

To: Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee

On: 7th February 2017

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Coats Memorial Church: Update

1. Summary

- 1.1. At its meeting on 8 November 2016, the Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee considered a report titled “Coats Memorial Church: Update”. The report recommended that the Local Area Committee approve the retention by the Trustees of the awarded grant of £2,000 for temporary repairs to the boiler and heating system to enable the building to remain in active use.
 - 1.2. Following consideration of the reports to three Local Area Committees in November 2016, the Paisley North Local Area Committee agreed:

“The committee will refer this issue to the next full Council meeting on Thursday 15th December 2016 with a proposal that a full investigation is carried out on this application included the progress towards establishing a new community trust to own the building and options for funding the boiler replacement or repair, in part or in full, from the other council budgets such as the £1.85 million underspend from last year’s council budget.”
 - 1.3. At its meeting on 15th December 2016 the Council agreed a motion stating the Council will investigate the costs associated with the repair replacement of the heating system in Coats Memorial Church and provide support to the trustees of the church as required.
 - 1.4. The Council also agreed to remit the decision to recall previously approved Local Area Committee grant funding for the works to said committees.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the committee approves the retention by the Trustees of the awarded grant of £2,000 for temporary repairs to the boiler and heating system to enable the building to remain in active use.
 - 2.2 Committee note that officers will continue to support the Trustees of Coats Memorial Church in their pursuit of identifying a solution to the heating system and the future use of the building.
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3. Background

- 3.1. In May 2016 Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee, Paisley South Local Area Committee and Paisley North Local Area Committee approved funding towards the repair and replacement of the boiler which is part of the heating system of the church building.
- 3.2. As a result of higher than anticipated repair costs, subsequent reports were submitted to the respective Local Area Committees seeking that previously approved grant funding be retained and be used for interim repair or full replacement. This approach was approved at both Paisley South and Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committees. When presented at the Paisley North Local Area Committee on 10th November 2016, the committee agreed:

“It is recommended that the committee only transfers the awarded grant to the new community trust which we were informed about in the Paisley North LAC meeting of 12 May 2016, which was meant to be taking over the ownership of the building.

If the new community trust is not established the grant should be returned to the committee to be re-allocated to any suitable community groups seeking funding.

The committee will refer this issue to the next full council meeting on Thursday 15th December 2016 with a proposal that a full investigation is carried out on this application including the progress towards a new community trust to own the building and options for funding the boiler replacement or repair, in part or in full, from other council budgets such as the £1.85million underspend from last year’s council budget.”

- 3.3. A report on the proposal set out in paragraph 3.2 above was presented to Council on 15th December 2016. Council agreed:

"That Council agreed to carry out an investigation into the costs of repair or replacement of the heating system at Coats Memorial Church. Council agreed to work with the trustees of the church and support them with funding applications to heritage and other bodies to meet these costs. Council would also consider what other financial support it could provide to assist the church; and

“That Council noted the decision of Paisley North, Paisley South and Renfrew & Gallowhill Local Area Committees to support Coats Memorial Church by providing grant funding and remitted the decision to recall these grants to the respective Local Area Committees.”

4. **Next Steps**

- 4.1 Committee is requested to confirm the previous grant allocation of £2,000 to Coats Memorial Church to assist with repair costs for the heating system and allow the building to remain in active use until such time as a longer term solution is found.
 - 4.2 Council officers will continue to support the Trustees in identifying a solution for the heating system and the future use of the building.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The LAC contributions to the project are from approved budgets
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community Planning – Community Care, Health & Well-being** - The project will help promote health and well-being by making the space safer and more accessible for community use.
Empowering our Communities – This is a community led project
4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report as this is a project that will benefit the public in general with no exclusions likely
8. **Health & Safety** - None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** - None
11. **Privacy Impact** - None

List of Background Papers

- (a) Report to Renfrew and Gallowhill LAC: 8th November 2016 'Coats Memorial Church: Update'
 - (b) Report to Paisley North LAC: 10th November 2016 'Coats Memorial Church: Update'
 - (c) Report to Paisley South LAC: 15th November 2016 'Coats Memorial Church: Update'
 - (d) Report to Council Board, 15th December 2016: 'Coats Memorial Church: Referral by the Paisley North Local Area Committee'
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