



To: **Community Planning Partnership Board**

On: **2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015**

**Report by:**

**Lead Officer, Community Planning**

## **COMMUNITY PLANNING – PROPERTY ISSUES**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 At the Community Planning Partnership Board on 19 November 2014 Partners agreed to explore the potential to share physical assets to improve access to services and make best use of scarce resources. Partners agreed to meet to discuss their prioritised strategic property opportunities with a view to identifying shared work streams that could be developed to make better use of our physical assets.
- 1.2 A number of Partners subsequently met on 19 January 2015. All partners agreed with the principle of coming together to make the best use of our physical resources in Renfrewshire, particularly in current times of austerity and financial constraints. There was also agreement that modern, flexible space with secure and fast Wi-Fi in buildings which optimise energy efficiency was an aspiration common to all partners. Co-location was supported where that could be shown to benefit clients or organisations, but not if there was no added value.

### **2. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Community Planning Partnership Board:

- (i) Note the progress made in sharing property development opportunities among Community Planning Partners;
- (ii) Agree to establish a Community Planning Property Development and Regeneration Group to lead further progress; and
- (iii) Agree to progress further joint work in the six priority areas identified.

### **3. Progress & Activity**

- 3.1 A number of Partners met on 19 January 2015. All partners agreed with the principle of coming together to make the best use of our physical resources in Renfrewshire, particularly in current times of austerity and financial constraints. There was also agreement that modern, flexible space with secure and fast Wi-Fi in buildings which optimise energy efficiency was an aspiration common to all partners. Co-location was supported where that could be shown to benefit clients or organisations, but not if there was no added value. Partners clarified that active travel means shifting away from car-

dominated transport, and in the context of Community Planning partners, this would mean encouraging staff to use alternative modes of transport to get to work e.g. cycling, walking, public transport. Some partners felt unable to support a general movement towards remote or agile working because of the specific nature of their work e.g. lecturing, policing, though we agreed that we should be making best use of technology.

Partners agreed that it would be helpful to sign up to these overarching principles and to the aim that we share information on new build opportunities, disposals and strategic developments on a regular basis.

Partners discussed the need to develop an asset strategy/vision for the Community Planning Partnership in Renfrewshire based on the 10-year Community Plan. There are examples of partnership working around property in rural areas and in Livingston. This vision should be developed in parallel with smaller projects/initiatives between partners, giving them a context within which they can progress and ensuring that co-location and other work on assets are moving towards an agreed end point.

3.2 Partners each presented their prioritised strategic property issues with a view to identifying shared work streams that could be developed to make better use of our physical assets. Key strategic property opportunities which the group proposed for further development were:

- i) The development of a new health centre in Paisley. Early work has been done on this development but has been halted because no funding stream has been identified. There is potential to bring a number of partners together to develop a proposal to improve health and wellbeing in the town. Co-location of other care and support services from all partners can be explored.
- ii) Identification of new premise for two large community mental health services teams, suitable for patients accessing from across Renfrewshire. The teams are currently leasing separate premises from third parties.
- iii) West College Scotland has a significant presence in Paisley town centre through the Centre for Performing Arts in New Street. They are committed to working with partners to deliver this provision going forward.
- iv) A regeneration proposal building on a partnership between the Council and the University to create creative industry space, associated with the museum and other heritage proposals. There may be further strategic opportunities arising for the University's investment plans for their campus.
- v) A proposal to make the most efficient use of Renfrewshire House as a civic hub with appropriate co-location.

## **4. Next Steps**

4.1 It is proposed that a Property Development Group be established to oversee progress in making the best use of our physical resources in Renfrewshire. This group will also identify new development opportunities as they arise, meeting quarterly to share information and review progress. It will report regularly to the Community Planning Partnership Board. Membership of the group should include those partners who attended the 19<sup>th</sup> January

meeting.

- 4.2 In addition work streams will be established to progress the initiatives identified at 3.2 above.