

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda Leadership Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 15 September 2021	13:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

KENNETH GRAHAM  
Head of Corporate Governance

### Membership

Councillor Jacqueline Cameron: Councillor Eddie Devine: Councillor Andy Doig:  
Councillor Neill Graham: Councillor Jim Harte: Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes:  
Councillor Eileen McCartin: Councillor Cathy McEwan: Councillor Marie McGurk:  
Councillor John McIntyre: Councillor John McNaughtan: Councillor John Shaw:  
Councillor James Sheridan:

Councillor Iain Nicolson (Convener): Councillor Jim Paterson (Depute Convener):

### Hybrid Meeting

Please note that this meeting is scheduled to be held in the Council Chambers. However, it is a hybrid meeting and arrangements have been made for members to join the meeting remotely should they wish.

### Webcasting of Meeting

This meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site – at the start of the meeting the Convener will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Committee Services at [democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk).

The webcast of this meeting is not available. The meeting was recorded for subsequent broadcast instead. To find the recording of the meeting please navigate to <https://youtu.be/VrAYAYD2EuY>

### Apologies

Apologies from members.

## **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

## **Budget Monitoring**

<b>1</b>	<b>Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report</b>	<b>5 - 18</b>
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Joint Report by Chief Executive, Director of Finance & Resources and Chief Finance Officer, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership

## **Climate Change**

<b>2</b>	<b>Climate Change Sub-committee</b>	<b>19 - 22</b>
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Minute of Meeting of Climate Change Sub-committee held on 1 September 2021

<b>3</b>	<b>Climate Change Update</b>	<b>23 - 30</b>
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Report by Chief Executive

## **Strategic Leadership and Oversight, Tackling Poverty and Welfare Reform**

<b>4</b>	<b>Social Renewal Plan - Income, Poverty and Financial Insecurity</b>	<b>31 - 48</b>
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Report by Chief Executive

<b>5</b>	<b>Adult Social Work Services - Annual Monitoring Report 2020/21</b>	<b>49 - 60</b>
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Report by Chief Officer, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership

<b>6</b>	<b>Alcohol and Drugs Programme Update</b>	<b>61 - 70</b>
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Report by Chief Executive

## **Economy, Regeneration, Development and Renewal**

<b>8</b>	<b>Co-commissioning of Employability Services</b>	<b>71 - 78</b>
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Report by Chief Executive

Report by Chief Executive




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**To:** Leadership Board

**On:** 15 September 2021

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**Report by:** Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Resources, and Chief Finance Officer Renfrewshire HSCP

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**Heading:** Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring as at 25 June 2021

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## 1. Summary of Financial Position

- 1.1. The table below outlines the projected Revenue and Capital outturn position as at 31 March 2022 across all services reported to the Leadership Board. Further analysis on the expected variances for each service is provided in the Appendices to this report.
- 1.2. For the financial year 2021/22, the projected outturn position is split into Core (or business as usual) and COVID-19 related variances to help readers understand the impact of the pandemic on service finances.

<b>Table 1: Revenue</b>						
<b>Division</b>	<b>Revised Annual Budget £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn Core £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn COVID-19 £000</b>	<b>Total Projected Outturn £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance %</b>
Adult Services	74,356	72,916	0	72,916	1,440	1.9%
Chief Executives	23,237	21,101	2,835	24,936	(1,699)	(7.3%)

<b>Table 2: Capital</b>						
<b>Division</b>	<b>Revised Annual Budget £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn Core £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn COVID-19 £000</b>	<b>Total Projected Outturn £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance %</b>
Chief Executives	54,864	54,864	0	54,864	0	0%
Leisure Services	3,418	3,418	0	3,418	0	0%

## **2. Recommendations**

Members are requested to:

- 2.1. Note the projected Revenue outturn position detailed in Table 1 above;
- 2.2. Note the projected Capital outturn position detailed in Table 2 above; and
- 2.3. Note the budget adjustments detailed at sections 4 and 6.

## **3. Revenue**

- 3.1. The Revenue Budget Monitoring report at Appendix 1 identifies a projected annual overspend of £0.259m (0.3% of total budget) for all services reporting to this Policy Board. Detailed division service reports can be found in Appendix 2, along with an explanation of each significant projected variance.
- 3.2. The projected outturn is based on information currently available and assumptions made by service budget holders.
- 3.3. The main reasons for the projected outturn position are indicated in the appendices showing both the subjective analysis (what the budget is spent on) and the objective analysis (which division is spending the budget).
- 3.4. The most significant areas to bring to member's attention relate to the projected impact of the COVID19 on both Renfrewshire Leisure and Renfrewshire HSCP:
  - RL is likely to continue to experience a degree of operational restrictions over the coming year following the Scottish Government route map out of the pandemic, as well as the potential impact from both temporary and more permanent behavioural changes across society that may emerge as the recovery process progresses across the country. There is therefore an expectation that RL will continue to experience increased costs and reduced revenue generation in the short to medium term. It is projected that the Council may require to provide RL with up to an additional £1.3m of financial support over 2021/22. The Board and management team of RL will continue to try to put in place appropriate mitigation measures over the course of the year and support the overall recovery of their operations and services as restrictions relax. However, the level of support from the furlough scheme secured last financial year will reduce as UK government support for the scheme unwinds over the course of 2021/22 and this is expected to result in a greater financial pressure being experienced in 2021/22 in comparison to 2020/21.

- Within adult services managed by Renfrewshire HSCP, the service continues to take significant action in response to the pandemic, including providing substantial levels of support to external care providers in order to ensure their ongoing financial sustainability. As at period 3, the service estimates that costs of £6.2m will be incurred specifically in relation to COVID-19 by the end of the financial year, with this cost predominantly being related to financial sustainability payments to private adult and elderly care providers.

The Scottish Government has again provided confirmation that all reasonable additional costs associated specifically with the crisis will be fully funded and funding will be allocated to the HSCP's on this basis, once all Covid related reserves have been fully utilised. In this context, additional costs specifically relating to the COVID response are not therefore included within this report with the clear expectation that these costs will be funded directly by the Scottish Government. Outwith COVID19 specific costs, the service is forecasting a £1.44m underspend on core service provision primarily due to vacancies across a range of service areas.

#### **4. Revenue Budget Adjustments**

- 4.1. Members are requested to note from Appendix 1 that budget adjustments totalling £0.824m have been processed since the start of the financial year. These relate mainly to:
  - - £0.159m Adjustment reflecting the transfer of planning services to the Chief Executive's Service as agreed under the Placeshaping workstream of the Right for Renfrewshire programme
  - + £1.000m Future Paisley budget transferred from Miscellaneous services
  - +£1.504m Discretionary business grants budget drawn down from specific reserves carried forward from 2020/21

#### **5. Capital**

- 5.1. The Capital Investment Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26 was approved by the Council on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- 5.2. The Capital Monitoring report at Appendix 3 indicates movement in the approved capital programme for the Chief Executive's Service for the year of £17.787m which is explained further below.
- 5.3. The Capital Monitoring report at Appendix 3 indicates movement in the approved capital programme for Leisure Services of £0.944m.

- 5.4. Further detail, including reasons for significant variances, can be found at Appendix 3.
- 5.5. It is anticipated that due to both the impact of immediate COVID19 lockdowns as well as a second phase impact on the construction industry through constrained supply chain capacity for all major building materials coupled with heightened demand across the globe as economies emerge from pandemic lockdowns, there will be increasing financial pressures and potential time impacts in several of the Council's capital building projects. In this context and as previously planned, it is anticipated that consequential cost pressures arising from COVID19 will require to be addressed from the Covid specific reserve balances. Future reports will provide further detail as this issue develops more substantially over the coming weeks and months and such issues are progressed with individual contractors.

## **6. Capital Budget Adjustments**

- 6.1. Since the last report, budget changes in totalling £16.843m have arisen which reflect the following:

- **Chief Executives**

- City Deal Projects (£6.401m) largely to reflect changes in the timing of work in the Glasgow Airport Investment Area and Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside projects. This includes an adjustment to the funding for the Inchinnan cycleway approved as part of the full GAIA project; reflecting the unsuccessful bid for Sustrans funding which has been offset and replaced from temporary headroom in approved City Deal loan charge resources. This temporary headroom in the current financial year reflects the impact of the overall programme rephasing, referred to above along with positive cashflow impact of accelerated payment of City Deal grant by the Scottish Government.
- Paisley Venues and Infrastructure Projects (£8.348m) to reflect changes in timing of work expected to take place at the Learning & Cultural Hub and Paisley Town Hall into future years
- AMID's project (£3.038m) to reflect the changes of the timing of work expected to take place on the District Heating Network Project and Netherton Square contracts.

- **Leisure Services**

- Leisure Investment & Grass Pitches £0.846m carried forward from 2020/21
- Community Halls Refurbishment £0.098m for updated cashflows received for the project.



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## Implications of this report

1. **Financial** – The projected budget outturn position for Leadership Board Revenue budget is an overspend of £0.259m. Income and expenditure will continue to be monitored closely for the rest of the financial year and, where necessary, steps will be taken to mitigate any overspend.

The projected outturn position for Leadership Board Capital budget is breakeven. The Capital programme will continue to be monitored closely for the rest of the financial year.

Any changes to current projections in either Revenue or Capital budgets will be reported to the board as early as possible, along with an explanation for the movement.

2. **HR and Organisational Development**

None directly arising from this report.

3. **Community/Council Planning**

None directly arising from this report.

4. **Legal**

None directly arising from this report.

5. **Property/Assets**

Capital projects will result in new assets (City Deal) and refurbishment and improvement to Cultural Infrastructure and Public Realm assets.

6. **Information Technology**

None directly arising from this report.

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 because for example it is for noting only. 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 and Safety**

None directly arising from this report.

9. **Procurement**

None directly arising from this report.

- 10. Risk**  
The potential risk that the Council will overspend its approved budgets for the year will be managed at a Council-wide level by the Chief Executive and Directors.
- 11. Privacy Impact**  
None directly arising from this report.
- 12. Cosla Policy Position**  
N/a.
- 13. Climate Risk**  
None directly arising from this report.

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### **List of Background Papers**

Non-housing Capital Investment Programme, Prudential Framework and Treasury Management Strategy, and Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24  
Council, 4th March 2021.

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**Author:** Valerie Howie, Revenue. Geoff Borland, Capital

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2021/22**  
**1 April 2021 to 25 June 2021**

**POLICY BOARD : LEADERSHIP BOARD**

Objective Summary	Approved Annual Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Adult Services	74,359	(3)	74,356	72,916	0	72,916	1,440	1.9%
Chief Executive's Service	20,906	2,331	23,237	22,101	2,835	24,936	(1,699)	(7.3%)
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>95,265</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>97,593</b>	<b>95,017</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>97,852</b>	<b>(259)</b>	<b>(0.3%)</b>

Subjective Summary	Approved Annual Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Employees	38,385	2,775	41,160	41,192	1,681	42,873	(1,713)	(4.2%)
Premises Related	821	0	821	951	109	1,060	(239)	(29.1%)
Transport Related	841	0	841	532	0	532	309	36.7%
Supplies and Services	14,668	1	14,669	14,641	1,333	15,974	(1,305)	(8.9%)
Third Party Payments	60,563	3,548	64,111	63,212	2,543	65,755	(1,644)	(2.6%)
Transfer Payments	7,877	(994)	6,883	5,374	2,724	8,098	(1,215)	(17.7%)
Support Services	116	0	116	100	1	101	15	12.9%
Depreciation and Impairment Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>123,271</b>	<b>5,330</b>	<b>128,601</b>	<b>126,002</b>	<b>8,391</b>	<b>134,393</b>	<b>(5,792)</b>	<b>(4.5%)</b>
Income	(28,006)	(3,002)	(31,008)	(30,985)	(5,556)	(36,541)	5,533	17.8%
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>95,265</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>97,593</b>	<b>95,017</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>97,852</b>	<b>(259)</b>	<b>(0.3%)</b>



**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2021/22**  
**1 April 2021 to 25 June 2021**

**POLICY BOARD : LEADERSHIP BOARD - ADULT SERVICES**

Objective Summary	Approved Annual Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Older People	48,495	(1,045)	47,450	46,535		46,535	915	1.9%
Physical or Sensory Difficulties	6,297	(12)	6,285	6,363		6,363	(78)	(1.2%)
Learning Difficulties	16,008	1,061	17,069	16,695		16,695	374	2.2%
Mental Health Needs	2,879	(20)	2,859	2,711		2,711	148	5.2%
Addiction Services	680	13	693	612		612	81	11.7%
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>74,359</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>74,356</b>	<b>72,916</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72,916</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

Objective Heading	Key Reasons for Projected Variance
Older People	Underspends in employee costs reflecting vacancies due to recruitment issues. Under occupancy in external care homes due to COVID pandemic.
Physical or Sensory Difficulties	Reduction in income from supported living clients and Other Local Authorities due to reduced client demand.
Learning Difficulties	Underspends in employee costs reflecting vacancies due to recruitment issues.
Addictions	Underspends in employee costs reflecting vacancies due to recruitment issues.
Mental Health Needs	Underspends in employee costs reflecting vacancies due to recruitment issues.

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2021/22**  
**1 April 2021 to 25 June 2021**

**POLICY BOARD : LEADERSHIP BOARD - ADULT SERVICES**

Subjective Summary	Approved Annual Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Employees	32,238	222	32,460	32,323	1,681	34,004	(1,544)	(4.8%)
Premises Related	353	0	353	395	109	504	(151)	(42.8%)
Transport Related	840	0	840	530		530	310	36.9%
Supplies and Services	1,732	(2)	1,730	1,630	2	1,632	98	5.7%
Third Party Payments	60,441	3,548	63,989	63,090	2,543	65,633	(1,644)	(2.6%)
Transfer Payments	5,746	(3,246)	2,500	2,359	1,220	3,579	(1,079)	(43.2%)
Support Services	70	0	70	54	1	55	15	21.4%
Depreciation and Impairment Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>101,420</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>101,942</b>	<b>100,381</b>	<b>5,556</b>	<b>105,937</b>	<b>(3,995)</b>	<b>(3.9%)</b>
Income	(27,061)	(525)	(27,586)	(27,465)	(5,556)	(33,021)	5,435	19.7%
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>74,359</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>74,356</b>	<b>72,916</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72,916</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2021/22**  
**1 April 2021 to 25 June 2021**

**POLICY BOARD : LEADERSHIP BOARD - CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE**

Objective Summary	Approved Annual Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Chief Executive and Management	366	(101)	265	266		266	(1)	(0.4%)
Policy and Commissioning	4,497	0	4,497	4,510		4,510	(13)	(0.3%)
Marketing and Communications	2,616	480	3,096	3,053		3,053	43	1.4%
City Deal & Infrastructure	0	0	0	421		421	(421)	0.0%
Economy & Development	2,035	1,502	3,537	2,016	1,504	3,520	17	0.5%
Leisure Services (incl Renfrewshire Leisure)	11,392	450	11,842	11,835	1,331	13,166	(1,324)	(11.2%)
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>20,906</b>	<b>2,331</b>	<b>23,237</b>	<b>22,101</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>24,936</b>	<b>(1,699)</b>	<b>(7.3%)</b>

Objective Heading	Key Reasons for Projected Variance
City Deal and Infrastructure	The adverse variance reflects the projected revenue costs required to deliver the Cultural Infrastructure Programme which will be drawn down from earmarked reserves as required.
Leisure Services (incl Renfrewshire Leisure)	The adverse variance reflects the projected costs to support Renfrewshire Leisure with a revised level of requisition resulting from the continued limitations on service delivery over the coming year (in following the Scottish Government route map out of the pandemic).

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2021/22**  
**1 April 2021 to 25 June 2021**

**POLICY BOARD : LEADERSHIP BOARD - CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE**

Subjective Summary	Approved Annual Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Employees	6,147	2,553	8,700	8,869	0	8,869	(169)	(1.9%)
Premises Related	468	0	468	556	0	556	(88)	(18.8%)
Transport Related	1	0	1	2	0	2	(1)	(100.0%)
Supplies and Services	12,936	3	12,939	13,011	1,331	14,342	(1,403)	(10.8%)
Third Party Payments	122	0	122	122	0	122	0	0.0%
Transfer Payments	2,131	2,252	4,383	3,015	1,504	4,519	(136)	(3.1%)
Support Services	46	0	46	46	0	46	0	0.0%
Depreciation and Impairment Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>21,851</b>	<b>4,808</b>	<b>26,659</b>	<b>25,621</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>28,456</b>	<b>(1,797)</b>	<b>(6.7%)</b>
Income	(945)	(2,477)	(3,422)	(3,520)	0	(3,520)	98	2.9%
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>20,906</b>	<b>2,331</b>	<b>23,237</b>	<b>22,101</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>24,936</b>	<b>(1,699)</b>	<b>(7.3%)</b>



RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY - NON-HOUSING SERVICES  
1st April to 25th June 2021  
POLICY BOARD: LEADERSHIP

Project Title	Prior Years Expenditure to 31/03/2021*	Current Year 2021-22						Full Programme - All years			
		Approved Budget 2021-22	Budget Adjustments in 2021-22	Revised Budget 2021-22	Projected Outturn 2021-22	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Total Approved Budget to 31-Mar-26 £000	Projected Outturn to 31-Mar-26 £000	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000						
<b>LEISURE SERVICES</b>											
Leisure Investment Programme	52,278	0	322	322	322	0	0%	52,600	52,600	0	0%
Grass Pitches & Changing Facilities	3,677	0	524	524	524	0	0%	4,201	4,201	0	0%
Community Halls Refurbishment	64	2,474	98	2,572	2,572	0	0%	2,636	2,636	0	0%
Lagoon Internal Play Centre	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	500	500	0	0%
<b>Total Leisure Services</b>	<b>56,019</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>3,418</b>	<b>3,418</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>59,937</b>	<b>59,937</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVES</b>											
<b>City Deal Projects</b>											
Glasgow Airport Investment Area	32,237	6,446	4,506	10,952	10,952	0	0%	43,053	43,053	0	0%
Clyde Waterfront & Renfrew Riverside	15,789	28,528	-10,907	17,621	17,621	0	0%	105,823	105,823	0	0%
Airport Access	2,934	0	0	0	0	0	0%	141,991	141,991	0	0%
<b>Economic Development</b>											
GAIA Regeneration	2,109	1,891	0	1,891	1,891	0	0%	5,500	5,500	0	0%
AMIDS: Public Realm Phase 1 Netheron Square	217	1,586	-657	929	929	0	0%	2,983	2,983	0	0%
AMIDS: District Heating Network	0	5,273	-2,381	2,892	2,892	0	0%	6,454	6,454	0	0%
<b>Paisley Venues &amp; Town Centre Infrastructure</b>											
Paisley Art Centre Redevelopment	238	219	-4	215	215	0	0%	3,050	3,050	0	0%
Paisley Town Hall Redevelopment	2,950	7,042	-703	6,339	6,339	0	0%	22,050	22,050	0	0%
Flexible Outdoor Facility/Travel & Accessibility Infrastru	342	1,610	-541	1,069	1,069	0	0%	9,450	9,450	0	0%
Playing Fields and Sports Development	405	568	-116	452	452	0	0%	7,500	7,500	0	0%
Paisley Museum	7,320	11,801	-3,228	8,573	8,573	0	0%	43,100	43,100	0	0%
Town Centre Capital Fund	1,275	3,387	-2,676	711	711	0	0%	4,237	4,237	0	0%
Paisley Learning & Cultural Hub	1,710	2,581	-727	1,854	1,854	0	0%	7,000	7,000	0	0%
Townscape Heritage CARS 2	1,676	1,719	-353	1,366	1,366	0	0%	4,099	4,099	0	0%
<b>Total Chief Executives</b>	<b>69,202</b>	<b>72,651</b>	<b>(17,787)</b>	<b>54,864</b>	<b>54,864</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>406,290</b>	<b>406,290</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL LEADERSHIP BOARD</b>	<b>125,221</b>	<b>75,125</b>	<b>(16,843)</b>	<b>58,282</b>	<b>58,282</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>466,227</b>	<b>466,227</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

\*Rolling programmes have a prior year year expenditure of £0 as the expenditure is not directly linked from one year to the next as a singular project.

Objective Heading	Key Reasons for Potential Variance
City Deal Projects/City Deal Related Projects	The programme has been delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic with net projected expenditure of £25.525m slipping into future years to reflect revised timescales.
Paisley Venues & Town Centres Infrastructure	As as result of the Covid-19 pandemic, a total £13.211m of programmed expenditure has been reprofiled into future years to reflect revised timescales.



## Minute of Meeting

### Climate Change Sub-Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 01 September 2021	10:00	Remotely via MS Teams,

**Present:** Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Eileen McCartin, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor John Shaw

### Chair

Councillor Nicolson, Convener, presided

### In Attendance

L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning, P Moss, Strategy, Policy & Insight Manager and G Crawford, Senior Communications Officer (all Chief Executive's); F Carlin, Head of Housing Services (Communities & Housing Services); G Hutton, Head of Operations & Infrastructure and L Rennie, Operations Manager (both Environment & Infrastructure); M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, D Pole, End User Technician, E Gray, Senior Committee Services Officer and J Barron, Assistant Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources)

### Recording of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Climate Change Sub-committee would be recorded and that the recording would be available to watch on the Council's website.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## 1 **Climate Emergency - Policy Update**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Policy & Commissioning providing a summary of the latest UN report on the science of climate change, a summary of the findings of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Citizen's Assembly; information on the new 'Let's Do Zero' campaign and the latest developments in relation to COP26.

The Policy & Insight Manager gave a presentation on Climate Emergency – Policy Update which included information from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Officers responded to members' comments and questions, including how the Council was progressing with the Climate Panel, engagement with the community and the role of schools and education in tackling climate change.

Members thanked the Policy & Insight Manager for her presentation.

**DECIDED:** That the policy updates in the paper be noted.

## 2 **Climate Emergency Work Programme : Progress Update**

Under reference to item 1 of the Minute of the meeting of the Sub-committee held on 19 April, 2021 there was submitted a report by the Head of Policy & Commissioning providing a progress update on the Climate Emergency Work Programme.

It was noted that at its meeting on 19 April 2021, the Sub-committee considered a report outlining progress on the work being undertaken by the organisation to respond to the climate emergency declared by Council in June 2019.

The Sub-committee agreed a number of key priorities to be progressed by officers, recognising that it was a particular priority to continue to develop Renfrewshire's plan for achieving the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The report provided an update on the work undertaken to progress these priority actions and highlighted some of the key activities that had been undertaken since the last update to the Sub-committee. An updated work programme was considered by the Sub-committee, with section 5 of the report setting out a number of key priority actions which had been identified by officers for completion over the next three months.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That the progress achieved in relation to the current work programme and associated updated timetable be noted; and

(b) That it be agreed that the key priorities for progression over the course of the next three months as set out in Section 5 of the report.

### 3 **Climate Change Action Fund**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Policy & Commissioning regarding the budget approved by Council on 9 March 2020. The report outlined that £1,000,000 of funding had been allocated to support the Council in progressing its response to the climate emergency through a Climate Change Action Fund.

The Climate Change Sub-committee had considered a number of funding proposals developed by the Council during 2021. Following discussion and engagement with members, these proposals had been formally approved by the Leadership Board held on 24 February 2021, with £768,000 of funding allocated to date from the Climate Change Action Fund.

Two new proposals were included within the report for consideration by the Sub-committee. In line with previous proposals, these supported the Council's response to the climate emergency, with a key focus on testing new technology and practices, and in supporting local communities and businesses to reduce carbon emissions.

It was noted that following the last meeting of the Sub-committee held on 2 June 2021, officers had also progressed options for the development of a community-based fund for local projects/initiatives which supported the drive to net-zero. It was anticipated that a detailed proposal would be submitted to the Sub-committee for consideration on 17 November 2021.

#### **DECIDED:**

(a) That the progress update provided on the initiatives funded through the Climate Change Action Fund to date be noted;

(b) That consideration of the proposals detailed in the report, with £115,000 of funding requested from the Climate Change Action Fund be approved; and

(c) That it be noted that these proposals would be submitted to the Leadership Board for approval.





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**To: Leadership Board**

**On: 15 September 2021**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: Climate Change Update**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Climate Change Sub-Committee of the Leadership Board was established in October 2020 to provide oversight and scrutiny of the Council's activities on climate change, and specifically its progress in terms of meeting the target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- 1.2 The sub-committee met most recently on 1 September 2021 and considered:
- Progress updates in relation to the overall Climate Emergency work programme;
  - The timetable for the development of Renfrewshire's plan to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, as agreed by Council in June 2019;
  - An update in relation to those projects being progressed by services, which have received funding from the £1m Climate Change Action Funding allocated by Council in March 2020 and;
  - Two further project proposals in relation to this fund, which have been developed by services in relation to energy modelling within the school estate and support for businesses.
- 1.3 This paper provides an update on the work programme considered and agreed by the sub-committee, and specifically highlights work being undertaken to develop Renfrewshire's first net zero plan. The plan will set out the key actions that will need to be undertaken by the Council and its partners to achieve the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030 agreed by Council.
- 1.4 Information is also provided within this paper on the two funding proposals endorsed by the Climate Change Sub-Committee at its meeting on 1 September for consideration by the Leadership Board. Funding of £115,000 is sought to support these initiatives from the Climate Change Action Fund.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Leadership Board:
- Note the progress update provided in terms of the local work programme in relation to the climate emergency response; and
  - Agree the funding proposals detailed at Appendix 1 of this report, with £115,000 to be allocated from the Climate Change Action Fund to support those initiatives outlined.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 On 16 September 2020, members of the Leadership Board agreed that a sub-committee of the board would be established to maintain oversight of the progress being made by the Council in achieving its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030. It was agreed that a key role for the sub-committee would be to consider and contribute to the development of a climate change plan for Renfrewshire. A work programme to guide the local response and the development of this plan has been agreed and overseen by the sub-committee.
- 3.2 In addition the sub-committee has also considered a range of funding proposals developed by services, that have subsequently been supported through the Climate Change Action Fund.
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## **4. Work Programme**

- 4.1 At the Climate Change sub-committee meeting on 19 April 2021, an indicative work programme for 2021 agreed by the sub-committee, with a key focus on progressing Renfrewshire's plan for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The programme was presented as being indicative at that time, due to the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact that this may have on planned activities.
- 4.2 Good progress has been made in terms of progressing the key actions agreed within the work programme including:
- First 10 projects underway funded through the Climate Change Action Fund which will support work around feasibility of new energy sources, active travel options, peatland restoration and net zero housing in Renfrewshire and a range of other priorities.
  - Commissioning underway to secure external support to develop a robust evidence base around Renfrewshire's carbon emissions and to identify actions that will help the Council and its partners to achieve the target of net zero carbon emissions in Renfrewshire by 2030.
  - Appointment of a lead officer to oversee and co-ordinate the local programme of work in response to the climate emergency.
  - Survey of local residents now underway to assess local attitudes and knowledge around climate change.



- Recruitment underway for Renfrewshire Climate Panel, with residents being asked to support the Council in developing Renfrewshire's plan for net zero.
- Business survey being developed with Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce in order to gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges for local businesses in relation to climate change.

4.3 The activities above will support the development of Renfrewshire's plan for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. In previous papers to elected members this has been referred to as an adaptation plan, however through engagement with local and national partners it is evident that there is a need to make the purpose and focus of this plan much clearer for all stakeholders, therefore going forward it is proposed that this is referred to a Renfrewshire's net-zero plan.

**Carbon emissions** – this means the carbon (or its equivalent) being released into the Earth's atmosphere. A major cause of emissions is burning fossil fuels (such as coal, gas or oil) for heating or transport.

**Net zero** – this is when carbon emissions are reduced as low as they can be and any remaining carbon that can't be avoided is 'offset' by methods such as planting trees for example, to bring the overall amount of carbon used to zero (or less).

4.4 The net-zero plan will set out the key actions the Council and partners will need to take to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and this will be supported by an adaption plan/strategy document which set out in much more specific detail the mitigations that the Council and partners will need to deploy to respond to and build resilience against the impact of the climate change.

4.5 Key priorities during the next 3 months have been agreed by the sub-committee as follows:

- Completion of public and business climate surveys
- Establishment of Community Climate Panel
- Appointment of supplier to support detailed assessment of carbon emissions in Renfrewshire and net zero plan development.
- Development of further Climate Change Action fund proposals, including the potential development of a community climate fund, as agreed at the last meeting of the climate sub-committee.

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## 5. Climate Change Action Fund proposals

5.1 In the budget approved by Council on 9 March 2020, £1 million was allocated to establish a Climate Change Action Fund. The Climate Change Action Fund is intended to fund innovative projects and initiatives being developed by Council services in response to the climate emergency, provide initial funding to pilot new ideas and approaches, to support engagement and partnership working across Renfrewshire, or to accelerate the pace of change already being delivered through existing initiatives.

This process is vital to the Council being able to lever in the external funding that will be required to support climate change initiatives at the scale and pace required. To date, £768,000 funding has been allocated to support 10 projects through the Climate Change Action Fund.

5.2 Two further proposals have been developed by services in relation to the Climate Change Action Fund, with a total of £115,000 of funding being requested this cycle. Further detail on these proposals is outlined within Appendix 1 of this report, and these would seek to deliver:

- The introduction of a business support scheme which would provide small grants to local businesses to support the transition to green energy sources and processes.
- An energy modelling project in Bridge of Weir Primary, the findings from which could be used to inform the refurbishment of other similar primary buildings.

5.3 These proposals have been endorsed by the Climate Change Sub-Committee and are now being submitted to the Leadership Board for formal approval. If approved, £117,000 would remain within the Climate Change Action Fund for future allocation.

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### Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – This paper outlines proposals to allocate £115,000 of the total £1m funding allocated by the Council in March 2020 to support the response to the climate emergency. £0.768m of this funding has been allocated to date.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community/Council Planning** – this report highlights proposals to develop citizen and partnership forums to support engagement and collaboration with local businesses, partners and communities on the climate change agenda.
4. **Legal** - none
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 because it is for noting only. 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 and Safety** - none
9. **Procurement** – none

10. **Risk** – none
  11. **Privacy Impact** – none
  12. **COSLA Policy Position** – none
  13. **Climate Risk** – this report provides a summary of work being undertaken by the Council to respond to the climate emergency.
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**Author:** Laura McIntyre, Head of Policy and Commissioning  
Chief Executive's Service



## Appendix 1 – Climate Change Action Fund - Funding Proposals

Name / Description	Funding required	Summary
Net Zero Business Grant Support – Renfrewshire Council Grant programme for local businesses	<b>£100,000</b>	<p>This proposal aims to encourage local businesses to embrace net zero ambitions and to support Renfrewshire’s goal of net zero emissions by 2030.</p> <p>With one in three small businesses worried about rising energy prices, including more than half of SMEs in hospitality and leisure, this proposal ensures business get the support they need to cut emissions and their bills at the same time.</p> <p>50% grant support (up to £10k per grant) will be offered to support local businesses to make changes to business premises and operations. For example, a move to low carbon heating systems, solar powered energy and other measures to reduce emissions.</p> <p>The grants will be delivered through the Economic Development Team in line with other similar business grant funds.</p>
<b>Energy modelling Bridge of Weir PS</b>	<b>£15,000</b>	<p>Proposal to undertake detailed energy modelling of Bridge of Weir Primary School to facilitate design and development of enhanced and integrated energy efficient ‘Enerphit’ refurbishment options.</p> <p>Bridge of Weir PS is an archetype of a number of Primary Schools in the portfolio and the modelling exercise/data will inform potential options for other properties across the school estate.</p>





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**To: Leadership Board**

**On: 15 September 2021**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: Social Renewal Plan – Income, Poverty and Financial Insecurity**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 In March 2021, Council considered the initial findings from a community impact assessment that had been undertaken across Renfrewshire, in order to develop a deeper understanding of the impact of COVID-19 across communities. This provided strong evidence that the pandemic has impacted some local people more profoundly than others.
- 1.2 The research also indicated that the starting point for individuals in terms of the inequalities or challenges that they faced before the pandemic has been important, with issues such as low income, insecure employment, caring responsibilities and disabilities all being exacerbated by the pandemic and its associated restrictions. The community impact assessment process also identified a requirement to continue to listen and learn to the experiences of local residents, recognising that the impacts of the pandemic may emerge over time.
- 1.3 In the report in March 2021, an initial Social Renewal Plan was approved by Council. The plan set out the high-level actions that the Council and partners will take as we move forward from the pandemic with a clear focus on tackling inequality and improving wellbeing. In June 2021, an update report was provided to the Leadership Board, highlighting a range of initial priorities which partners had identified for immediate action in light of the issues being experienced across communities.

- 1.4 This report provides an update on the actions that are being taken by the Council and partners to support people and families across Renfrewshire experiencing issues in relation to low income and financial insecurity. There are significant concerns that national developments relating to universal credit, the end of the furlough scheme and increasing food and fuel costs will have significant implications for local households, and the paper sets out how partners will work together to ensure support is in place as quickly as possible to provide the additional support required.
- 1.5 A further update on this programme of work will be provided in late 2021 to the Leadership Board.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that members:
- Note the work that has been undertaken to progress the Social Renewal Plan in Renfrewshire.
  - Note the arrangements in place for the Fair Work Renfrewshire employment advice service, provided by Citizens Advice Bureau.
  - Approve grant funding of £45,000 to Engage Renfrewshire for the delivery of an affordable credit project, detailed at Section 4.
  - Approve grant funding of £16,665 each, to Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau, Linstone Housing Association and Renfrewshire Foodbank for the provision of support around fuel insecurity, as detailed at Section 4
  - Consider arrangements for the distribution of the Community Food Fund and:
    - (a) Approve the guidance for the Community Food Fund provided at Appendix 1
    - (b) Note that recommendations in relation funding applications will be collated by officers, and presented for consideration by the Leadership Board on 1 December 2021.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 In September 2020, Council agreed that a community impact assessment should be undertaken in Renfrewshire, in order to develop a much deeper understanding of the impact that COVID-19 has had individuals and families.
- 3.2 It was recognised that the issues being experienced were likely to emerge over an extended period of time, and that partners would need to work together to continually assess and respond to challenges as these emerged.



- 3.3 The findings from the community impact assessment were used to inform the development of an initial Social Renewal Plan for Renfrewshire, which was approved by Council on 4 March 2021.
- 3.4 The findings of the community impact assessment illustrated the stark impact that pandemic has had, particularly in relation to the income of individuals and families. There was robust evidence that increasing numbers of low-income households are struggling to manage financially and need support with housing, food and fuel costs.
- 3.5 There are a number of emerging policy issues and external factors related to the pandemic which are likely to have a significant impact on Renfrewshire's communities in addition to those identified within the Community Impact Assessment. These include:
- The £20 per week uplift to Universal Credit payments as a result of the COVID pandemic is due to end in September 2020. As at end of May 2021, there were 13,375 Universal Credit claims in Renfrewshire, comprised of 8,341 single claimants, 3,236 single parent claimants, 579 couples and 1,228 couples with children. (Around 40 per cent of those in receipt of Universal Credit are in work, and according to Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS), one in seven people are struggling on their current income.)
  - The UK government's furlough scheme is also due to end at the end of September 2021, meaning employers will have to make significant decisions in relation to the size and scope of their workforce.
  - In addition, there are continued challenges around rising costs of living. The Financial Conduct Authority reports that 12 million people across the UK now have low financial resilience, meaning they may be struggling to pay their bills and manage everyday living costs.
- 3.6 In addition, the regulator Ofgem has also recently announced that the price cap for default domestic energy deals would be raised due to an increase in wholesale prices. From October 2021, this means an estimated increase of £139 for people on default gas and electricity tariffs – and a £153 rise for prepayment meter customers, who are more likely to be from low-income households.

- 3.7 Taking these immediate pressures on household budgets into consideration, it is considered that work identified within the income, poverty and financial security theme of the Social Renewal Plan should be progressed at pace with additional supports implemented during Autumn and Winter 2021 to support local people that may be impacted by these issues.
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#### **4. Delivering on the Social Renewal Plan – Income, Poverty and Financial Insecurity**

- 4.1 This section provides updates on key allocations of the Social Renewal Plan budget agreed at Leadership Board in June 2021 within the income, poverty and financial security theme, alongside other relevant updates relating to (a) maximising household income and (b) reducing costs of living. Where relevant, this details recommendations for approvals required to implement key projects and initiatives.

##### **Employment Advice project**

- 4.2 In the Council Budget for 2021/22, £100,000 was agreed for Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau to provide independent employment, welfare and redundancy rights advice and advocacy, recognising the significant challenges that are likely to emerge for individuals as the furlough scheme comes to an end.
- 4.3 Over the course of 2020-21, with the effects of coronavirus on the economy and work, more than 1,200 separate enquiries about employment were made to RCAB. The most frequently occurring subjects included wages and deductions, sick pay, redundancy pay, selection for redundancy, unfair dismissal, dismissal procedures, contractual terms and conditions, and grievance processes. Associated advice and support was frequently given on benefit entitlement, crisis grants and to address debt.
- 4.4 Following the budget allocation in March 2021, work has been undertaken to agree the scope of additional support specifically around employment issues. The 'Fair Work Renfrewshire' service run by Renfrewshire Citizen's Advice Bureau will commence on 1st October 2021 for a period of two years.
- 4.5 The objective of the project is to provide proactive, accessible, and customer focussed advice services to effectively meet client needs in Renfrewshire with regard to employment and related advice areas, such as furlough, benefits entitlement and redundancy.

Where possible, the service will help clients retain employment, and where this is not possible, will ensure they are supported to obtain their full redundancy entitlement as well as claim the correct benefits.

- 4.6 Key areas of the focus for the project will include:
- Advice and representation on employment issues;
  - Negotiating with employers on behalf of clients;
  - Building and maintaining relationships and referral pathways with local partners and stakeholders including mental health charities, employability partners, the Jobcentre Plus, and educational institutions;
  - Holistic advice on associated issues in particular income maximisation;
  - Building and supporting the organisation's volunteer base to maximise capacity, and;
  - Delivery of internal and external training to support better understanding and identification of employment issues.
- 4.7 A contract was also approved by the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Board on 1 September 2021, for Renfrewshire Citizen's Advice Bureau to continue to deliver general advice services and legal advice services across Renfrewshire for the next 18 months, providing continuity and stability of essential services.

#### **Advice in GP surgeries**

- 4.8 As part of the response to Covid Recovery and social renewal, the Scottish Government is funding the roll out of embedded welfare rights advice in GP practices in areas of deprivation. The £3.17 million fund is designed to reduce the pressure on GP's and primary care services.
- 4.9 150 'deep end' practices across Scotland be will provided with 1 day a week welfare rights advice embedded in the practice for 2 years. Deep end practices are identified based on the percentage of practice patients living in datazones defined as the 15% most deprived.
- 4.10 The Improvement Service, Renfrewshire HSCP and Advice Works service are currently working together to embed welfare advice in four GP practices in Renfrewshire. This will be a Test and Learn model, fully evaluated with outcomes and recommendations and is expected to reduce the non-clinical workload of GP's and other health care professionals while improving the health outcomes for patients.
- 4.11 The service, which will maximise patients' income and be able to refer onto other support services, is expected to be in place later in 2021.

### **Benefit take up campaign**

- 4.12 Leadership Board agreed in June to “maximise income for low income households through an extensive benefit take-up campaign supported by local advice partners”.
- 4.13 Following discussion at the Advice Partnership Renfrewshire, a key partnership forum for advice providers across Renfrewshire, a working group will now be established to steer the development of a benefit take-up campaign. It is anticipated this will be launched in November 2021 to coincide with Talk Money Week.

### **Affordable Credit**

- 4.14 Leadership Board agreed in June to allocate £50,000 of Social Renewal Plan funding to “deliver affordable credit options across Renfrewshire which provide alternatives to high cost or illegal credit options.”
- 4.15 Affordable credit not only helps people to deal with short-term financial problems and manage uneven income but also builds financial stability and resilience that can prevent future financial problems and save costs in the longer term. StepChange, the debt charity, have estimated that 29% (15 million) of adults have experienced at least one negative change of circumstances since the beginning of the outbreak and that 1 in 3 of those affected negatively by coronavirus (4.9 million) have borrowed to make ends meet due to their reduced income, with an estimated 9% having used one or more forms of high-cost credit and 2% an illegal money lender.
- 4.16 In Renfrewshire we have recognised the issues for people who cannot access affordable credit for many years, and the Renfrewshire Affordable Credit Alliance (RACA) was set up to promote available affordable credit options. Jointly organised between Renfrewshire Council and Engage Renfrewshire, the active membership includes local credit unions, banks, advice agencies, housing associations, community groups, Renfrewshire HSCP and UWS. RACA members work together to champion fair and honest finance. Their aim is to ensure that everyone, no matter their income level, has options for borrowing money that help reduce the risk of them falling into problem debt, including that from illegal moneylenders.
- 4.17 Work has been undertaken alongside Renfrewshire Affordable Credit Alliance to shape a project focussed on preventing borrowing from high-cost lenders and illegal money lenders, which seeks to appoint an Affordable Credit Officer based at Engage Renfrewshire focussed on:

- Preventing local people from approaching high interest and illegal money lenders
- Helping break the cycle of high cost and illegal lending through awareness raising
- Increasing focus on digital to take into account the increasing online presence of high cost, unregulated and Illegal Money Lenders and new, online methods used by these lenders.

4.18 This project follows a similar model used to support Credit Unions several years ago, with Engage Renfrewshire hosting a post which works in partnership with the Council and other partners. The funding would also cover supplementary support from a dedicated financial inclusion worker who would work alongside the Affordable Credit Officer.

### **Community Food Pantries**

- 4.19 At Leadership Board in June 2021, funding was allocated to “support the establishment of an additional two community pantries in Renfrewshire, including one in Paisley town centre, hosted by RAMH at the Restore superstore on Causeyside Street as well as one in Johnstone town centre, hosted by Active Communities as part of the development of the former Johnstone Police Station into a community health and wellbeing hub. In addition, further funding is proposed to develop the existing community pantry in place at Star Project in Shortroods into its next phase”.
- 4.20 Work is underway with RAMH, Active Communities and Star Project to support them to develop their community food pantry models. STAR Project, who had an existing pantry in place, began the launch of their ‘Pantry Plus’ model through summer 2021. RAMH and Active Communities are also working alongside the Scottish Pantry Network, other funders and partners to establish new pantries based in Paisley and Johnstone town centres.
- 4.21 In addition to the pantries, it was agreed that the Council would “establish a Renfrewshire ‘Community Food Fund’, with this to be in place for Winter 2021.
- 4.22 The ‘Community Food Fund’ will provide small awards to organisations to develop community food offerings which move from emergency response to promote dignified access to food and community resilience, as well as work which is localised and responsive to the needs of individual communities.

- 4.23 The purpose of the fund is to support organisations to adapt from emergency response to recovery. This might include, but is not limited to:
- Costs associated with changing models to improve quality, dignity or sustainability – for example, linking to community gardens to provide fresh fruit and vegetables
  - Costs that support recruiting and/or retaining volunteers, or relevant training (for example, food hygiene)
  - Support with costs of transport
  - Costs associated with premises, which might include equipment such as refrigeration, or venue hire
  - Provision of support to be provided alongside food, for example, supporting cooking skills
  - Costs associated with engaging and consulting service users to inform your work
- 4.24 As such, costs associated with the direct purchase of food or other direct financial support for households are not eligible.
- 4.25 The guidance requires that projects demonstrate that they:
- adhere to the Dignity Principles developed by Nourish Scotland and the Poverty Truth Commission
  - ability to demonstrate understanding of local need
  - target people with low-incomes, and are inclusive and easily accessible
  - work in partnership to connect people to wider supports, and income maximisation support in particular – and support individual and community resilience
  - are compliant around food safety and environmental health as appropriate
- 4.26 It is intended that the application process for the fund would be launched immediately subject to board approval, and that award recommendations would be submitted to the Leadership Board on 1 December 2021, following consideration by a panel comprising of service representatives and a community representative from Engage Renfrewshire.
- 4.27 Guidance has been developed for the fund and is attached at Appendix 1. Officers will work with all successful applicants to monitor the outcomes delivered by projects and initiatives supported through the Fund, as part of a wider evaluation of the local response to food insecurity in Renfrewshire.

## **Fuel Insecurity Pilot**

- 4.28 As part of the Social Renewal Plan, fuel insecurity has been identified as an ongoing concern with continued high levels of demand for support. Leadership Board, it was agreed that a pilot will be developed to work with low-income households struggling to meet immediate fuel costs, linked to the provision of energy advice and £50,000 was allocated for this piece of work.
- 4.29 Fuel insecurity, like food insecurity, is most often a symptom of low income and poverty – rather than specifically related to fuel. When people present in crisis for emergency fuel support, this is usually related to an immediate income crisis.
- 4.30 For this reason, where people are experiencing fuel insecurity they often need access to both income advice – supporting them to maximise incomes, reduce costs and manage debt where appropriate, as well as accessing specialist energy advice which can support around tariffs and meters, access grants and other discounts and provide wider support to households to support them to reduce their usage and therefore energy costs in the longer term.
- 4.31 It is also important to note that for some people, support and advocacy is required to navigate what can be a complex consumer environment. Anecdotal local evidence tells us that this consumer environment has become more complex during the pandemic, as energy suppliers have navigated the pandemic – resulting in longer waiting times to speak to customer service and reduced access to financial support schemes like the Warm Homes Discount.
- 4.32 Renfrewshire has a number of organisations that directly support households experiencing fuel insecurity, with high levels of partnership and collaboration to ensure people are signposted to the support that they need.
- 4.33 However, following engagement with key organisations delivering fuel insecurity support it has been identified that there is a continuing need for (a) the provision of fuel top-ups to be available consistently across Renfrewshire where these are necessary and appropriate and (b) both income advice and energy advice to be consistently available alongside this temporary support to reduce the risk of crisis reoccurring, fuel debt being accrued and to reduce outgoings for low-income households.
- 4.34 It is proposed that the funding available from the Social Renewal Plan is used to bolster the provision of direct emergency fuel support (including provision for people on credit meters) as well as increasing the available provision of energy advice locally for the period of October 21 – March 22. This would include both an advocacy aspect and a focus on reducing fuel debt.

- 4.35 It is recommended that funding be provided to three organisations who have agreed to work together and with other partners to support those struggling with fuel insecurity in Renfrewshire:
- £16,665 to Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau (RCAB) to provide additional capacity of energy advisors, as well as energy training for frontline staff in Renfrewshire to help address fuel security on a medium-term basis. The funding will allow an expansion of energy advice over the winter period when need is greatest. As RCAB provide a wide range of advice, clients approaching the bureau or referred for energy advice will be supported in areas such as debt management and income maximisation, as well as advocacy, so building financial resilience.
  - £16,665 to Linstone Housing to provide direct financial support for people on credit meters, as well as prepayment meters. This would be available across Renfrewshire and not just for Linstone tenants. Linstone will build referral pathways with organisations involved in the Fuel Insecurity Pilot as well as other advice partners in Renfrewshire. In addition to providing vouchers, they will fund one off payments to reduce debt to householders with fuel debt, helping to preventing an adverse impact on customers credit file. To provide support longer term support, energy savings packs and installation of larger draughtproofing measures will be offered to those most in need. Linstone expects to be able to support 300 clients during the Pilot.
  - £16,665 to Renfrewshire Foodbank to provide vouchers for pre-payment meters for those who are in an emergency situation and cannot afford to top up their meters. Renfrewshire Foodbank provides vouchers of £49 to clients at a cost of £52.60 each, so this funding will allow them to support 317 individuals or families in need. The Foodbank already work with Advice Works, RCAB and the Council's Energy Management Unit to refer clients on for energy and more general debt and income advice and will continue to do so, as well as increase collaboration with Linstone for those who need wider support.
- 4.36 In order to provide consistent availability and clear referral routes, it is recommended that this provision is offered on a Renfrewshire wide basis rather than dedicated to particular localities of customer groups. As well as additional capacity, it is anticipated that the funding will increase referral and collaboration between the three named partners and with the wider advice community in Renfrewshire.



## **Participative approaches with people on low-incomes**

- 4.37 The Leadership Board in June 2021 agreed to “Establish longer-term participative approaches for engaging with people on low-incomes to inform Council policy decisions.”
  - 4.38 Work has continued alongside Poverty Alliance as part of the Get Heard Scotland programme carried out in Renfrewshire throughout 2020/21 working with people on low incomes and the organisations that support them to have their voices heard on the policies and decisions that most impact their lives and their communities.
  - 4.39 Further work has been carried out alongside these discussions with Poverty Alliance (supported by Northern Star Associates) to carry out focused work to scope out the development of local participatory policy processes in Renfrewshire. It is anticipated this work will be published later in autumn/winter 2021.
  - 4.40 Work has also been underway to identify initial areas where lived experience could support policy development and service planning for the Council and partners. It is anticipated that this work will start to be developed later in 2021.
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## **5 Next Steps**

- 5.1 Work is continuing to develop local responses to other impacts identified within the community impact assessment and the resulting Social Renewal Plan. An update on these proposals will be provided to the next meeting of the Leadership Board.
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## **Implications of the Report**

- 1. **Financial** – the pandemic has had and will continue to have a significant impact on the resources available to the Council. Given the anticipated longer term financial challenges facing the Council, the requirement for targeting of resources in priority areas will be essential.
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** - the commitment of the Council's workforce since the pandemic emerged has been fundamental to the ability of services to continue to support local people, businesses and communities. A significant proportion of the Council's workforce live locally in Renfrewshire, and many of the social impacts outlined in the report are also being experienced by our employees. Targeted support is being offered to

employees in order to address issues such as financial insecurity and mental health and wellbeing.

3. **Community/Council Planning** – There has been a strong partnership response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Renfrewshire with community and third sector organisations working closely together to maximise the resources available at a local level to meet the needs of local people and communities. This will be a critical focus going forward as partners work collectively to mitigate the impact on those most negatively impacted in our communities.
4. **Legal** - New legislative requirements have been put into place by the Scottish Government to support the country's response to COVID-19. There may be further changes to these requirements or further legislation as the lockdown measures ease, which the Council will require to respond to.
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 because it is for noting only. 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 and Safety** – none
9. **Procurement** – none
10. **Risk** – none
11. **Privacy Impact** – none
12. **COSLA Policy Position** – none
13. **Climate Risk** – there are climate emergency actions in the attached action plan, aligning this Social Renewal Plan to the Council's commitment to tackling the climate emergency through a green recovery from COVID-19.

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## List of Background Papers

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**Author:** Annabelle Armstrong-Walter, Strategic Partnerships and Inequalities Manager,



# Renfrewshire's Community Food Fund

A guide to the grant funding available for community food and how to apply

Renfrewshire Council

Renfrewshire's Community Food Fund is a £25,000 fund for organisations based in Renfrewshire who are developing projects providing food to Renfrewshire's communities.

The 'Community Food Fund' will provide small awards to organisations to develop community food offerings which move from emergency response to promote dignified access to food and community resilience.

The aim of the Community Food Fund is to develop models of community food provision which promote dignity and resilience as well as being highly responsive and localised.

## Food insecurity in Renfrewshire

Food insecurity is where a household has limited or uncertain access to food. It is just one aspect of wider poverty or lack of income. Food insecurity can show itself in different ways. From over reliance on a few kinds of low-cost food, which may be unhealthy, to skipping meals and in the more severe cases not eating for a whole day or more.

Some people access current emergency or community food provision because of an income shock, change in circumstances or emergency situation. Others face a longer-term shortfall in income as compared to outgoings because of low pay and rising costs of living. Food insecurity is not a new issue in Renfrewshire, but the COVID-19 pandemic has created new financial pressures for a lot of households.

It can also be more expensive for people living in certain areas to access food locally, perhaps because local shops do not offer food which is healthy, affordable or culturally appropriate, and/or because of the cost or availability of public transport.

Food insecurity affects people living across Renfrewshire, irrespective of whether people are working, where people live or their family status. However, the chance of being food insecure is higher among households who have lower incomes, people who are unemployed, people who are younger, lone-parent households and people affected by ill-health.

## What we will fund

The purpose of the fund is to support organisations to adapt from emergency response to recovery. This might include, but is not limited to:

- Costs associated with changing models to improve quality, dignity or sustainability – for example, linking to community gardens to provide fresh fruit and vegetables
- Costs that support recruiting and/or retaining volunteers, or relevant training (for example, food hygiene)
- Support with costs of transport
- Costs associated with premises, which might include equipment such as refrigeration, or venue hire
- Provision of support to be provided alongside food, for example, supporting cooking skills
- Costs associated with engaging and consulting service users to inform your work

**Costs associated with the direct purchase of food or other direct financial support for households are not eligible.**

Projects will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. adhere to the **Dignity Principles** developed by Nourish Scotland and the Poverty Truth Commission
2. ability to demonstrate **understanding of local need**
3. target people with **low-incomes**, and are **inclusive** and **easily accessible**
4. work in **partnership** to connect people to wider supports, and income maximisation support in particular – and support individual and community **resilience**
5. are compliant around **food safety** and environmental health as appropriate

In addition, the geographical spread of applications will also be considered in the allocation of awards.

### What are the Dignity Principles?

#### **A sense of control**

Having power to make choices about what, where, when, how and with whom you eat.

#### **Able to take part in community life**

Feeling able and welcome to take part in different aspects of community life, regardless of your financial situation.

#### **Nourished and supported**

Being able to enjoy food and access support that meets your needs.

#### **Involved in decision-making**

Feeling able to share your views and ideas and to have those views taken seriously in decision-making.

#### **Valued and able to contribute**

Feeling recognised and valued as a whole person with knowledge, skills and experiences to share.

You can find out more about Dignity in Practice at this website [Dignity in Practice Project - Nourish Scotland](#)

## Who can apply?

Any community or voluntary organisation with a constitution and a bank account can apply.

## How much can I apply for?

Grants of up to £5,000 are available. Applications above £5,000 will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Please note the total funding available within this fund is £25,000, please do not apply for more than you will need for your project.

## How decisions will be made?

1. Applications will be assessed by Council officers against the criteria mentioned above in conjunction with a representative from Engage Renfrewshire
2. Recommendations will be submitted to the Leadership Board on 1 December 2021 for approval.

## Key dates

- The fund will open on 16<sup>th</sup> September and close on the 15<sup>th</sup> October.
- Please note: It is anticipated that this is one-off funding, there will not be future funding rounds.

## Monitoring outcomes

- We will work with all successful applicants to monitor the outcomes delivered by projects and initiatives supported through the Fund, as part of a wider evaluation of the local response to food insecurity in Renfrewshire.

## The Application Process



## Writing your application

The standard Voluntary and Community Organisations Grant Application Form is used to apply for Community Food Fund funding. The form is available [here](#) or please contact the ... if you would like a paper copy sent to you.

The form has guidance notes in the right-hand column to help you with what information to put in each box. The notes below provide further information about how to make the best use of the application.

### **Section 1 – Organisation details**

This section is for you to tell us about your organisation and what you do.

### **Section 2 – Project proposal**

This section is an opportunity to tell us about the project you would like funding for. This information used to decide on your application, so it is very important that you use this section to explain how you will meet the criteria for this fund.

Use the sections to tell us about:

- How you've identified the need for your project
- What exactly you will do with the funding
- Who and how many people your project works with
- How you will know you are making a difference

### **Section 3 – Supporting paperwork**

This section is to make sure that you have included all the necessary supporting paperwork. Your application cannot be considered until you submit all of the correct paperwork.

This includes:

- o A bank statement less than three months old.
- o A copy of your most recent Annual Accounts or Income and Expenditure Statement. These should be less than 15 months old, dated and signed as approved. New organisations should submit estimates of income and expenditure for the first 12 months
- o A copy of the organisation's current Constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated and signed.

### **Section 4 - Declaration**

If you are filling in a paper copy of the form to post, you can sign this section of the form. If you are doing the form online, a signature can be taken at a later date.





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**To: Leadership Board**

**On: 15 September 2021**

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**Report by: Interim Chief Officer, Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership**

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**Heading: Adult Social Care – Annual Monitoring Report 2020/21**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Adult Social Work Services were delegated to Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) on 1 April 2016. These services are managed through the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).
- 1.2 This report together with the scorecard provide an overview of activity and performance using the most up to date information available.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that members note:
- the contents of this report updating activity and performance of adult social work services delegated to the IJB; and
  - that the six-monthly performance report will be presented to the Board on 23 February 2022.
- 

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The list of functions that must be delegated by the Local Authority to the IJB is set out in the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Prescribed Local Authority Functions, etc) (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and is noted in Annex 2, part 1 of Renfrewshire's Integration Scheme. These include:
- Social work services for adults and older people

- Services and support for adults with physical disabilities and learning disabilities
- Mental health services
- Drug and alcohol services
- Adult protection and domestic abuse
- Carers' support services
- Community care assessment teams
- Support services
- Care home services
- Adult placement services
- Health improvement services
- Aspects of housing support
- Day services
- Respite provision
- Occupational therapy services
- Reablement services, equipment and telecare

3.2 Whilst regular reporting in relation to these services is reported in detail to the Integration Joint Board (IJB), it was previously agreed that regular updates would be provided to the Leadership Board in relation to the delegated services. This ensures oversight of the challenges, key activities and wider context relating to the delivery of these services.

#### **4. The Impact of COVID-19**

4.1 The ongoing pandemic and resulting restrictions have continued to significantly impact Renfrewshire and the rest of the world. The way services and support are provided has continued to be vastly different from pre-pandemic. Partners recognise that COVID-19 and subsequent restrictions have had a significant impact on Renfrewshire's residents and that its effects will continue to be seen in the short, medium and longer term. With a focus now on recovery, The HSCP and partners are working together to support individuals, families and communities across Renfrewshire.

4.2 The Partnership has had to make significant changes over the last year to continue delivering services, while also mobilising the response to the pandemic by:

- Quickly adjusting services to adapt to the COVID-19 environment and providing the best possible support for Renfrewshire communities.
- Responding rapidly to implementing national guidance, which was often updated daily.
- Creating bespoke services to meet new local community needs, such as medicine delivery.
- Establishing and supporting a range of new services such as the COVID-19 Assessment Centre, the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme and testing for staff and care home residents.

## 5. Key Activities During 2020/21

- 5.1 Our workforce must be commended for being incredibly flexible, dedicated, and resilient throughout the pandemic. We recognise the importance of continuing to provide the necessary advice and support to help staff maintain their physical and psychological health and wellbeing.
- 5.2 COVID-19 has had no bigger impact than it has on care homes. In May 2020, enhanced support for care homes and care at home services was established to ensure that clinical and care professionals from across the HSCP, Renfrewshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde could come together to have oversight across Renfrewshire. This resulted in the following arrangements being introduced to strengthen clinical and care governance of care homes and care at home services across Renfrewshire:
- Daily Huddle (more recently moved to twice weekly): the huddle is 'responsible and accountable' for providing oversight, analysis and response to emerging issues; infection prevention and control; and for the clinical and care support provided to service users including testing and vaccinations.
  - Renfrewshire Clinical and Care Oversight Group weekly multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meeting: the group is responsible for analysing all aspects of COVID-19, infection control, testing, training and support; classifying each care home using the Scottish Government agreed rating and completing the local return to the Director of Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. There is also a requirement for the MDT to escalate issues via the Chief Officer / Director Nursing to the Chief Executives of the Council and NHS respectively.
  - Monthly Care Home Peer Support Meeting (initially held weekly): this meeting provides a forum for clinical and care advice and support to all registered homes in Renfrewshire. This meeting is well attended by all care homes and has been so successful that it is intended this meeting is continued beyond the pandemic.
- 5.3 Care at Home services have continued to provide critical care support to people of Renfrewshire throughout the pandemic. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on Care at Home services when providing support to people within their own homes. Due to the uncertainty and outbreak of COVID-19, some people receiving care chose to reduce the support they received to reduce their risk of infection which contributed to balancing the impacts of reduced staffing capacity due to shielding and self-isolation.

As part of the Older Peoples Services Review Programme, work is underway to identify and implement improvements across Care at Home services whilst incorporating learning from the response and renewal to COVID-19, such as:

- a new fast-tracked recruitment process for Home Care workers.
- introduced a testing programme for staff.
- increased training and awareness of infection control processes.
- commenced staff training programme to meet Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) requirements.

- provided staff with a new digital communication portal, reducing paper processes, and providing staff instant access to COVID related information and guidance.

The HSCP continues to review the ongoing needs of service users, ensuring that their care requirements are being met appropriately. This may result in changes to the level and nature of services that some individuals receive.

- 5.4 To ensure that people using our services were kept safe from harm during the pandemic response, a monthly (initially held fortnightly) meeting of key stakeholders from the Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee (RAPC) was convened. This group considered Adult Support and Protection governance from both operational and strategic perspectives, including:
- The impact of COVID-19 on inter-agency service delivery.
  - Risk areas from across all RAPC members, including workforce-related issues.
  - Specific ASP practice concerns or risks arising, and mitigating actions required. Analysis of ASP data and identification of any actions required.
  - Review of national ASP COVID-19 guidance and development of local guidance to supplement this.
  - Specific case discussions. This group, which was supplementary to quarterly RAPC meetings, reported directly to Chief Officers, who met at an increased frequency to discuss issues arising across public protection agendas.
- 5.5 During 2020/21, three Large Scale Investigations (LSIs) were undertaken within care homes in Renfrewshire, as per the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. These were triggered by concerns raised during Daily Huddles - including COVID-19 Care Home Assurance visits led by the HSCP – and concerns raised by the Care Inspectorate as part of their inspection activity. LSI meetings occurred on a weekly basis with the LSI Teams and the relevant HSCP Head of Service to ensure that appropriate scrutiny of these specific care homes was occurring, alongside the provision of sufficient safeguards and support to the homes. These enhanced governance arrangements for three particular care homes during COVID-19 were introduced due to the identified risks.
- 5.6 In line with national guidance, many of the HSCP building based day support services were closed, however the HSCP maintained regular contact with service users, providing support and advice in relation to COVID-19, addressing social isolation, and signposting to other supports and services.

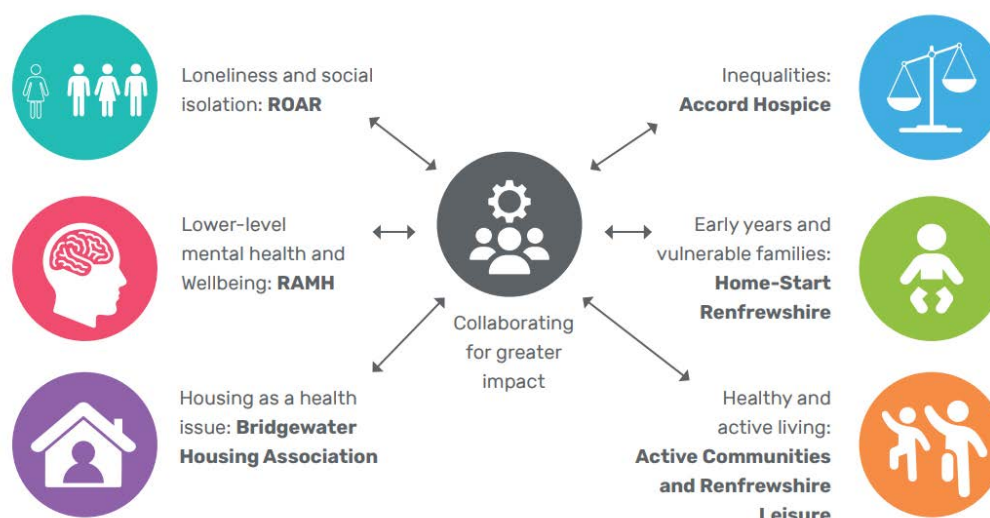
When permitted to do so, the Learning Disability service gradually increased the capacity at day services, albeit at a reduced level, this was undertaken in line with local and national restrictions.

As part of the recovery activity, the HSCP developed an interim hub and spoke approach to day support for older people and adults with a physical disability, which began in April 2021. This approach combines support within the Falcon day centre for those with most critical needs, with community outreach services provided to people within their own homes, delivered alongside ongoing welfare calls as noted above. The model has been created in recognition that it will not be possible to re-open every day care building immediately, and that

buildings will need to operate at reduced occupancy due to infection control and physical distancing requirements.

- 5.7 The HSCP and its partners in the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) adapted their ways of working with local communities to provide the necessary essential support to vulnerable people. The SPG continued to meet online regularly over 2020/21 and is recognised as a valuable resource in delivering the HSCP's Recovery and Renewal plans. During this time partners agreed a series of six priorities that would help improve outcomes for communities and people who use services, with a focus on prevention and early intervention.

As a result, six sub-groups of the SPG were formed and each priority group was led by Third Sector partners:



The sub-groups have continued to meet and provide an opportunity for both cross-sector working and innovative design and development of community-based health initiatives.

- 5.8 The provision of timely, evidence-based treatment and support to individuals attending Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service (ADRS) continued to be a priority throughout the pandemic with services remaining operational. In addition, the following service provision is also available:
- The distribution of Naloxone targeting individuals at risk of an opiate overdose, and their families continued to be driven through ADRS, needle exchanges and local pharmacists. In addition to this, the distribution of Naloxone has been extended as a result of the pandemic to include non-drug treatment services. This means that services, who may come into contact with individuals who use drugs and who may be at risk of overdose, can provide Naloxone kits. This will maximise the availability of Naloxone and add existing supply routes.
  - Two Peer Navigators work in partnership with services to connect with individuals who have been affected by alcohol, drugs and mental health.
  - Attend Anywhere – Near Me (Video consultation) has been introduced to be available for service users to encourage engagement with services.
  - Extended access to residential rehabilitation services.

- Close collaboration with colleagues from the emergency department at the RAH following near fatal overdoses.
- Ensure that rapid restart of treatment is available following relapse.
- Adopted an assertive outreach approach for service users.
- Have a clear pathway in place for those who are released from prison.
- Implement the Drug Deaths Prevention Action Plan including the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards with a focus on introducing same day prescribing and choice of treatment using rapid access assessment to opiate substitute therapy.

5.9 During 2020/21 an Alcohol and Drugs Change Programme and Programme Board was established to drive the implementation of the partnership response to the recommendations of Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission. The recommendations provide clear direction to community planning partners on the action that must be taken to fundamentally address the impact of alcohol and drug use in Renfrewshire. They are bold and ambitious and focus on what needs to change to support:

- People who use alcohol and drugs.
- Families impacted by alcohol and drug use.
- Young people experiencing issues in relation to alcohol and drug use and mental health issues.
- Local communities that are impacted by alcohol and drug use within their local areas.

Officers have worked with key partners to assess the report findings and have developed an initial high-level action plan which sets out the key actions and activities that partners will progress in relation to all 27 recommendations.

A more detailed update report on the progress made by the Programme Board is also included on the agenda for this Leadership Board.





## **6. Adult Social Work Performance Overview**




6.1 Adult Social Work services are managed and monitored via regular internal HSCP professional governance and operational management arrangements, including meetings, case management, and regular service and case reviews. These meetings involving Heads of Service and Service Managers covering a variety of local and national strategic and operational indicators. They allow Managers to scrutinise and discuss performance data, agree remedial action, timescales for improvement, and consider future challenges which may affect services to allow planned actions and mitigation where appropriate.

6.2 In addition to internal scrutiny, performance is reported at every Integration Joint Board meeting, with the Scorecard presented twice yearly. The report charts data for the last three years, and where possible, associated targets, the 'performance direction of travel' and whether the indicator is currently on track to meet target. The reports provide a detailed picture of what is working well, current challenges and intended remedial action where necessary.







The Renfrewshire IJB Scorecard reports on Adult Social Work indicators alongside a variety of both local and national health service indicators. All indicators are reported under the nine national health and wellbeing outcomes.

- 6.3 Current performance for the 19 Adult Social Work Services' indicators is as follows:



Performance Indicator Status		No.
	Target achieved	3
	Warning	1
	Alert	0
	Data only	15

Direction of Travel	
	Improvement
	Deterioration
	Same as previous reporting period

- 6.4 Areas of Strength - The following three indicators are rated green and are achieving target.

Status	Performance Indicator	18/19 Value	19/20 Value	20/21 Value	Target	Direction of Travel
National Indicator 2: People are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community						
	Percentage of clients accessing out of hours home care services (65+)	89%	90%	90%	85%	
	Average number of clients on the Occupational Therapy waiting list	349	315	159	350	
National Outcome 8: People who work in health and social care services are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide and feel engaged in the work they do						
	Sickness absence rate for HSCP Adult Social Work staff (work days lost per FTE)	17.43	18.08	13.50	Annual 15.3 days	

- 6.5 The following indicator is an amber warning given that it is 1% below target.

Status	Performance Indicator	18/19 Value	19/20 Value	20/21 Value	Target	Direction of Travel
National Indicator 2: People are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community						
	Percentage of long term care clients receiving intensive home care (national target: 30%)	28%	27%	29%	30%	

6.6 In addition, the following 15 performance indicators are for data purposes only:

<b>National Outcome 2: People are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community</b>			
<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>18/19 Value</b>	<b>19/20 Value</b>	<b>20/21 Value</b>
Homecare hours provided - rate per 1,000 population aged 65+	444	414	390
Percentage of homecare clients aged 65+ receiving personal care	99%	99%	99%
Population of clients receiving telecare (75+) - Rate per 1,000	40.17	50	46
Percentage of routine OT referrals allocated within 9 weeks	52% (Baseline developed)	42%	41%
<b>National Outcome 6: People who provide unpaid care are supported to reduce the potential impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing</b>			
Number of adult carer support plans completed for carers (age 18+)	93	162	86
Number of adult carer support plans delined by carers (age 18+)	78	34	51
Number of young carers' statements completed	78	68	49
<b>National Outcome 7: Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities</b>			
Number of Adult Protection contacts received	2,723	3,106	3,487
Total Mental Health Officer service activity	723	683	627
Number of Chief Social Worker Guardianships (as at position)	113	110	115
Percentage of children registered in this period who have previously been on the Child Protection Register	24%	11%	29%
<b>National Outcome 8: People who work in health and social care services are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide and feel engaged in the work they do</b>			
No. of SW employees, in the MTIPD process, with a completed IDP	909	1,000	
<b>National Outcome 9: Resources are used effectively in the provision of health and social care services, without waste</b>			
Care at Home costs per hour (65 and over)	£26.40	£23.05	Information from LGBF - available early 2022



Direct Payment spend on adults 18+ as a % of total social work spend on adults 18+	5.88%	4.05%	Information from LGBF - available early 2022
Net residential costs per week for older persons (over 65)	£298	£272	Information from LGBF - available early 2022

## 7. National Direction

- 7.1 As reported to Council on 4 March 2021, an [Independent Review of Adult Social Care](#) was published in February 2021 and the Scottish Government subsequently made a commitment to implementing the recommendations of the review, including the creation of a National Care Service.
- 7.2 More recently, on 9 August 2021 the Scottish Government launched the National Care Service consultation and invited responses by 18 October 2021. It is anticipated that new legislation (a bill) will be introduced in the Scottish Parliament by Summer 2022.
- 7.3 The consultation is focused on exploring the suggestions for significant cultural and system change that will need to be supported by primary legislation, with new laws required to implement the scale of change required. At a minimum the new National Care Service will cover adult social care services. However, its scope could also be extended to other groups such as children and young people, community justice, alcohol and drug services, and social work and this consultation sets out proposals for an expanded scope for the National Care Service.
- 7.4 The consultation also includes a number of recommendations for “Improving care for people” and also proposes that Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) will be reformed to become Community Health and Social Care Boards (CHSCBs) and become the local delivery body for the NCS, funded directly by the Scottish Government.
- 7.5 The proposals set out in this consultation paper will have a cost, however, this is seen as investment in society and not a burden. There will be a focus on early intervention and prevention which will avoid the need for more costly action at a later stage.
- 7.6 A report on Renfrewshire Council’s response to this consultation will be presented to full Council on 30 September 2021.

## 8. Strategic Context

- 8.1 Renfrewshire’s IJB is required by the [Public Bodies \(Joint Working\) \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) to produce a Strategic Plan on how community health and social care functions delegated to it by Renfrewshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde will be planned and delivered over the medium term (three years). The existing Strategic Plan covers the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022 and the HSCP, on behalf of the IJB, will take the necessary statutory steps to review the plan prior to 1 April 2022. In accordance with the act, the review will consider:
- the national health and wellbeing outcomes;

- the indicators associated with the national outcomes;
  - the integration delivery principles; and
  - the views of the Strategic Planning Group.
- 8.2 Nationally the strategic and policy context in relation to health and social care continues to evolve and retains a high degree of uncertainty. The new Strategic Plan will require to align with these and other key transformational change drivers such as the response to and recovery from COVID-19 and the recommendations from the independent review of adult social care.
- 8.3 Listening to, involving and engaging with our communities will be at the heart of the Strategic Plan. The HSCP will work the Strategic Planning Group (which includes wide representation from Renfrewshire Council services) to ensure that we can harness our collective expertise to truly 'Plan with People'.
- 8.4 The Strategic Planning 2022-2025 consultative draft will be presented to the Leadership Board on 1 December 2021.

## **9. Next Steps**

- 9.1 Renfrewshire Council's response to the National Care Service consultation will be presented to Council on 30 September 2021.
- 9.2 The consultative draft version of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 will be presented to the Leadership Board on 1 December 2021.
- 9.3 The next performance report on delegated Adult Social Work functions will be reported to the Leadership Board on 23 February 2022.

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## **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial - none.**
2. **HR & Organisational Development - none**
3. **Community/Council Planning – none**
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 because it is for noting only. 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 – none**
11. **Privacy Impact – none**
12. **Cosla Policy Position – none**
13. **Climate Risk –** The HSCP is committed to tackling the climate emergency and will actively participate in developing Renfrewshire's plan for net zero.

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### List of Background Papers

None

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**To: Leadership Board**

**On: 15 September 2021**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: Alcohol and Drugs Programme Update**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 In late 2018, Renfrewshire Community Planning Executive Group agreed to establish an independent Commission to consider the true impact of alcohol and drugs use in Renfrewshire. Partners were concerned about the levels of drug and alcohol related harm in Renfrewshire and believed that there must be more that partners could do together to respond to these issues locally.
- 1.2 The Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission commenced in 2019, engaging with over 300 local people, families, frontline staff and groups and organisations to hear about what needed to change in Renfrewshire.
- 1.3 The final stages of the Commission's work were impacted by the pandemic, however Commission members were very aware of the ongoing impact that COVID-19 was having in terms of alcohol and drug related harm, and were keen to finalise the report and its recommendations to ensure that partners could respond to these challenges collectively. In December 2020, the Commission's report was published, with the recommendations being fully endorsed by the Council and its partners.
- 1.4 Prior to the finalisation of the report, Council had allocated £2m of funding to support the local response to the Commission's recommendations, and in December 2020, £1.34m of this funding was allocated to address a number of key priorities identified by the Commission. These included supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, ensuring that services reach out and try to support people who use drugs and alcohol and their families, and that peer support and lived experience is a fundamental to recovery from alcohol and drug use in Renfrewshire.
- 1.5 A programme board was established to oversee the local partnership response to the Commission, and this is chaired by the Council's Chief Executive.

Partners are working very closely to ensure that all of the activities being progressed are joined up and make maximum use of the funding and resources available.

- 1.6 This has been particularly important in recent months, given the increasing focus at Scottish Government level on the response to the drugs death crisis, with additional funding being allocated to Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to respond to these issues at a local level as part of the national Drugs Death Mission. This has included for example additional funding to support families, to develop peer networks and to provide residential rehabilitation services. These were all recommendations made by the Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission.
  - 1.7 The main purpose of this report to the Leadership Board, is to provide an update on the local programme of work, which has progressed significantly since the last report to board provided in March 2021. It is clear from the publication of recent statistics in relation to alcohol and drug related deaths that the local response to the Commission and its recommendations is absolutely critical and must continue to be prioritised by all partners. These indicate that in 2020, drug related deaths increased by 49% in Renfrewshire, whilst alcohol related deaths increased by 22%.
  - 1.8 Every death experienced is a deeply felt loss to local people and families, with many others being impacted and harmed by drug and alcohol use unfortunately more widely. The work that partners are progressing as a result of the Alcohol and Drug Commission has ensured that partners in Renfrewshire are ready to respond to these issues together with local people, families and communities. Partners are committed to making things change, ensuring that there are real opportunities for recovery for local people in Renfrewshire.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Leadership Board note:
    - Renfrewshire's response to the recommendations of the Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission and;
    - The commitment of the Council and its partners to work together to address increasing levels of alcohol and drug related deaths and wider harm in Renfrewshire.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 In late 2018, Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group agreed to establish an independent Commission to consider the true impact of alcohol and drug use across Renfrewshire's communities. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 caused the Commission to pause its work, however this resumed in September 2020, with the Commission's final report being published in December 2021.

3.2 The report sets out the Commission's main findings and provides 27 recommendations to guide the local response. Priority actions were identified in terms of:

- Urgently addressing issues in relation to mental health service provision, including provision for young people.
- Considering trauma as part of everything that partners do in Renfrewshire – this is fundamental to reducing or preventing problems with alcohol and drug use and supporting recovery.
- Introducing a whole system approach to supporting people with their alcohol and drug use.
- Increasing the reach and capacity across the whole system of support for people using alcohol and drugs.
- Making urgent changes to the buildings from which services are provided.
- Reviewing the support that is available to families impacted by drug and alcohol use – at all stages of life.
- Partners providing leadership around alcohol supply, promotion and availability.
- Valuing lived experience as part of the approach to recover in Renfrewshire: - developing meaningful relationships with recovery organisations and building strong partnership peer support models.
- Tackling stigma around alcohol and drug use and supporting opportunities for social connection across Renfrewshire to support recovery.

3.3 The report and its recommendations were endorsed by Council, Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board and Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group, with full support gained to respond to these recommendations on a collective basis.

3.4 Prior to the report's publication, Council allocated £2m of funding in March 2020 to support the emerging recommendations of the Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission. Given both the impact that the pandemic has had on local people and communities and the urgent nature of some of recommendations identified within the Commission's report, officers worked with partners to bring forward an initial tranche of funding proposals which would target the priorities identified as being most urgent by the Commission.

3.5 In December 2020, Council agreed to allocate £1.34 of the £2m allocated funding to support a range of projects which will aim to pilot new ways of working across the community planning partnership, with the opportunity to use this learning to transform the way in which people receive support across Renfrewshire. Section 4 of this paper provides an update for members on this programme of work.

#### 4. Responding to the recommendations – a partnership response

- 4.1 The allocation of £2m funding provides a significant opportunity for the Council and partners to drive an ambitious programme of change which will seek to fundamentally reduce the impact of alcohol and drugs on local people and communities across Renfrewshire. This is particularly important given the impact of COVID-19 in Renfrewshire, which has exacerbated issues being faced by individuals, families and communities in relation to alcohol and drug use and mental health in particular.
- 4.2 In recent months £817,000 of Scottish Government funding has also flowed to Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to target a range of specific priorities including family support, residential rehabilitation services, drug related deaths, outreach and recovery. The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) is the principal mechanism by which partners across Renfrewshire have worked together in recent years to respond to alcohol and drug related harm. Local alcohol and drug services were subject to a review prior to the Alcohol and Drugs Commission commencing, and the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership have also been overseeing the development of integrated recovery-focused services in Renfrewshire, in addition to more recent service developments being delivered through the additional Scottish Government funding.
- 4.3 An **Alcohol and Drugs Programme Board** has been established to drive the local response to the Commission, ensuring that all partners work together, join up service developments and maximise the resources available.
- 4.4 Partners have prioritised a range of actions in response to the key recommendations made by the Commission in late 2020. Section 5 of this report provides updated information for elected members on the level of alcohol and drug related harm in Renfrewshire. Increasing levels of drug and alcohol related deaths in Renfrewshire 2020, strongly reinforce the need for partners to continue to progress these activities at pace. Key developments which have been progressed include:
- **Assertive Outreach:** An Outreach Crisis Response Team is being established in Renfrewshire. This will involve the HSCP providing short, focused periods of support, maintaining contact through various means including telephone and digital as well as face to face engagement. The primary purpose of the service will be to provide an out of hours response (evening and weekends) with some overlap to facilitate follow up engagement and referrals to mainstream services. It is anticipated that the service will be operational before Christmas.
  - **Crisis Based Mental Health Support:** This service is currently being put into place as a test of change for a period of 18 months, with a view to considering opportunities to provide support through mainstream support services if issues such as barriers to access and stigma can be addressed successfully.
  - **Intensive Mental Health Support for Children and Young People:** Service proposals are being developed which will support the delivery of a children and young people's mental health strategy.



This includes proposals to develop help and support with lower level needs, to very specific interventions which support children and young people and their families with more complex needs. A young people's wellbeing service is currently being progressed, and subject to required recruitment we would anticipate this being in place early in 2022.

- **Trauma informed and Responsive Renfrewshire.** Recognising the fundamental issue of trauma that local people and families told Commission members they had experienced, work has commenced on a partnership programme of work to ensure that recognising and responding to trauma is part of every service we deliver. Recognising that trauma often arises as a result of negative relationships, we will focus on developing positive relationships which support local people and their families. An initial action plan will be developed by end October 2021.
- **Renfrewshire Peer Support Model in Renfrewshire:** The Commission heard that often people who use drugs and alcohol would benefit from peer support as they worked towards recovery. Partners are aiming to ensure that Renfrewshire is a place where recovery and lived experience is valued and recruiting peer support workers locally to connect with and support people on their recovery journey. This model is now being rolled out with a co-ordinator appointed and recruitment of peer workers ongoing.
- **Hidden Harm** – it is important that partners across Renfrewshire fully understand the level of hidden harm in Renfrewshire, recognising that local drug and alcohol services will not engage with all people experiencing issues with alcohol and drugs locally. This is important to understanding how services can better reach out to support people at an early stage. Independent research was commissioned and completed by We are With You over summer 2020, and the findings from this research are currently being considered.
- **Recovery Change Fund:** It is important that support is available to people across the whole continuum of needs in relation to alcohol and drug use. An important source of support is often within the community from local groups and organisations responding to local need. Proposals are currently being developed in partnership with Engage Renfrewshire to launch a Recovery Change Fund over Autumn and Winter 2021, whereby community groups and organisations would be able to apply for funding to respond to the gaps in local provision identified within the Commission's report.
- **Alcohol Policy** – A partnership officer has been recruited to drive policy change across Renfrewshire, focusing on issues such as alcohol availability, supply and promotion and also how employers across Renfrewshire can identify and respond to support people and their families who are affected by alcohol use.
- **Whole Family Review of Support:** Families told Commission members that they often felt they had nowhere to turn when their loved one was in crisis and that support was needed to help them to manage the issues that were being experienced. An independent review of existing family support provision Renfrewshire has now commenced and will engage with local families and front line staff to assess where possible gaps in provision exist and make recommendations on how to address these. It is anticipated this will be completed prior to Christmas 2021.

- **Enhanced Education and Training:** Work is underway to develop curricular content and programmes for young people with support from an external partners, with young people at the heart of the design and development as well as those with lived experience. Training opportunities are also being identified for teachers and other practitioners. It is anticipated this work will be completed by March 2022.
- **Developing wrap around support to support complex needs:** Partners are currently considering different options to support people with complex needs, who potentially need support from different services and organisations in relation to the issues they are experiencing. Renfrewshire was one of the first councils in Scotland to pilot the Housing First model, and work is underway to assess how this could be developed further, recognising that not all people who use alcohol and drugs will be engaged with a treatment service and may respond better to support from a different service or organisation. Subject to procurement and recruitment timescales, it is anticipated that the pilot will commence in early 2022.
- **Building based services** – An HSCP Property Review is currently underway. The Whole Systems Review of the Alcohol and Drugs Services and the Alcohol and Drugs Commission have identified that Back Sneddon Street is not fit for purpose for the nature of the service moving forward. An additional piece of work is being undertaken to review accommodation through a trauma informed lens to ensure that environments are suitable for the particular needs of service users, findings will influence our overall property strategy. Currently services are utilising space in three buildings:- Back Sneddon Street and the Torley Unit, with the majority of face to face treatment and interventions with service users now taking place at New Sneddon Street. The Team are also progressing the use of space in other buildings across Renfrewshire to support a shift to a more community-based model.

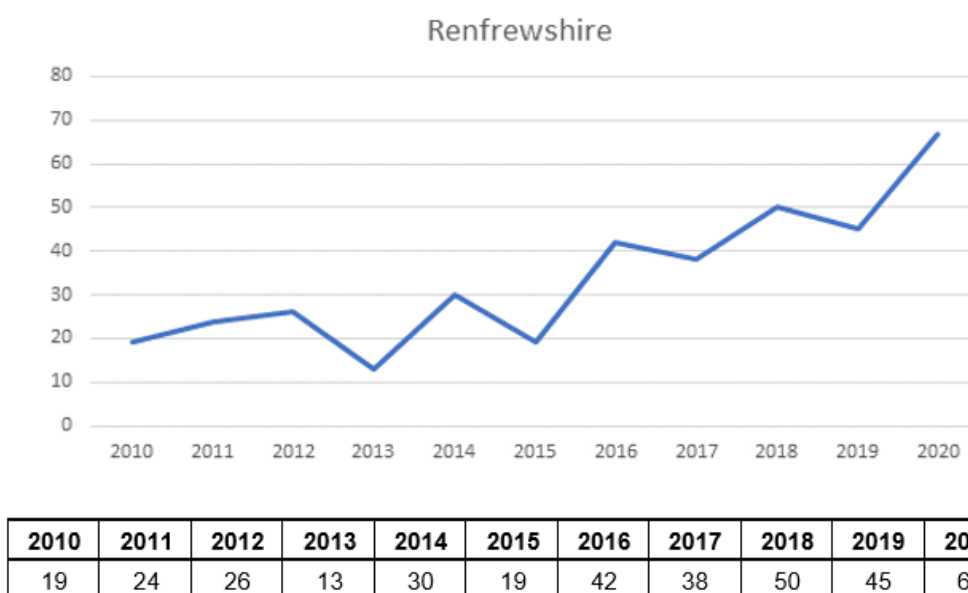
4.5 In addition, there are two further core projects that are being progressed by partners which will support the delivery of all other activities being delivered in response to the Commission's recommendations.

- **Listening and involving those with lived and living experience** – the strength of the Commission and its findings was and is, that these were gained through listening to people who use alcohol and drugs and their families, frontline staff, partners etc. It is important that this listening approach continues and importantly that local partners continue to engage with people with lived and living experience about the work that they are doing. A proposal is currently being developed with Scottish Recovery Consortium to ensure that lived and living experience is at the heart of what we do in Renfrewshire, as all partners work together to reduce alcohol and drug related harm and support recovery in Renfrewshire.
- **Tackling stigma and the use of negative language** – Partners are working on a *Language Matters* initiative, which will support all partners to challenge preconceptions and stigma around drug and alcohol use and promote positive conversations about recovery in Renfrewshire. Initial work on this initiative has demonstrated that the principles of language matters are equally relevant to work which is seeking to change the narrative around mental health, care experience and poverty.

- 4.6 Options are also being developed to support the evaluation of the programme, in order to ensure that all partners are able to monitor the impact of the initiatives being progressed.
- 4.7 The delivery of this programme of work remains a key priority for all partners and it is important that the programme continues to be delivered at pace given the significant harm that local people are currently experiencing in relation to alcohol and drug use.

## 5. Recent data in relation to alcohol and drug related harm.

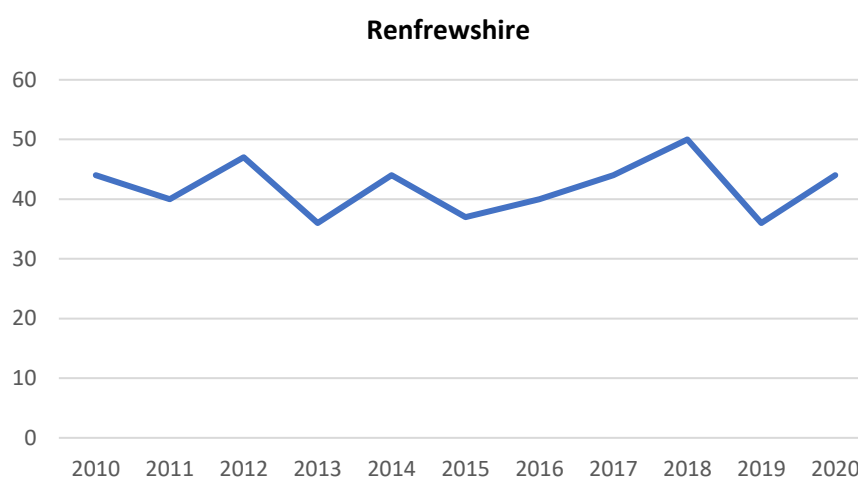
- 5.1 Every year, national statistics are published in relation to the number of alcohol and drug related deaths in Renfrewshire. Whilst partners are in the process of implementing the local response to the Commission and its recommendations, every death is a tragedy deeply felt by local families and communities, and partners recognise that they must continue to do all that is possible to tackle this issue.
- 5.2 On 30 July 2021, NRS released the drug-related deaths in Scotland in 2020 statistics. The data sadly reveals a significant increase (49%) in the number of drug-related deaths in Renfrewshire (67) from 2019 and recognises that this highest in the last decade.



- 5.3 The data also revealed that 1,339 drug-related deaths were registered in Scotland in 2020, this was the highest figure ever recorded since records began in 1996 and is an increase of 75 deaths on 2019 (5.9%). Renfrewshire had the fourth highest rate of deaths per 100,000 population and is above the Scottish average rate of deaths. Drugs like Etizolam remain a significant issue in Renfrewshire, which was found to be implicated in the deaths of almost two-thirds of those people that sadly died. The drug is perceived to be relatively harmless and like Diazepam, but much higher in toxicity.

Etizolam is a relatively new drug in the last 5 years, featuring in almost 7 out of 10 drug deaths. Intelligence from Police Scotland confirms Etizolam is extremely cheap to buy and illegally manufactured in Renfrewshire.

- 5.4 On 17 August 2021, NRS released its 2020 data on alcohol-specific deaths in Scotland. The data revealed an increase in the number of alcohol-specific deaths both in Renfrewshire and Scotland.
- 5.5 There were 44 alcohol-specific deaths registered in Renfrewshire in 2020. This was an increase of 22% from 36 in 2019. This represents a rate of 23.6 per 100,000 population in Renfrewshire.
- 5.6 There were 1,190 alcohol-specific deaths registered in Scotland in 2020. This was an increase of 17% on 1,020 in 2019 and is the highest figure since 2008



when 1,316 deaths were recorded.

- 5.7 In addition to the work detailed in Section 4 to respond to the findings of the Alcohol and Drugs Commission, the Alcohol and Drug Partnership have also identified a number of very specific actions to tackle drug related deaths and wider drug related harm including:
- The implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards with a focus on introducing same day prescribing and choice of treatment. Alcohol and Drugs Recovery Services (ADRS) will aim to offer 'same day' provision for hard-to-reach individuals as well as use of alternative medical treatments.
  - Enhancing current treatment options by recruiting a specific post to proactively support high risk individuals, who may have significant physical and mental health needs.
  - Recruitment of a Drug Deaths Prevention Officer to lead the development and delivery of a Drug Deaths Prevention Strategy. The post will be key in delivering a co-ordinated approach to preventing, reducing, and reviewing drug related deaths by working in partnership with key stakeholders.
  - Providing access to residential rehabilitation placements introduced as part of our choice of treatment options. A scoping exercise was recently carried out to identify abstinence-based services as suitable providers.

Plans are also underway to address the gaps in stabilisation and crisis service provision.

- Providing access to a harm reduction mobile service which will also be available out of hours. This will provide crucial healthcare and harm reduction services such as injecting equipment to reduce the incidence of blood-borne viruses (BBV) as well as BBV testing in the community. Additionally, the unit will distribute Naloxone and engage with individuals that would not typically access support and care services into treatment. Naloxone is a drug that can reverse the effects of an overdose caused by opioids, such as heroin or methadone. The mobile unit will target areas in Renfrewshire to increase engagement with difficult to reach communities.
- Working in partnership with third sector colleagues to establish an Overdose Response Team. The service will provide a rapid response to near-fatal overdoses by providing a short, focused period of support to each person and assertively engaging with mainstream alcohol and drug services.

- 5.8 One of the key developments being progressed to support recovery is the development of a recovery hub in Paisley. This will provide local people with improved recovery opportunities and increased pathways to and from other services, ensuring that they feel sufficiently supported and connected throughout their recovery journey. The name of the service is 'CIRCLE' (Continuing in Recovery Changes Lives Entirely) which has been chosen by recovery focus groups involving service users and people with lived and living experience. CIRCLE will be based at a newly refurbished site on Glasgow Road in Paisley and will act as a central hub with recovery activity delivered across local communities throughout Renfrewshire.

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – On 9 March 2020, Renfrewshire Council agreed its budget with a commitment of £2 million to support priorities emerging from the Alcohol and Drugs Commission.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community/Council Planning** – The Commission was established by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership and the report has been endorsed by the Community Planning Partnership Executive Group.
4. **Legal** - none
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 because it is for noting only. 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 and Safety** - none
  9. **Procurement** – none
  10. **Risk** – none
  11. **Privacy Impact** – none
  12. **COSLA Policy Position** – none
  13. **Climate Risk** – this report provides a summary of work being undertaken by the Council to respond to the climate emergency.
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**Author:** Laura McIntyre, Head of Policy and Commissioning  
Chief Executive's Service




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**To: Leadership Board**

**On: 15 September 2021**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: Co-Commissioning of Employability Services**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. This report provides an update to the 21st February 2021 Board Paper "Employability Programmes and Support" and provides a further overview of the current employment landscape and the proposed specific approach of Renfrewshire Council and the Local Employability Partnership to support those across Renfrewshire who are unemployed.
  - 1.2. In particular the report outlines the developing No-One Left Behind employability policy between Scottish and Local Government to ensure that employability is aligned and integrated with service delivery at a local level. The report highlights the increasing role of Local Employability Partnerships in local decision making and the co-commissioning of local services.
  - 1.3. The paper proposes a new partnership grant process for employability service delivery, managed by the Council and delivered through the Local Employability Partnership, to ensure that the right employability services are delivered locally.
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## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
  - i. Approves the approach proposed for Renfrewshire to establish an Employability Grant Programme delivered through the Renfrewshire Local Employability Partnership as the primary model for co-commissioning in 2021-23.
  - ii. Agrees the use of the funding identified through the existing and planned Employability budgets .

- iii. Notes that regular progress will be reported through the Community Planning Partnership. A review of the grant process, and suggestions for any further grant programme, will be reported to a future Leadership Board.
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### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Employability is a key priority of both local and national government and is recognised as a major contributor to both local economic development and work to tackle poverty and deprivation.
- 3.2 The Partnership Working Framework signed by both Scottish Government and the 32 local authorities identifies a new collective approach to employability where the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) work in partnership to positively shape employability provision nationally and to deliver it locally. Partnership working (including the third sector and other employability providers as well as the vulnerable in our communities) will support redesigned services so that the people we collectively serve are better placed to realise their potential, better able to find ways into paid work and to reduce both dependency and inequality.
- 3.3 The partnership working across Renfrewshire is very well established in terms of employability provision and the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) is both proactive and responsive to local need. The Renfrewshire LEP has ensured that there is a solid partnership across all providers in the area and this is reflected in the excellent attendance at local conferences and events over the last 7 years. At the latest conference in June (an online event) 148 people from over 50 local services / bodies contributed to the latest plans and developments for employability services across the area. Renfrewshire is seen as best practise across Scotland in partnership working on employability.
- 3.4 The employability focus for the Renfrewshire LEP is on those furthest from the labour market as guided by the Scottish Government's No-One Left Behind (NOLB) policy and the plans for greater alignment and integration of employability services across local authority areas.
- 3.5 The first phase of the NOLB approach was to integrate investment in current national programmes into a new local employability delivery model managed collaboratively between Scottish Government and local government.
- 3.6 The introduction of this new delivery model in 2019/20 on a small proportion of the Scottish Government funds has enabled local authorities to apply a more flexible and user-based model for delivery. This offered local authorities more discretion to decide which services will be most effective to address local employability need, depending on local needs and circumstances.
- 3.7 Phase 2 of NOLB relates to the completion of the current Employability Fund and Community Jobs Scotland Programmes at end March 2022 with those resources being distributed to Local Authorities for Local Employability Partnership decisions on where to use the additional resources to best effect.



- 3.8 Scottish Government have identified that full and final implementation of the new NOLB employability model (Phase 3) will roll out in 2023/24 on completion of the current Fair Start Scotland contracts with those resources also then being directed to the LEP for local services.
- 3.9 In summary, the employability agenda is changing significantly over the next two years. The role of the Local Employability Partnership is evolving to have a greater focus on local decision making and the co-commissioning of services to the private and third sector providers in the area.
- 3.10 Renfrewshire Council remains the accountable body for the employability grant funding from Scottish Government, but the expectation is that elements of the grant funding will be held for co-commissioning. This ensures that the funding is spread throughout the range of local partners while the LEP directs where services are required. The Lead Officer for Employability across Renfrewshire, and the Chair of the Renfrewshire LEP, is the Council's Economic Development Manager.

#### **4. Employability in Scotland: No-One Left Behind**

- 4.1 A key element of the new approach to employability in Scotland is to ensure that the resources coming to a local authority area are distributed to best effect through a co-commissioned process by the Local Employability Partnerships.
- 4.2 Partnership working and consultations with local providers (both third sector and private providers of employability services) has identified real concerns around the timing of the changes to be made this year. Many providers currently secure funding through the Employability Fund programme in the area and while the proposed changes are broadly accepted there is worry at provision not being in place at the point of change.
- 4.3 To mitigate the risks for local providers a number of Councils are currently developing an employability grant programme to support the provision of local services but through a more flexible, and faster, process of grants for the delivery of services. Areas such as Dundee and Edinburgh have been utilising a grant programme for a number of years with great success.
- 4.4 It is proposed to establish a similar mechanism for the Renfrewshire area and to create a new Employability Grant Programme. A future national procurement framework for the commissioning of employability services is also being developed by Scotland Excel. It is anticipated that the national procurement framework will be available from next year and can be used in addition to the proposed grant programme.
- 4.5 At the time of writing this report the Scottish Government funds allocated to employability service delivery in Renfrewshire (and in scope to be co-commissioned) are:
- Young Persons Guarantee: £300k for 2021-22 activity and an expectation of a similar amount for next year (services for young people only).
  - Parental Employability Support Programme: £150k for 2021-23 activity (all age service provision).

- NOLB: anticipated £650k-£1M in 2022-23 (Ministerial announcement is imminent). All age grant programme.
  - Invest in Renfrewshire ESF application underspends (due to provision not being delivered due to covid) £400k to end Dec 2022. All age grant programme.
- 4.6 From the figures above, £850k is available in the current approved budgets for co-commissioned services with an additional £650k-£1.3M expected to be announced in the coming months for 2022-23.
- 4.7 It is suggested that a grant programme with minimum grant value of £850k can commence in the current year. The value of the grant programme will be increased when further announcements of funding are made by the Scottish Government. The Local Employability Partnership will co-commission services through grants and contracts. Renfrewshire Council remain the Accountable Body for the grants.

## **5. Employability Grant Programme**

- 5.1 It is proposed to develop a Renfrewshire employability grants programme to award grants for the delivery of employability services during the period from November 2021 to end March 2023 (in the first instance). This initial time period would allow for services to start either in the 21-22 financial year or the 22-23 financial year.
- 5.2 The Renfrewshire Local Employability Partnership will publish a grant framework for applications. The framework will identify the specific target groups and priority areas, the types of provision required, the types of outcomes and impacts being aimed for and any special requirements of the funding sources being used to finance the process. The framework will allow providers to come forward with their own ideas and suggestions for new services and provisions while addressing areas of particular need or gaps in provision, promoting inclusion and ensuring that those furthest from the labour market are proactively targeted and supported into sustainable employment.
- 5.3 The Employability Grant Programme will:
- Augment the current employability pipeline in Renfrewshire by outlining clear aims and guiding principles to bidding organisations for new services.
  - Create a level playing field with equal opportunity for all eligible organisations.
  - Add value to the funding and other resources already available.
  - Provide an application and assessment process for the allocation of funds.
  - Support the aims and objectives outlined in the Renfrewshire Economic Strategy, the Renfrewshire Economic Recovery Plan, and No One Left Behind – Next Steps for the Integration and Alignment of Employability Support in Scotland.

- 5.4 The benefits of a grant programme would be:
- An open and transparent approach which offers all local employability providers the opportunity to get involved.
  - The opportunity to develop and nurture small local partners (private sector and third sector) to become more involved and also to support larger and/or national organisations to work across Renfrewshire.
  - The opportunity to support innovation, pilots, new ideas and approaches.
  - A quicker process than formal procurement of services and timing that works for local providers.
  - A new local method of jointly commissioning services through grant programmes and unit costed models of delivery.
  - A partnership with providers where we genuinely work together to improve lives and opportunities in Renfrewshire.
- 5.5 An Assessment Panel of LEP members and Council Officers will manage the assessment and scoring procedures following the Council's grant processes.
- 5.6 Each application will be scored by at least two separate individuals from the Assessment Panel who then meet to agree a moderated score with comments. The moderated score will then presented to the full Assessment Panel for further comments on strategic fit and moderation if required.
- 5.7 Membership of the Assessment Panel will be drawn from strategic partner organisations represented on the LEP including:
- DWP
  - West College Scotland
  - Skills Development Scotland
  - Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce
  - NHSGGC
  - Engage Renfrewshire
  - DYW West
  - Various Council Departments
- 5.8 Key stakeholders and potential bidders have been consulted on this approach. Future opportunities will be provided for stakeholders to seek clarity on a number of matters in advance of the formal application and assessment process.
- 5.9 A call for applications is likely to be published around the end of September 2021 and, following an assessment and clarification process, the Renfrewshire LEP aims to provide provisional Employability Grant Fund awards during November (for projects commencing in the 21-22 financial year) and December (for projects commencing in April 2022). These timescales have been very well received by potential bidders, particularly those concerned about the closure of the Employability Fund.

- 5.10 Regular progress will be reported through the Community Planning Partnership and a review of the grant process, and suggestions for any further grant programme, will be reported to a future Leadership Board.
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## **Implications of the Report**

### **1. Financial**

No additional finance is sought for this proposal. Resources are already in the Renfrewshire Economic Development budgets for employability.

### **2. HR and Organisational Development – no immediate implications.**

### **3. Community Planning**

- Our Renfrewshire is thriving – The proposal would support additional employability services in the area supporting more people into work.
- Our Renfrewshire is well - The delivery of new opportunities have the potential to positively impact on physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing.
- Reshaping our place, our economy and our future - The approaches outlined in the report will contribute to supporting local growth, the development of skills and experiences and sustainable jobs.

### **4. Legal – The finalised grant process would be subject to legal checks.**

### **5. Property/Assets – None.**

### **6. Information Technology - Support from IT may be required in order to develop an online grants process.**

### **7. 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 because for example it is for noting only. 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**

The projects actively monitor key risks and issues associated with delivery in accordance with the Council's Project Management Framework.

Risks are identified and mitigating actions and allowances have been made and will be continually monitored.

11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
12. **COSLA Policy Position** – None.
13. **Climate Risk** – None.

### **List of Background Papers**

21st February 2021 Board Paper “Employability Programmes and Support”

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**Author:** Ruth Cooper, Economic Development Manager (Tel: 07921001724)






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**To: Leadership Board**  
**On: 15 September 2021**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: Place Based Investment Fund 2021/22**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This year both the Scottish and UK Governments have announced new funding programmes, the Levelling-Up Fund, Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme and the Place Based Investment Programme. Through these funds the Governments are channelling capital investment into local economies and places to deliver economic growth, better places and make progress towards zero carbon targets. The Place Based Investment Programme replaces the Scottish Government fund that targeted town centres and is a direct grant to the Council.
- 1.2 This report advances on the regeneration themes approved by the Leadership Board of 16 June 2021 and presents a set of priorities for officers to begin delivering to meet the conditions of the grant.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Board:
- (i) Agrees to the set of priority themes and indicative projects set out in Section 4 to be pursued in 2021/22 of the Place Based Investment Fund.
  - (ii) Delegates authority to the Head of Economy and Development, in consultation with the Convener, to manage any potential over/underspends, from the indicative budgets presented, within the overall programme of projects and if necessary to bring forward substitute projects to ensure the complete commitment of the grant within financial year 2021/22.
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### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Government in 2019 launched the Town Centre Fund – a new £50 million capital programme that allocated funds direct to local authorities (see Leadership Board paper of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019) with Renfrewshire receiving £1,459,000. This fund was extended in 2020 by a further £18 million nationally, with Renfrewshire receiving an additional £527,000.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government has replaced the Town Centre Fund with the **Place Based Investment Fund (PBIF)**: a direct award of £1.195m in year one as part of an estimated £4.4m total for the Council over 5 years. Similar to the Town Centre Fund, grant conditions stipulate annual reporting to the Scottish Government with the need to have committed funding (i.e. contract in place for works) by financial year end 2021/22. This dictates that projects commence as early as possible to build up momentum in terms of development, promotion, agreement with owners and procurement.
- 3.3 The purpose of the Place Based Investment Fund is broadly the same as the Town Centre Fund, to inject capital expenditure into local economies which focuses on town centres, community regeneration, place-based projects centring on 20-minute neighbourhoods and contributes to net zero emissions.
- 3.4 By setting out the list of indicative projects below work can commence and to allow us to hit the ground running, however, it should be highlighted that projects and costs are indicative and that as the four-year funding programme develops there will be opportunities for new priorities and projects to emerge particularly as ongoing research into zero carbon informs our long-term strategy. Reference is made below to the Renfrewshire Heritage Renewal Programme, the term being used to encapsulate the priorities for listed building regeneration as approved by the Communities, Housing and Planning Board of 17th August 2021.

### 4. Priority Regeneration Themes and Indicative Projects: PBIF 2021/22

#### 4.1 Theme: Town Centres

The list of potential projects in town centres could be almost infinite and appear in other themes below. Projects will focus on repurposing and redeveloping vacant town centre property and unlocking potentials for independent retail, hospitality, cultural and residential development.

- Renfrewshire Shopfront Improvement Scheme, indicative budget £100k (will recur in subsequent years).
- Town centre buildings within the Renfrewshire Heritage Renewal Programme, indicative budget £500k.
- Renfrew business support and start-up hub (Dunlop Crescent), indicative budget £100k.



## 4.2 **Theme: Zero carbon infrastructure**

To support Renfrewshire's transition to a net zero carbon place and economy.

- Cycle Hubs with parking/bike hire/route information/improved signage - indicative budget £100k.
- Improve active travel links to key employment locations including town centres and Hillington (including from its two rail stations); and to secondary schools (feasibility work being commissioned) – projects will be brought forward in year 2 (2022/23).

## 4.3 **Theme: Improving the urban fabric**

The continuation of support for the built environment of Renfrewshire places is an important foundation of place building. The fabric of buildings, streets and spaces face new pressures to adapt to changes in climate and often to seek new purposes as consumer trends and community needs shift. Spaces in centres and in neighbourhoods can be the focus for projects to support climate resilience projects.

- Climate resilient townscape programme - Gap and pocket spaces throughout town centres – places to dwell, green, shady, wet, growing spaces or for low carbon energy generation (feasibility work being commissioned - Early spend c.£50k.
- Extending work on town centres lighting - buildings, lanes and spaces using LED technology - indicative budget £50k.
- Support for Future Paisley and Making of Ferguslie elements - indicative budget £100k.
- Strategic urgent repairs to prominent buildings (including buildings in the Renfrewshire Heritage Renewal Programme), gap sites, gateways: covering foliage removal, short term interventions on gap sites - indicative budget £100k.

## 4.4 **Theme: Visitor destination**

The drive to develop Renfrewshire's places as attractive destinations for visitors remains high on the agendas to support local places and businesses that would benefit from the spend. Projects will focus on the quality of the visitor experience and broadening the visitor offer, particularly associated with the conclusions of the cultural infrastructure projects in Paisley and the outdoor offer around Lochwinnoch.

- Castle Semple Visitor Centre improvements – visitor facilities, water infrastructure (rowing and sailing) enhancements - £95k (more spend in future years).

## 5. **Progress and Reporting**

- 5.1 Progress will be reported to Board on a rolling basis and future projects brought forward for the Boards' consideration.

## **Implications of the Report**

### **1. Financial –**

Government grants awarded to the Council are monitored in accordance with the terms and conditions of grant. The Council will liaise with the Scottish Government to comply with drawdown and financial reporting requirements.

### **2. HR & Organisational Development – None.**

### **3. Community Planning –**

- **Reshaping our place, our economy and our future:** Renfrewshire Council is working with stakeholders to maximise the opportunities for regeneration and economic recovery/growth.
- **Building strong, safe and resilient communities:** working in partnership with local groups and organisations to achieve positive outcomes.

### **4. Legal – None.**

### **5. Property/Assets**

Any acquisitions, leases or licenses required to enable project delivery using any funding awarded will progress through the recognised Council processes and with relevant Board approvals.

### **6. Information Technology – None.**

### **7. Equality and 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. 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 –** A programme of contract processes will be developed with the advice of the Council's Procurement team to secure effective and best value project delivery.

### **10. Risks - None.**

### **11. Privacy Impact – None.**

### **12. Cosla Policy Position - Not applicable.**

**13. Climate Risk** - No identified impacts at present, elements of the spend are specifically directed at zero carbon and climate adaptation measures.

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

1. Report to Communities, Housing and Planning Board, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 – Listed Buildings and Built Heritage
  2. Report to Leadership Board, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Regeneration Funds Update – Priority Themes
  3. Report to Leadership Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 - Extension to the Scottish Government Town Centre Fund 2020 – 2021.
  4. Report to Leadership Board, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Town Centre Capital Fund.
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*Author: Stuart McMillan, Regeneration and Place Manager*

