
Report To:	Environment and Regeneration Committee	Date:	2 March 2017
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources	Report No:	E+R/17/03/07/SJ
Contact Officer:	Stuart Jamieson	Contact No:	Ext. 2402
Subject:	Economic Development – Additional Budget Allocation		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with detail of the recent allocation in the budget for additional economic development activity.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde Council approved at the Budget Meeting on 16 February 2017, from the use of reserves, sums of £2.5m for Town and Village centres and £500,000 for Employability Initiatives.
- 2.2 The Town and Village Centre allocation builds on existing earmarked reserves which currently amounts to £500,000. Charettes have been carried out in both Port Glasgow and Greenock and Town Centre Regeneration forums exist in all three town centres.
- 2.3 It is proposed that an allocation of £1.9m be allocated to Greenock, with £250,000 allocated to both Port Glasgow and Gourock. Consultation will be carried out with the respective Town Centre Regeneration forums to prioritise identified projects, these in turn will be presented to the Committee for approval. The balance of £100,000 will be allocated equally amongst the villages.
- 2.4 The Employability allocation builds on existing earmarked reserves of £671,000 along with core funding. It is proposed that the additional funds be allocated in two ways with £300,000 being used to support clients who are care leavers or who have learning disabilities and/or autism. The balance of £200,000 will be used to provide funding for six mature modern apprentices.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- Note the allocation in the budget for additional economic development activity.
 - Agree to the allocations contained within the report.
 - Agree to update reports every second cycle.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Members will be aware that a total of £3m was approved by Council in February 2017 to support additional economic development activity. £2.5m was allocated to Town and Village Centres and £0.5m was allocated for additional employability/modern apprenticeship interventions.
- 4.2 Charettes have been carried out in Port Glasgow and Greenock. Town Centre regeneration forums have been established in all three town centres.
- 4.3 The Council has focussed its recent activity with major infrastructure investment in both Port Glasgow and Gourock.
- 4.4 Of the £2.5m it is proposed that an allocation of £1.9m be allocated to Greenock, with £250,000 allocated to both Port Glasgow and Gourock. Consultation will be carried out with the respective Town Centre Regeneration forums to prioritise identified projects, these in turn will be presented to the Committee for approval. The balance of £100,000 will be allocated equally amongst the villages.
- 4.5 The Council has continued to support employability programmes both with core budget and the use of reserves. It is proposed that the additional funds be allocated in two ways, with £300,000 being used to support clients who are care leavers or who have learning disabilities and/or autism. A focus will be made on providing work experience for this client group, offering paid employment within the community for up to one year within organisations who support the community whilst also seeking to provide support to obtain a qualification. The balance of £200,000 will be used to provide funding for six modern apprentices for clients over 25 years old.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The activity will be managed by the Regeneration and Planning Service and will see interventions over a two year period:-
- A series of major and minor projects will be completed in the Town and Village centres
 - 25 young people will receive up to 12 months paid employment
 - 6 25 year old plus people will receive a modern apprenticeship

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Frees Reserves		2017-19	2,500		Town and Village centres
			500		Employability

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments

Legal

- 6.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Human Resources

6.3 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

Equalities

6.4 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Repopulation

6.5 These projects contribute to the ongoing regeneration of Inverclyde.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 None.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.