



To: **Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

On: **5<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Report by: Oliver Reid (Lead Officer)  
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## **STALLED SPACES SCOTLAND**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Following the submission of an application to Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS) by the Director of Development and Housing, Renfrewshire Council has been awarded £10,000 to run a grant funding scheme called Stalled Spaces Scotland as a means of revitalizing town/local centres and empowering communities.
- 1.2 This award is conditional on it being matched by Renfrewshire Council. Match funding is available from the Council's 2015/16 Local Green Network budget. Renfrewshire Council is one of seven Scottish local authorities to have been offered Stalled Spaces Scotland funding.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the content of this report and the plans in place to roll out the Stalled Spaces Scotland funding.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 At the last meeting of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board, information was provided on a potential grant fund of £20,000 which was being established to tackle stalled spaces in urban areas. Since then, a formal grant application was submitted to Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS) for £10,000 and agreement has been received from the Council at the Planning and Property Policy Board to provide £10,000 match funding from the Local Green Networks funding. It is intended that the full grant of £20,000, will be overseen by the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board, with assistance being provided to potential applicants and successful projects by the Greener Communities Sub Group and Engage Renfrewshire.



- 3.2 The funds available must be used and the projects evaluated by December 2016. In order to comply with this timescale, it is planned that all projects should be approved and commenced by no later than the end of March 2016. However, if the full allocation of £20,000 has been granted before then, the project may complete earlier.
- 3.3 Applications will be open for grants of between £250 and £5000 – and it is anticipated that the majority of awards will be for less than £2000. The aim is to ensure that the Council funds a minimum of 7 to 10 projects and that the projects are disbursed across a number of communities and Local Area Committees within Renfrewshire. Each meeting of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board between now and March 2016 will include an update on progress – including approval of projects and an update on the work undertaken by each of the projects that have been awarded funding.
- 3.4 The terms of the award from A&DS stipulate that 75% of the stalled spaces awarded funding must be within town centre locations. The projects must reflect the temporary nature of the funding and of the space being used – with clear plans in place for the end of the project funding.
- 3.5 Projects can be funded for any temporary use of the space – for growing, for artistic expression or for other creative uses – the aim is to bring these spaces into positive use within the community as a focal point.
- 3.6 Significant support is available from A&DS and also from Glasgow City Council who have been running a similar scheme for a number of years. Initially this will include participation in a promotional event for groups to learn more about the scheme and how they could participate. Details of events and promotional materials will be made available on Renfrewshire Community Planning website. An application and information pack is currently being developed and will also be available online.
- 3.7 It is anticipated that the first applications will be made in time for the next meeting of this Board in June and therefore that details of potential projects will be available at that time. It might be possible that some initial funding could be awarded at the same meeting, depending on the nature and complexity of the proposed projects coming forward.
- 3.8 Applications for funding will be brought to the Greener Renfrewshire Board for approval with a recommendation based on the criteria established by the Stalled Spaces project and set out in the attached appendices. Part of the criteria will involve consideration of other similar projects previously funded in the same community or local area and the degree of unique community benefit offered by the proposed project.



## **4. Community Involvement/Engagement**

- 4.1 Applications will be pre-assessed by Engage Renfrewshire and a team within Community Resources in order to ensure that: the application meets the terms set out by A&DS in their grant award; that the project represents good value; and that the applicant meets all relevant funding and governance criteria. To assist in this pre-assessment process it is proposed that applicants will use a process based on the standard conditions of grant used by the Council.

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