Gourock Heritage Centre would run from March 2017 till October 2017, encompassing a range of community engagement activities and at least one completed bid.
- 2.5 A number of organisations may have the necessary resources to provide staff resource for the proposal and the works package has been tendered through Quick Quotes. A verbal update will be provided to the Committee on the outcome of the tenders.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Committee note the progress in respect of the Gourock Heritage Project.

Stuart W. Jamieson
Head of Regeneration and Planning

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In September 2016 the Committee granted approval to support a heritage centre proposal for Gourock and Councillor Ahlfeld was granted an additional 12 months to progress the proposal.
- 4.2 The Committee supported the Gourock Regeneration Forum in their desire to source a dedicated Officer to begin sourcing external funding and advice from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In this regard, the Gourock Regeneration Forum proposed that £10,000 from the £15,000 Gourock Community Spend allocation of the Environmental Improvements Fund be allocated to support this role which was match funded by Riverside Inverclyde.
- 4.3 A number of meetings have taken place since September and it is felt appropriate that the programme of development work for a potential Gourock Heritage Centre would run from March 2017 till October 2017, encompassing a range of community engagement activities and at least one completed bid.
- 4.4 There are timescale implications depending on which Heritage Lottery Fund programme is applied for, at the moment, it is envisaged that the Our Heritage programme for projects under £100,000 would be the most likely route in the first instance. The Our Heritage programme has a rolling submission process, with applications able to be made at any point, and an approximate three month response time.
- 4.5 The potential exists to link this development in the longer term to other projects around townscape and community asset transfer – the development process would remain open and flexible with regard to this eventuality, liaising with other identified local partners regularly, as appropriate, to ensure any other bids in development complement one another. Consideration is also currently taking place in respect of a community asset transfer of the former police office which is located next door to the Gourock Municipal Buildings.
- 4.6 The project is at the very early stages of development, with a number of local community members and business people interested and involved in a stakeholder group, as yet there is no formal structure to allow for a bid to be made.
- 4.7 Key tasks for the development programme include:-
 - Programme of Community Engagement with schools, youth facilities, local church groups, the wider community to assist in establishing a dynamic community led vision for a Gourock Heritage Centre – this will be essential for securing HLF funding.
 - Establishing appropriate structure for Gourock Community Heritage group to allow bid(s) to be submitted. Options may include SCIO or a more bespoke Special Purpose Vehicle.
 - Visits to other areas to meet with groups who have undertaken similar asset transfer/heritage centre projects to explore realities of running and sustaining such spaces.
 - Submission of funding bid(s).
 - Identification of other funding sources which may be appropriate and submission of additional funding bids if required.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Environmental		2016/18	20		

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

5.2 Legal

None.

5.3 Human Resources

None.

5.4 Equalities

None.

5.5 Repopulation

None.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 **Chief Financial Officer:** Comments are incorporated within the report.

6.2 **Head of Legal and Property Services:** no requirement to comment.

6.3 **Head of Organisational Development, HR and Communications:** no requirement to comment.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 N/A