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**To: Leadership Board**

**On: 18 September 2019**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: Scottish Government RCGF 2020/2021: Stage 2 Applications**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the successful outcome of a Stage 1 application to the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) for the Johnstone Health and Wellbeing Community Hub project.
- 1.2 The next step in the grant application process requires the authorisation of the Board - to submit a Stage 2 application, to accept any subsequent grant award and to support the delivery of the project.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Board:
- (i) notes the success of the Stage 1 Scottish Government RCGF 2020/2021 grant application for Johnstone Health and Wellbeing Community Hub;
  - (ii) authorises the Head of Regeneration to submit the Stage 2 Scottish Government RCGF 2020/2021 grant application for this project; and
  - (iii) authorises the Head of Regeneration to accept any subsequent grant award from the Scottish Government RCGF 2020/2021 and coordinate the delivery of the project accordingly.
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### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Government have operated a competitive Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) of approximately £25 million each year since 2014. The Council has been successful in securing funding through this scheme for a number of regeneration projects including the restoration of the Russell Institute, the Paisley Museum Re-Imagined project and the Learning & Cultural Hub at 22 High Street, Paisley. Support was also provided to the Linwood Community Development Trust to successfully secure RCGF funding for the Mossedge Village project in 2017.
- 3.2 RCGF applications follow a two-stage process, with successful applications at Stage 1 being invited to submit more detailed Stage 2 application by 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019.
- 3.3 The Scottish Government informed applicants on 5 September 2019 that they had received 103 applications at Stage 1 with a total grant request of £96 million. Given the very competitive nature of the Fund the Government has fed back that only applications that were clearly able to demonstrate that they would meet the specific criteria of the Fund along with its wider aims, while demonstrating an ability to start within the next financial year have been invited to progress to Stage 2. There are 55 projects now proceeding to Stage 2 with a total grant ask of £49.4 million.
- 3.4 Among the successful Stage 1 applications is the **Johnstone Health and Wellbeing Community Hub**. This project is being developed by Active Communities within the former Police Scotland building in Johnstone, with the ownership of the building being pursued by Active Communities by way of a Community Asset Transfer. The RCGF request is for £730,000.
- 3.5 In the period since the submission of the Stage 1 application Active Communities have made good progress in developing the project and securing the package required to meet the total estimated project cost of £1.7million. This puts the project in good stead for a successful Stage 2 application. The progress to date includes:
- applications to the Scottish Land Fund for the funds to purchase the property and appoint a project manager;
  - Police Scotland are shortly to conclude, under delegated powers, the Community Asset Transfer process in favour of Active Communities;
  - a contribution of £400,000 towards capital works from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Capital Fund - approved by the Council's Leadership Board in June;
  - further funding applications to the National Lottery Community Fund (Community Assets) and the Robertson Trust are being developed by Active Communities.
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#### 4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The Stage 2 application for RCGF funding for Johnstone Health and Wellbeing Community Hub will be prepared and submitted to the Scottish Government by the deadline of 11 October 2019.
  - 4.2 A bespoke agreement between the Council and Active Communities is necessary prior to the Stage 2 application. The Government require the Council as the lead applicant and recipient of the grant to confirm its commitment to the delivery of the project and to meet the terms and conditions of the RCGF grant. This agreement will include appropriate governance and project management arrangements to manage risks associated with the Council's liabilities for project delivery.
  - 4.3 A decision is expected from the Scottish Government on the successful RCGF awards in January 2020. If approved, the grant will be formally accepted and the project delivered accordingly, with the Board being kept updated on progress.
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#### Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – a contribution of £400,000 will be made to Active Communities from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Capital Fund to Renfrewshire Council as approved by the Leadership Board in June 2019.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** –
  - ***Reshaping our place, our economy and our future:** working with stakeholders to maximise the opportunities for culture-led regeneration, providing support to make best use of heritage assets.*
  - ***Building strong, safe and resilient communities:** working in partnership with local groups and organisations to achieve positive outcomes.*
4. **Legal** - a legal agreement is required to be signed prior to submission of the Stage 2 application for the project to cover appropriate governance and project management arrangements to manage risks associated with the Council's liabilities for project delivery.
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality and 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. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website. An Equality Impact Assessment is being prepared as part of the project requirements

- 8. **Health and Safety** – None
- 9. **Procurement** - None
- 10. **Risks** - None.
- 11. **Privacy Impact** - None
- 12. **Cosla Policy Position** - Not applicable
- 13. **Climate Risk** – not applicable

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#### **List of Background Papers**

- 1. Report to Leadership Board: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019 'Town Centre Capital Fund'
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SMcM/SJ

10 September 2019

**Author:** *Alasdair Morrison, Head of Regeneration ext 4664*