

To: Economy & Jobs Policy Board

On: 22nd March 2017

Report by: Director of Development and Housing

Heading: Learning and Cultural Hub Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform the Board of the successful outcome of a grant application made by the Council to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund that has secured up to £1.5 million of external funding towards the establishment of a Learning and Cultural Hub in High Street, Paisley.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the board:-
- (i) accept the grant offer of £1.5 million from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund and deliver the project accordingly.
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3. Background

- 3.1 The Economy and Jobs Policy Board on 18th November 2015 approved an allocation of £2.7million from regeneration funds toward the relocation of Paisley Central Library as part of the wider museum regeneration project.
- 3.2 The Planning and Property Board on the 15th March 2016 agreed that the long term vacant property at 22/22a High Street Paisley would best accommodate the proposed new facility, in keeping with the aims of the Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy. The purchase of this property was concluded in June 2016.

- 3.3 On 12th December 2016 Council approved an outline design option to retain the existing building façade at upper levels, with a complete new build behind. This option has an estimated cost of £5 million. Council agreed to allocate an additional £800,000 toward the cost of the project, funded from secured capital receipts. This increases overall Council contribution to £3.5 million.
- 3.4 In November 2016 Renfrewshire Council submitted a second stage application to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, seeking £1.5 million towards the overall cost of the project. The Council was notified on 9th March that this application has been successful.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 A full funding package has been secured to meet the estimated project cost of £5 million. In the coming months the results of site and building surveys will be reviewed and the design team appointed to produce a final scheme. Funding requirements will be adhered to to ensure benefits are monitored and ultimately realised.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The Council will liaise with Scottish Government to comply with RCGF drawdown requirements. Council funding utilises approved budgets for the implementation of the Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy. Total project costs will be refined through detailed design and tendering. When this stage is reached a report will be presented to Council on the full capital funding position.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – The Learning and Cultural Hub, once implemented, will be operated and run by Renfrewshire Leisure. They will determine the HR and OD specification for the operation in due course.
3. **Community Planning** –

Community Care, Health & Well-being – The delivery of actions within the Heritage Asset Strategy have the potential to positively impact on physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

Jobs and the Economy – The Learning and Cultural Hub project will contribute to meeting the outcomes of the Community Plan to;

- be one of the best locations in Scotland to invest, in terms of its people, businesses and local communities;
- have a growing local economy creating employment for a well trained, qualified and motivated workforce where unemployment is reduced and employment opportunities are growing; and

- have attractive environments and successful town centres created through successful area regeneration that contribute positively to local community and economic growth.

Safer and Stronger - Implementing the Learning and Cultural Hub project will assist Renfrewshire citizens to have a positive attitude to their community.

4. **Legal** – None
5. **Property/Assets** – The Council own the property at 22 High Street Paisley.
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. 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.
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** - In compliance with Scottish Government grant terms and in accordance with the Council's Project Management Framework, the Learning and Cultural Hub project will actively monitor key risks, budgets and issues associated with project delivery.
11. **Privacy Impact** - None

List of Background Papers

- (a) Report to Council: 15th December 2016 'Paisley Town Centre Regeneration (Learning and Cultural Centre)
- (b) Report to Planning and Property Policy Board: 15th March 2016 'Paisley Library Relocation'
- (c) Economy and Jobs Policy Board: 18th November 2015 'Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy: Progress Report 4'

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