

**To: Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee**

**On: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

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**Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services**

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**Heading: Coats Memorial Church: Update**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016, the Local Area Committee approved the award of a grant of £2,000 as a contribution to the cost of a replacement boiler at the Coats Memorial Church, High Street, Paisley. The boiler has since been condemned and a specialist contractor has provided estimated costs for replacement that are much higher than expected and outwith the reach of available funding
  - 1.2 Temporary repairs are currently being investigated to ensure that this key historic building within the town centre remains open throughout the winter months. Council officers will continue to work with the Trustees to identify a long term solution including options for the sustainable use for the building.
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**2. Recommendation**

- 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.
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**3. Background**

- 3.1 In May 2016, the Trustees were awarded a multi-area LAC grant of £30,000 consisting of £13,000 from the Paisley North LAC, £15,000 from the Paisley South LAC and £2,000 from the Renfrew and Gallowhill LAC. The grant was awarded for repairs to the heating system boiler in the building.

- 3.3 Following the award of grant, the Trustees appointed a suitably qualified specialist consultant to examine the boiler and recommend the most cost-effective solution. The outcome of the survey states that due to the extent of works required to a historic heating system of such a large scale, the cost is estimated to be in the region of £350,000 to £500,000. This cost is higher than expected and outwith the reach of available funding.
- 3.2 In order to keep the heating system working, Community Resources (Building Services) are investigating the opportunities for a temporary fix to enable the building to be heated and remain open. It is therefore proposed that the current LAC grant is retained by the Trust for these temporary works. Should the cost of the temporary fix exceed the grant value, the grant will be retained as a contribution and the Trust will seek to secure the required additional funding. If no work can be carried out in this financial year, it is requested that the funding is carried over into 2017/18.
- 3.3 In the event that a temporary fix is not possible, the funding will be returned to the Local Area Committee.
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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - The LAC contribution to the project is 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  
  
**Greener:** none
4. **Legal** – none.
5. **Property/Assets** – none
6. **Equality & Human Rights**  
(a) 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.
7. **Health & Safety** - none

9. **Procurement** - none
10. **Risk** - none
11. **Privacy Impact** - none

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### **List of Background Papers**

- (a) Background Papers:  
Applications for Voluntary and Community Organisations Grant 2016-2017:
  - Paisley North Local Area Committee 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016
  - Paisley South Local Area Committee 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016
  - Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

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