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Renfrewshire Council

Notice of Meeting and Agenda
Leadership Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 14 September 2016	13:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Further Information

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at www.renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx

For further information, please either email democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk or telephone 0141 618 7112.

Members of the Press and Public

Members of the press and public wishing to attend the meeting should report to the customer service centre where they will be met and directed to the meeting.

Membership

Councillor Bill Brown: Councillor Lorraine Cameron: Councillor Eddie Devine: Councillor Andy Doig: Councillor Roy Glen: Councillor Jim Harte: Councillor Jacqueline Henry: Councillor Brian Lawson: Councillor Kenny MacLaren: Councillor Mags MacLaren: Councillor Eileen McCartin: Councillor Iain McMillan: Councillor Tommy Williams:

Councillor Mark Macmillan (Convener): Councillor Michael Holmes (Depute Convener):

Items of business

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.

To: Leadership Board

On: 14th September 2016

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Tackling Poverty Programme – Project update on Making Futures

1. **Summary**

1.1   The report includes an overview of the Making Futures project within the Tackling Poverty Programme, which is run by Renfrewshire Leisure.

1.2   The report is accompanied by a brief presentation that allows the opportunity to hear from the project lead, and watch video from the project's 'Summer Studio'

2. **Recommendations**

2.1   Members are asked to note the report and the accompanying presentation.

3. **Background**

3.1   The Tackling Poverty Action Plan approved by Council in June 2015 allocated funding for an arts and cultural project called Making Futures, which is run by Renfrewshire Leisure.

4. **Arts and Cultural Project**

4.1   The central aim of the project is to use creative cultural participation, along with innovative Literacies and ICT projects to support children and families through life transitions.

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4.2   The project has three strands: Junior Makers (for young people up to the age of 8), Makerversity (for young people ages 15-25) and Make.Do! (which offers a range of 'try out' activities open to all.

4.3   The project launched in late 2015 with the 'Junior Makers' strand of the work, which included:

- **Creative Cafe** - These are an informal, drop in creative session, especially created for parents and carers with their babies or toddlers. Creative Cafe is a safe space for the babies or toddlers to play and access cultural activity. Each week there is a singer or musician playing child friendly music, or baby friendly art materials to engage with - all centred round themes of health and wellbeing.

- **Bedtime Reading -** School based sessions for primary 1's and their parents or guardians, involving storytelling, yoga and calming creative play. Bedtime reading sessions promote family interaction, literacy development and broader health and wellbeing outcomes. Sessions utilise music, simple rhymes, songs and games and storytelling to foster a healthy attitude to reading. These sessions have been delivered in a number of learning communities as part of wider reading programmes supported by the Skoobmobile.

- **Loan to Learn** - Family learning programme designed to pilot the benefit of iPads in support of family learning in the home. This project is intended to help bridge the attainment gap between those from low income backgrounds, and those from higher income ones.

- **Coding Clubs** - A series of after school coding clubs delivered through Renfrewshire Leisure's Skoobmobile. Coding clubs give young people the chance to explore the basic building blocks of programming and digital design. The clubs have also made creative use of popular programmes such as Minecraft.

4.4   The project also features a senior strand, Makerversity, aimed at young people aged 15 – 25. Projects delivered within this strand include:

- **Club Animate Plus-** for young people aged 15 years and over; an introductory level, drop in animation class that is designed to introduce participants to the basic principles of filmmaking and for them to produce short animation DVDs.

- **Wee Red Dot** - Renfrewshire's Youth Voice Film and Media Programme based at the Paisley Art. Organised by young people for young people, there is a mix of regular screening, local films, materclass presentations and special guest speakers, all of which support emerging talent.

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- **Class Dismissed** – A graphic novel project aimed at 15 – 17 year olds. Working with established artists and writers to storyboard and produce a finished publication, due for release in October 2016.

- **Renfrew on Film** – Archive film project for young people focused on positive place-making and intergenerational dialogue.

4.5 The final strand of the project, Make.Do. offers people the chance to try out new Making activities in an informal format. Opportunties delivered in this format include

- **Crafternoon Tea** – A series of tea party craft and making sessions delivered at Paisley Museum.

- **Craft Collectives** – A series of craft events at schools and community venues across Renfrewshire.

- **10 Pieces** – A cross curricular project featuring dance, music and drama delivered in 8 schools across Renfrewshire.

4.6 In June 2016, all three strands of the project were brought together in a dedicated Maker Space at Paisley Museum; The Summer Studio. Featuring a range of free artist led activities, including film-making, ipad workshops, photography, portraiture and craft activities, this space provide a range of activities for families during the holiday period.

The Summer Studio which ran from June until September attracted a total number of 1,765 participants. Of this, 707 attended facilitated sessions, with a further 1,058 attending the drop-in activities.

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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** -. There are no financial implications for this report. The Tackling Poverty Action Plan is funded by the £6 million allocation by the Council in June 2015.

2. **HR & Organisational Development** – There are no HR/OD implications for this report. There are a number of recruitment exercises within the programme, however this report does not propose any decision or changes to work that is currently underway.

3. **Community Planning –** The Tackling Poverty Action Plan is owned by the Community Planning Partnership, As such, progress updates are delivered to the CPP Board six-monthly.

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4.   **Legal** - None

5.   **Property/Assets -** None

6.   **Information Technology -** None

7.   **Equality & Human Rights** - The Tackling Poverty Action Plan is key to social justice and wider equality and human rights considerations. This report does not propose any changes to provision or service that would require specific consideration of equality and human rights issues.

8.   **Health & Safety –** None

9.   **Procurement –** The Tackling Poverty Action Plan has a number of procurement exercises within the programme, however, this paper does not recommend any changes or raise any concerns relating to procurement elements of the plan.

10.   **Risk –** The impact of not addressing poverty and inequality in Renfrewshire is flagged as a key risk to the organisation within the Corporate Risk Register. There are no major risks to the delivery of this programme that require the Leadership Board's consideration at this time.

11.   **Privacy Impact** - None

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To: Leadership Board

On: 14 September 2016

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016

1. Summary

1.1 A new release of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) was issued on the 31st August 2016 providing new data on relative deprivation across Scotland at local authority and small area level.

1.2 While one datazone within the Ferguslie Park area was ranked as the most deprived in the country, Renfrewshire as a whole saw its share of the most deprived areas nationally decrease.

1.3 The number of people in Renfrewshire identified as income and employment deprived decreased by 6% and 15% respectively on the 2012 release. These reductions were mirrored in Ferguslie Park where there were 6% fewer income deprived and 17% fewer employment deprived people identified.

1.4 This report highlights the key findings of the new release for Renfrewshire in terms of planning and resource allocation, partnership engagement and current and programmes of work.

1.5 Further analysis will be undertaken by the Policy and Commissioning Service, which will be presented for discussion at the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board and to each Local Area Committee, in order to explore the key actions and activities to be prioritised at a local level. This

analysis and discussion will in turn inform the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017.

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2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that members of the board:

- note the publication of SIMD 2016 and the summary information provided at a Renfrewshire and national level in the report

- agree that further analysis of the data be undertaken and reported to Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board to explore required action at a partnership level

- agree that the SIMD 2016 information released should inform the development of Renfrewshire's Local Outcome Improvement Plan which will be developed in early 2017; and

- agree that detailed locality level analysis will be undertaken and presented to each Local Area Committee; and

- notes that information available from SIMD will inform service and corporate planning activities going forward, particularly in relation to the Tackling Poverty and Raising attainment programmes of work.

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3. Background

3.1 The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is designed to allow the comparison of deprivation across small areas in each Local Authority to improve planning and targeting of resources. The index uses a broad definition of deprivation looking at traditional measures such as income and employment but also looking at health, education, housing, access to services and crime. It gives more weight to scores on income and employment followed by health and education and then housing, access and crime.

3.2 The index does not provide information on absolute levels of deprivation or on how much more deprived one area is from another. The statistical differences between ranks will vary and a large difference in rank may not equate to a large difference in deprivation. It also does not necessarily indicate areas of affluence. Low levels of deprivation across the domains may not equate to high levels of income.

3.3   It is important to note that the SIMD identifies deprived areas not people. Not all deprived people live in deprived areas and nationally two out of three people who are income deprived do not live in areas identified as the most deprived. The converse is also true: not everyone in a deprived area is deprived. Just fewer than one in three people living in a deprived area are income deprived at a national level.

3.4   The SIMD was first released in 2004 with further updates in 2009 and 2012. The SIMD uses agreed statistical areas called datazones. SIMD 2016 uses datazones taken from the 2011 census rather than the 2001 areas used in SIMD 2012. The overall number of datazones has increased and boundaries vary in some cases making exact geographical comparisons between the indexes impossible. An example of this is Ferguslie Park, where boundaries have changed and the most deprived datazone in 2016 differs from the datazone in 2012. The total number of datazones in Scotland and Renfrewshire are detailed in the table below along with totals in the most deprived 5%, 10% and 20% nationally.

Table 1: Renfrewshire's datazones

	Total datazones	20% most deprived	10% most deprived	5% most deprived
Scotland	6976	1395	698	349
Renfrewshire	225 (3.2%)	61 (4.3%)	36 (5.1%)	13 (3.7%)

3.5   The data used in the SIMD 2016 release covers a wide time period ranging from averaged ratios over 2011-14 for some health indicators, to August 2015 data for some income data. The release does not give a current picture of relative deprivation but uses the latest data available in each domain when the release was compiled. A large proportion of the data therefore significantly predates recent projects such as the Tackling Poverty Programme.

3.6   The methodology used to calculate the rankings has only remained consistent in the employment and housing domains. Elsewhere it has been adjusted to take account of welfare reform, improvements in statistics and software and the addition of extra categories of crime. This again affects the direct comparisons possible with the 2012 release but overall it improves the reliability of the statistics the index is based on. A full list of the changes made is available in Appendix five.

4   Key Findings

4.1   Renfrewshire's share of the nationally most deprived datazones has decreased on the 2012 release. Renfrewshire now has 3.7% of Scotland's 5% most deprived datazones (down from 4.3% in 2012) and 4.4% of the 20%

most deprived datazones (down from 4.6% in 2012). The share of the most deprived areas as a proportion of datazones locally has also reduced with 5.8% of the 5% most deprived datazones (down from 6.5% in 2012) and 27.1% of the 20% most deprived datazones (down from 28.0% in 2012). A map of the datazones in each category is included in Appendix one. While boundary changes to the datazones make any detailed comparison with 2012 impossible it is possible to say that our overall share of the most deprived areas has decreased in the 2016 release. The table below details all the totals involved.

Table 2: Local and National Share

Most Overall Deprived	SIMD 2012	SIMD 2016	SIMD 2012 Pop.	SIMD 2016 Pop.	SIMD 2012 Local Share	SIMD 2016 Local share	SIMD 2012 National Share	SIMD 2016 National share
0-5%	14	13	9,361	8,911	6.5%	5.8%	4.3%	3.7%
5-10%	18	23	13,702	17,580	8.4%	10.2%	5.5%	6.6%
10-15%	16	11	10,909	8,236	7.5%	4.9%	4.9%	3.2%
Total 0-15%	48	47	33,972	34,727	22.4%	20.9%	4.9%	4.5%
15-20%	12	14	10,582	11,714	5.6%	6.2%	4.3%	4.0%
Total 0-20%	60	61	44,554	46,441	28.0%	27.1%	4.6%	4.4%

4.2   The table below shows the number of datazones in Renfrewshire in each deprivation domain for the most deprived 5% and 20% nationally. It shows the main deprivation issues in the most deprived 5% are health, crime and employment whereas for the most deprived 20% these become health, income and employment.

Table 3: Deprivation by domain

Level	Overall	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Housing	Access	Crime
5% most deprived	13	10	**14**	**25**	8	4	1	**16**
20% most deprived	61	**61**	**60**	**70**	44	57	43	54

4.3   In the two key domains of income and employment the number of people categorised as in deprivation by the release has decreased by 6% in the income domain and by 15% in the employment domain. While welfare reform at a UK level has led to changes in the eligibility of claimants for benefits used to calculate the income domain, the methodology used to calculate the employment domain has remained the same. The breakdown below provides details of the areas indentified in deprivation for each domain.

Health

4.4   Almost 1 in 3 (31.1%) of Renfrewshire's datazones are in the 20% most health deprived in Scotland. Our share of the most health deprived datazones has increased and health scores remain a core part of the most serious pockets of deprivation.

4.5   Renfrewshire has 25 datazones in the 5% most health deprived which equates to a local share of 11.1% i.e. 1 in 9 datazones in Renfrewshire suffers the severest health deprivation. Five of these 25 datazones are situated in Paisley Ferguslie, three in both Paisley North and Paisley North West, two each in Johnstone North East, Linwood South, Paisley Foxbar, Paisley Gallowhill & Hillington, one each in Johnstone North West, Johnstone South West, Paisley Central, Paisley East, Paisley North East and Paisley South East. This domain relates to standardised mortality ratio, hospital stays related to alcohol use, hospital stays related to drug use, comparative illness factor, emergency stays in hospital, estimated proportion of population being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis and the proportion of live singleton births of low birth weight.

Crime

4.6   Renfrewshire has 16 datazones in the most crime deprived 5% which equates to a local share of 7.1% i.e. 1 in 14 datazones in Renfrewshire suffers the severest crime deprivation. Four of these 16 datazones are situated in Paisley Central and Paisley North, three in Paisley Ferguslie, two each in Paisley North West and one in Paisley Glenburn East, Paisley North East and Paisley South. The crime domain relates to domestic housebreaking, crimes of violence, common assault, sexual offences, drugs offences and vandalism.

4.7   Almost 1 in 4 (24%) of Renfrewshire's datazones are part of the 20% most crime deprived in Scotland. These are scattered across Renfrewshire in 22 of 38 intermediate zones but most are located in the Paisley North West ward (of which 11 out of 18 datazones suffer the severest (0-5%) health deprivation) while none are located in Bishopton, Bridge of Weir & Langbank ward and only one in Erskine & Inchinnan ward.

Employment

4.8   Renfrewshire has 14 datazones in the most employment deprived 5% which equates to a local share of 6.2% i.e. 1 in 16 datazones in Renfrewshire suffers the severest employment deprivation. Five of these 14 datazones are situated in Paisley Ferguslie, three in Paisley North West, one in Johnstone South East, Johnstone South West, Paisley East, Paisley Foxbar, Paisley

Gallowhill & Hillington, Paisley North East. The employment domain relates to the claimant count of working age unemployment averaged over 12 months, working age incapacity benefit claimants or employment and support allowance recipients, and working age severe disablement allowance claimants.

4.9   Just over 1 in 4 (26.7%) of Renfrewshire's datazones are part of the 20% most employment deprived in Scotland.   These are scattered across Renfrewshire in 20 of 38 intermediate zones but most are located in Paisley North West ward (of which 8 out of 14 suffer the severest (0-5%) employment deprivation) while none are located in Erskine & Inchinnan ward and only one in Bishopton, Bridge of Weir & Langbank ward.

Income

4.10   Renfrewshire has 10 datazones in the most income deprived 5% which equates to a local share of 4.4% i.e. 1 in 25 datazones in Renfrewshire suffers the severest income deprivation. Five of these 10 datazones are situated in Paisley and one each in Linwood South, Johnstone South West, Paisley East, Paisley North East and Paisley North West.   The income domain relates to the number of adults (aged 16-59) receiving Income Support, income based Employment and Support allowance, the number of adults (all ages) receiving Jobseeker's Allowance, number of adults (aged 60+) receiving Guaranteed Pension Credit, number of children (aged 0-15) dependent on a recipient of IS, JSA or ESA, number of adults (all) not in paid employment receiving Universal Credit and number of adults and children in Tax Credit Families on low incomes.

4.11   Just over 1 in 4 (27.1%) of Renfrewshire's datazones are part of the 20% most income deprived in Scotland.   These are scattered across Renfrewshire in 21 of 38 intermediate zones but most are located in Paisley North West ward (of which 6 out of 14 suffer the severest (0-5%) income deprivation) while none are located in Erskine & Inchinnan ward and only one in Bishopton, Bridge of Weir & Langbank ward.

Education

4.12   Renfrewshire has 8 datazones in the most education deprived 5% which equates to a local share of 3.6% i.e. less than 1 in 25 datazones in Renfrewshire suffers the severest education deprivation. Four of these 8 datazones are situated in Paisley Ferguslie, and one each in Johnstone South West, Paisley North, Paisley North West and Renfrew West.   The education domain relates to the proportion of 16 to 19 year olds who are not in full time education, employment or training, the percentage of pupils who

attend school 90% or more of the time, the average highest level of qualifications pupils leave publicly funded secondary schools with; the percentage of working age adults (aged 25-64) with no qualifications, and the proportion of 17-21 year old entering in to full time higher education.

4.13   One in 5 (19.6%) of Renfrewshire's datazones are part of the 20% most education deprived in Scotland. These are scattered across Renfrewshire in 18 of 38 intermediate zones but most are located in Paisley North West ward (of which 6 out of 12 suffer the severest (0-5%) education deprivation) while none are located in Bishopton, Bridge of Weir & Langbank nor Erskine & Inchinnan wards.

Housing

4.14   Renfrewshire has 4 datazones in the most housing deprived 5% which equates to a local share of 1.8% i.e. 1 in 50 datazones in Renfrewshire suffers the severest housing deprivation. These four datazones are situated in Paisley Central, Paisley North East, Paisley North West and Renfrew North. The housing domain relates to the persons in households that are overcrowded and persons in households without central heating.

4.15   The table above shows 1 in 4 (25.3%) of Renfrewshire's datazones are part of the 20% most housing deprived in Scotland. These are scattered across Renfrewshire in 20 of 38 intermediate zones but most are located in Paisley North West ward (of which 1 out of 15 suffer the severest (0-5%) housing deprivation) while none are located in Bishopton, Bridge of Weir & Langbank nor Erskine & Inchinnan wards.

Access

4.16   Renfrewshire has 1 datazone in the most access deprived 5% which equates to a local share of 0.4% i.e. 1 in 225 datazones in Renfrewshire suffers the severest access deprivation. This datazone is situated in Rural North & Langbank. The access domain relates to journey times by road and public transport to key services such as schools and shops.

4.17   Just under 1 in 5 (19.1%) of Renfrewshire's datazones are part of the 20% most access deprived in Scotland. These are scattered across Renfrewshire in 17 of 38 intermediate zones but most are located in Paisley South West while none are located in Paisley East & Ralston, Paisley North West nor Renfrew South & Gallowhill wards.

4.18   A datazone within the Ferguslie Park area has been ranked the most deprived area in Scotland, as was the case in the 2012 release. As

described above, datazone boundaries have changed between the 2012 and 2016 releases and the area within Ferguslie identified as the most deprived is not the same. However, using a best fit to map to the new datazones, five of the seven datazones within Ferguslie have improved in rank with two declining. Ferguslie Park as a whole saw a 6% decline in the number of people identified as income deprived and a 17% decline in the number identified as employment deprived. Appendix Three shows the ranking and domain scores for each datazone in Ferguslie in 2012 and 2016.

4.19   Authorities in the Scottish Local Government Partnership have a 38% share of the 20% most deprived datazones with a 24% share of datazones overall. This compares to a 39% share in 2012 showing that its share of the most deprived areas has remained broadly the same despite changes to datazone boundaries.

4.20   In comparison with other authorities in the West of Scotland, Renfrewshire does not have a significant share of the most deprived areas. Glasgow City has by far the largest share of the most deprived areas with 46.1% of the 5% most deprived areas nationally and 25.8% of the 20% most deprived. A full list of Local Authorities in Scotland is available in Appendix Four.
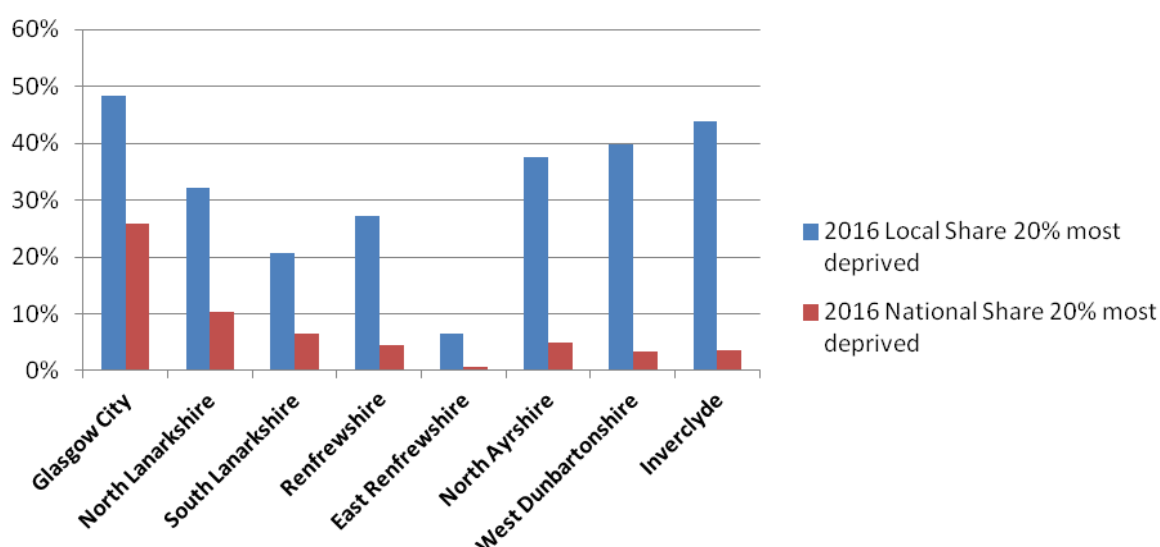
Table 4: Local Authority comparison

National Share= % of the nationally most deprived datazones in the area.
Local Share= the no. of nationally most deprived datazones as a % of the datazones locally.

	2016 Local Share 20% most deprived	2016 National Share 20% most deprived	2016 Local Share 5% most deprived	2016 National Share 5% most deprived
Glasgow City	360 of 746 = 48.3%	360 of 1,395 = 25.8%	161 of 746 = 21.6%	161 of 349 = 46.1%
North Lanarkshire	144 of 447 = 32.2%	144 of 1,395 = 10.3%	30 of 447 = 6.7%	30 of 349 = 8.6%
South Lanarkshire	89 of 431 = 20.6%	89 of 1,395 = 6.4%	21 of 431 = 4.9%	21 of 349 = 6.0%
Renfrewshire	61 of 225 = 27.1%	61 of 1,395 = 4.4%	13 of 225 = 5.8%	13 of 349 = 3.7%
East Renfrewshire	8 of 122 = 6.6%	8 of 1,395 = 0.6%	1 of 122 = 0.8%	1 of 349 = 0.3%
North Ayrshire	70 of 186 = 37.6%	70 of 1,395 = 5.0%	12 of 186 = 6.5%	12of 349 = 3.4%
West Dunbartonshire	48 of 121 = 39.7%	48 of 1,395 = 3.4%	8 of 121 = 6.6%	8 of 349 = 2.3%
Inverclyde	50 of 114 = 43.9%	50 of 1,395 = 3.6%	11 of 114 = 9.6%	11 of 349 = 3.2%

5. SIMD data and the Tackling Poverty Programme

5.1 The new release of SIMD data will play a key part in the development of the Tackling Poverty Programme. Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission reported in March 2015, and considered the role of the SIMD in understanding levels of poverty, and targeting resources. The Commission's report states:

'The geography of poverty has changed. Poverty is less concentrated in 'deprived neighbourhoods' than it has been previously, meaning some of the area based ways of looking at poverty, such as the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation, can no longer give us a full picture of where poverty is being experienced in our communities.'

5.2 In line with the Commission's findings, SIMD plays an important role in informing a number of Tackling Poverty projects and ensuring that resources are targeted to the localities that need it the most. For example, SIMD was used to determine the allocation of Breakfast Clubs across Renfrewshire schools, and to inform where the three new Families First locality teams would be based.

5.3 For projects such as the Cost of the School Day fund, SIMD was used to determine the level of funding that each school receives, but as it is recognised that SIMD is not a proxy for poverty, all schools still receive some funding as part of this project.

6. Next steps

6.1 The SIMD 2016 is one of a number of datasets used by the Council and its partners to identify key priorities for action. It is therefore proposed that further analysis is undertaken on SIMD for further discussion and action at a Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership level.   The information gathered through this process will be used to inform the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017.

6.2 Locality level analysis will also be undertaken by the Policy and Commissioning Service, with information presented to each Local Area Committee.

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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** *- none*

2. **HR & Organisational Development** *- none*

3. **Community Planning –** The SIMD is one of a number of datasets used by the Council and as part of the wider Community Planning Partnership to target outcomes for improvement at a local level. The SIMD 2016 release will inform the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Framework 2017.

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.   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*

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List of Background Papers

(a)   none

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Author: Danny McAllion, Data Analytics and Research Manager
               Chief Executive's Service
               0141 618 6809
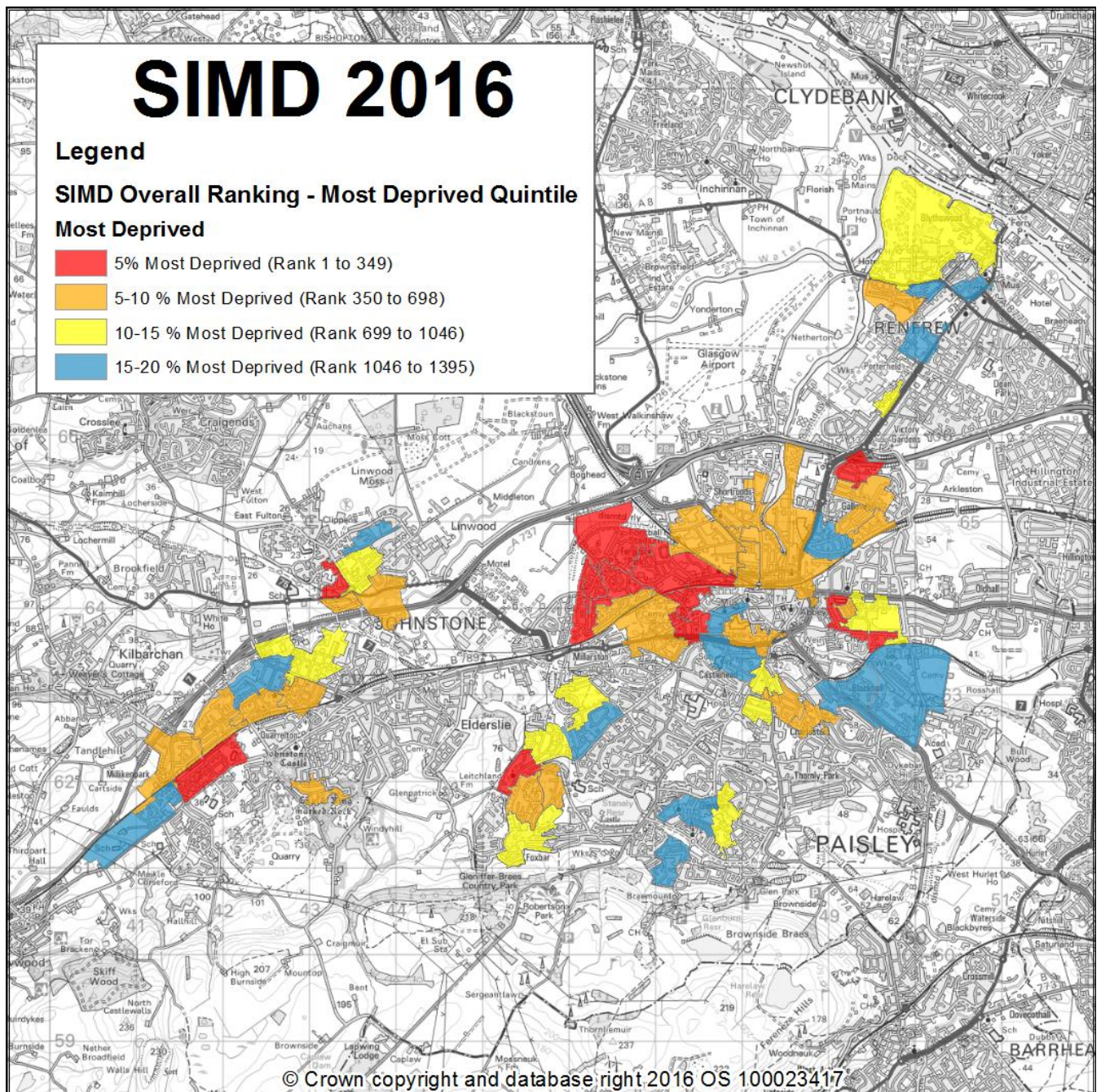
Renfrewshire's datazones in the most deprived 20% of the overall survey. Please note these areas do not map exactly to previous SIMD releases.

Appendix Two

The following table shows the eight different intermediate zones that have at least one of Renfrewshire's 13 most overall deprived datazones within it. Also included are the individual domain rankings for each of these 13 most overall deprived datazones.

Data Zone	Intermediate Zone	Population (SAPE 2014)	Working Age Pop	Overall SIMD 2016 Rank	Income Domain 2016 Rank	Employment Domain 2016 Rank	Health Domain 2016 Rank	Education Domain 2016 Rank	Housing Domain 2016 Rank	Access Domain 2016 Rank	Crime Domain 2016 Rank
S01012038	Johnstone South West	854	522	139	130	284	110	138	915	3,833	476
S01012218	Linwood South	516	326	316	146	392	336	1,552	1,148	5,034	387
S01012125	Paisley East	731	524	281	324	149	221	934	735	6,207	1,249
S01012068	Paisley Ferguslie	499	337	1	6	6	2	2	514	5,733	80
S01012067	Paisley Ferguslie	536	336	11	17	19	19	26	481	6,126	984
S01012065	Paisley Ferguslie	656	402	22	28	66	90	56	686	3,789	326
S01012069	Paisley Ferguslie	450	329	151	280	102	74	653	715	5,107	18
S01012064	Paisley Ferguslie	625	412	181	138	258	63	288	994	5,623	2,109
S01012081	Paisley Foxbar	755	506	250	405	141	230	861	1,063	1,131	2,050
S01012152	Paisley Gallowhill and Hillington	749	493	312	351	276	164	972	892	2,253	3,571
S01012135	Paisley North East	814	594	152	247	74	49	951	478	6,794	111
S01012070	Paisley North West	707	486	124	212	103	101	294	515	5,897	191
S01012071	Paisley North West	1,019	715	309	406	309	203	814	332	6,863	130

SIMD 2016 - All seven datazones in Paisley Ferguslie – Overall and individual domain rankings

Data Zone	Intermediate Zone	Population (SAPE 2014)	Working Age Pop	Overall SIMD 2016 Rank	Income Domain 2016 Rank	Employment Domain 2016 Rank	Health Domain 2016 Rank	Education Domain 2016 Rank	Housing Domain 2016 Rank	Access Domain 2016 Rank	Crime Domain 2016 Rank
S01012065	Paisley Ferguslie	656	402	22	28	66	90	56	686	3,789	326
S01012066	Paisley Ferguslie	811	571	627	524	1,136	701	521	946	2,660	771
S01012063	Paisley Ferguslie	542	384	3,557	4,351	3,608	3,464	2,653	2,116	2,433	2,299
S01012064	Paisley Ferguslie	625	412	181	138	258	63	288	994	5,623	2,109
S01012067	Paisley Ferguslie	536	336	11	17	19	19	26	481	6,126	984
S01012069	Paisley Ferguslie	450	329	151	280	102	74	653	715	5,107	18
S01012068	Paisley Ferguslie	499	337	1	6	6	2	2	514	5,733	80

SIMD 2012 – All seven datazones in Paisley Ferguslie – Overall and individual domain rankings

Data Zone	Intermediate Zone	Population (SAPE 2010)	Working Age Pop	Overall SIMD 2012 Rank	Income Domain 2012 Rank	Employment Domain 2012 Rank	Health Domain 2012 Rank	Education Domain 2012 Rank	Housing Domain 2012 Rank	Access Domain 2012 Rank	Crime Domain 2012 Rank
S01005247	Paisley Ferguslie	611	363	1	4	8	5	7	559	3,487	31
S01005251	Paisley Ferguslie	782	524	429	451	580	272	777	964	2,537	802
S01005253	Paisley Ferguslie	559	399	3,887	3,511	3,361	4,618	3,464	3,072	2,848	3,884
S01005261	Paisley Ferguslie	579	374	100	33	111	334	257	2,515	5,195	740
S01005263	Paisley Ferguslie	506	345	23	40	28	14	83	1,217	5,745	195
S01005265	Paisley Ferguslie	316	214	4	13	2	4	193	450	3,472	24
S01005272	Paisley Ferguslie	600	366	8	9	18	26	73	798	4,607	106

N.B While the above datazones are ordered according to the nearest match, changes to boundaries mean that exact comparisons between 2016 and 2012 are not possible.

Appendix Four

Local Authority	Total datazones	20% Most deprived	10% Most deprived	5% Most deprived
Aberdeen City	283	22	3	
Aberdeenshire	340	6	1	
Angus	155	11	2	
Argyll and Bute	125	11	4	2
City of Edinburgh	597	82	37	19
Clackmannanshire	72	17	8	4
Dumfries and Galloway	201	17	10	3
Dundee City	188	69	41	21
East Ayrshire	163	53	18	10
East Dunbartonshire	130	6	1	
East Lothian	132	6		
East Renfrewshire	122	8	2	1
Falkirk	214	33	14	4
Fife	494	95	37	10
Glasgow City	746	360	245	161
Highland	312	24	9	4
Inverclyde	114	50	31	11
Midlothian	115	13	2	1
Moray	126	1		
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	36			
North Ayrshire	186	70	32	12
North Lanarkshire	447	144	63	30
Orkney Islands	29			
Perth and Kinross	186	11	4	
Renfrewshire	225	61	36	13
Scottish Borders	143	8	2	
Shetland Islands	30			
South Ayrshire	153	28	13	6
South Lanarkshire	431	89	45	21
Stirling	121	14	6	2
West Dunbartonshire	121	48	20	8
West Lothian	239	38	12	6
Grand Total	**6976**	**1395**	**698**	**349**

Appendix Five

Changes to SIMD 2016 Domain Indicators

Income domain
Eligibility criteria of certain benefits have changed, and Universal Credit was introduced. The number of people claiming income related benefits and credits are now determined through the Universal Credit system.

Employment domain
No changes.

Health domain
Instead of estimating the 'Proportion of the population being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis', the indicator was improved. The new indicator counts the number of people who have been prescribed the drug within the specified year, whereas the previous indicator was an estimate of the average number of people taking it on any one day during the year.
The 'Hospital stays related to alcohol misuse' indicator now includes the additional ICD10 category K852 (Alcoholic Induced Acute Pancreatitis (AIAP)).

Education domain
Two out of the five indicators in the education domain have changed considerably, and one indicator slightly changed.
The 'School pupil attendance' indicator was improved by only including pupils with high attendance, rather than an average absence level for all pupils.
The 'Attainment of school leavers' indicator replaces the previous average SQA score. The data for the SQA score is no longer available due to changes in the examination system. The new indicator considers the highest level of qualification pupils leave school with.
There were small changes in the 'Working age people with no qualifications' indicator. Age bands and age range for standardisation have changed. And due to a changed wording of the Census question, the SIMD16 indicator counts people who have no qualifications, while the indicator in previous SIMD editions also included people whose qualifications were not listed in the response options.

Geographic Access to Services domain
The software used to calculate journey times has changed since SIMD 2012. As a result, most journey times are shorter and more accurately reflect true travel times for SIMD16.

Crime domain
The indicators included in the crime domain have remained the same between SIMD 2012 and SIMD16. However, new crime codes under the 'Recorded crimes of violence' category with 'Offences relating to Serious Organised Crime', and 'Causing serious injury etc. by culpable and reckless conduct' are now included in SIMD16.

Housing domain
No changes. The housing domain has been updated using 2011 Census data.
Source: SIMD 2016 Technical Notes

To: Leadership Board

On: 14th September 2016

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: **Consultation on a Child Poverty Bill for Scotland**

1.   **Summary**

1.1   Scottish Government has invited responses to a consultation on a Child Poverty Bill for Scotland.

1.2   Responses to the consultation are required to be submitted by 30th September 2016. Attached to this report is a proposed Council response which has been developed at the request of and in consultation with the Council's administration group.

2.   **Recommendations**

2.1   Members are asked to approve the content of the proposed response for submission to the Scottish Government

3.   **Background**

3.1   The consultation seeks views on the Scottish Government's proposals for a Child Poverty Bill. The proposals include:

- Putting in legislation an ambition to eradicate child poverty
- Reinstating statutory income-based targets to reduce the number of children living in poverty
- Placing a duty on Scottish Ministers to develop a Child Poverty Delivery Plan, and to report annually on their progress towards delivering that plan

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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - None

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

3. **Community Planning –** None

4. **Legal** - None

5. **Property/Assets -** None

6. **Information Technology -** None

7. **Equality & Human Rights** - None

8. **Health & Safety –** None

9. **Procurement –** None

10. **Risk –**. None

11. **Privacy Impact** - None

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Renfrewshire Council Response.

Scottish Government Consultation on a Child Poverty Bill for Scotland

September 2016

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1) Do you agree with the Scottish Government including in statute an ambition to eradicate child poverty?

Yes, it is important that Scottish Government include an ambition to eradicate child poverty in statute. It is important to replace the provisions of the Child Poverty Act that are being removed, and to improve and strengthen elements of this legislation in Scotland.

2) What are your views on making income targets statutory?

Poverty is, first and foremost, about household income. As such, it is important that income targets are retained in statute and remain the key indicators of poverty. It is recommended that the four existing income measures are retained for consistency.

3) How do you think the role of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Child Poverty can be developed to ensure that they play a key role in developing the legislation?

The role of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Child Poverty could be strengthened, and there could be increased visibility of the Advisory Group's work.

It should also be noted that there have been a number of poverty and fairness commissions across Scotland at a local level, including Renfrewshire. It is recognised that while local Commissions have included Commissioners that add a local perspective, many of these Commissions have also included a number of the same national organisations or spokespeople.

It is suggested that Scottish Government consider where the recommendations of local poverty and fairness Commissions align, and the influence that these recommendations can have on national child poverty policy and practice, as well as how that learning can be shared at a local level.

It should be considered how the advisory group remains closely connected to communities and local action, and in particular what role citizens living in poverty can play in influencing national policy.

4) How can links between the national strategy and local implementation be improved? What could local partners do to contribute to meeting these national goals? This might include reporting and sharing best practice or developing new strategic approaches.

It should be recognised that much of the innovation around tackling poverty is led from local partners, and in particular local authorities. As above, the learning from the poverty and fairness Commissions that have reported across Scotland should be considered from a national policy context. Commission reports from Renfrewshire, Fife and Dundee, while they vary to account for local context, are consistent in their analysis of poverty and its impacts across Scotland.

There is currently a lack of engagement and fora for local authorities to share progress and practice with Scottish Government. For example, the development of the 2015 annual

report on child poverty included only updates from local authorities that are members of COSLA, and not those within the Scottish Local Government Partnership. It is essential that the SLGP are engaged alongside of COSLA on matters relating to child poverty, due to the concentration of the most deprived datazones in Scotland existing within SLGP local authorities. Authorities in the Scottish Local Government Partnership have a 38% share of the 20% most deprived datazones with a 24% share of datazones overall, according to the SIMD 2016 release.

While the Child Poverty Act placed a duty on English local authorities to report on its measures to tackle child poverty, it should be noted that this was not necessarily a driver for increased activity or innovation. Scottish Government should closely consult with local partners to ensure that any reporting and monitoring is not disproportionate or prohibitive.

5) What are your views on the income based measures of poverty proposed for Scottish child poverty targets? For example, are there any additional income-based measures you think we should also use (and if so, why)?Are there any alternative approaches to measuring income – for example, as used in other countries – that you think could apply in Scotland?

It is suggested that Scottish Government continue with the four income-based measures that existed in previous legislation; relative poverty, absolute poverty, combined low income and material deprivation and persistent poverty. This allows for a rounded view of poverty trends, and consistency with previous measurement.

6) What are your views on the Scottish Government's proposals for the levels of child poverty that the targets will be set at?

It is recognised that targets are an important aspect of setting Scottish Government's ambition and direction of travel. Considering the Institute for Fiscal Studies predictions that child poverty will rise significantly between now and 2020, a more ambitious programme of work will be required in order to meet Scottish Government's ambitions.

It is recognised that Scottish Government has now gained significant taxation and social security powers through the constitutional settlement and it should look to use these to support more redistributive national policies in order to meet its proposed targets.

It should be noted that it is neither Scottish Government's responsibility alone to tackle child poverty, and partnership will be an essential element of the Delivery Plan to meet targets. Local authorities have a number of levers to both prevent, and mitigate against child poverty, but we have previously highlighted the funding inequalities implicit in the Scottish Government's process for the distribution of government grant across local authorities and the negative impact this has on Councils such as Renfrewshire with significant pockets of deprivation.

Levels of deprivation still have very limited influence on the Scottish Government grant distribution system to local authorities. For example, education accounts for over half of the Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) distribution process which underpins the distribution of the majority of the Government's revenue grant, yet only 5% of the value of the education related GAE lines are distributed on a basis which has a deprivation factor included. As a result, a school pupil from an affluent region of Perth & Kinross attracts the same level of grant support as a school pupil in Ferguslie Park, the most deprived ward in Scotland. The implicit assumption being that it requires the same level of funding to provide a similar level of service – this is purely an input perspective and consequently there is no recognition of the level of need of each child nor any recognition of the higher investment required to

support children from much poorer communities to aspire to and achieve similar outcomes to those achieved by children from affluent neighbourhoods.

This is a funding approach which far from helping to direct resources to assist in closing the inequality gap for children across Scotland, merely places, even the most innovative and high performing councils such as Renfrewshire, in a position which makes it more difficult to avoid inequality in educational attainment perpetuating for the most excluded children in our society.

7) What are your views on the Scottish Government's proposal to set targets on an after housing costs basis? For example, are there any disadvantages to this approach that we have not already considered?

Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission considered the after housing costs measure, on the basis that it gives a more accurate picture of families' finances. At a local level in Renfrewshire, it is considered that after housing costs measures are now the most useful and this is therefore the preferred approach.

8) What are your views on the Scottish Government's proposal to set targets that are expected to be achieved by 2030?

As above, and considering the IFS predictions, it is proposed that Scottish Government will need to consider a more ambitious programme of programme of work in order to meet the proposed targets by 2030. It would be helpful to see the rationale on which the proposed targets and timescales are based on, in order to better understand how the proposed reduction relates to the elements within the Delivery Plan. It should also consider the role of setting shorter term targets within the measurement framework.

9) What are your views on the proposal that Scottish Ministers will be required by the Bill to produce a Child Poverty Delivery Plan every five years, and to report on this Plan annually?

The proposed approach seems appropriate. Considering the longer-term nature of the 2030 targets, it would be useful to consider whether there are elements of the Delivery Plan which will take longer than 5 years and how these can incorporated into the Delivery Plan in practice (particularly where new plans are delivered every 5 years).

The Scottish Government should also consider how the reporting on the delivery plan can be made accessible, meaningful and transparent to people living in poverty across Scotland.

10) Do you have any suggestions for how the measurement framework could usefully be improved? For example, are there any influencing factors that are not covered by the measurement framework? Or are there any additional indicators that could be added?

It is considered that the measurement framework is a useful and appropriate tool. The 'Pockets', 'Prospects' and 'Places' themes were used by Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission, and as such are the structure of Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Strategy. In addition to this, Renfrewshire has structured its Tackling Poverty Action Plan around these themes and the reporting and governance of our Action Plan is structured by these outcomes.

The measurement framework as it exists is a useful tool, but is limited in its usefulness at at local level due to difficulty in getting data at a more local level, and sometimes even at Local Authority level. If the Child Poverty Delivery Plan is designed to be a 'Team Scotland' approach, then the measurement framework could be adapted to be more relevant for other stakeholders and local partners. In addition, Scottish Government should consider how it might be able to use and interpret local data – which often gives a more responsive picture of the issues that people living in poverty face and might be more useful in developing national and local policy responses.

11) Do you have any additional views on a Child Poverty Bill for Scotland?

Not applicable

To: Leadership Board

On: 14 September 2016

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Report by: Director of Finance and Resources, Director of Children's Services and
Chief Finance Officer Renfrewshire HSCP

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Heading: Revenue Budget Monitoring to 24 June 2016

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1.   **Summary**

1.1   Following changes in the remit of the Leadership Board as agreed by
Council to include oversight of Renfrewshire Leisure Ltd, Renfrewshire
Health and Social Care partnership and the Glasgow & Clyde Valley
City Deal, the Board will now receive budget monitoring information
relevant to these services.

1.2   Gross expenditure and income are in line with the budget resulting in a
net breakeven for the services reporting to this Board. This is
summarised over the relevant services in the table below:

Division / Department	Current Reported Position	% variance	Previously Reported Position	% variance
Leisure Services	Breakeven	-	N/A	-
Adult Services	Breakeven	-	N/A	-

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2.   **Recommendations**

2.1   Members are requested to note the budget position.

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2.2   Members are requested to note that since the budget was approved there have been a number of budget adjustments resulting in a net increase of £1,138,630 primarily relating to the transfer of Leisure budgets from Children's Services.

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3.   **Leisure Services**

        Current position: **Breakeven**
        Previously reported: *N/A*

        At this stage in the financial year Leisure Services reflects a breakeven position with no significant variances to report.

3.1   **Projected Year End Position**

        It is anticipated, at this stage, that Leisure Services will achieve a break-even year-end position.

4.   **Adult Services**

        Current position: **Breakeven**
        Previously reported: *N/A*

        At this stage in the financial year Adult Services reflects a breakeven position with no significant variances to report.

4.1   **Projected Year End Position**

        It is anticipated, at this stage, that Adult Services will achieve a break-even year-end position.

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Implications of the Report

1.   **Financial** – Net revenue expenditure will be contained within available resources.

2.   **HR & Organisational Development** – none

3.   **Community 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

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List of Background Papers

       None

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Author: Margo Simpson, Extension 5392
            George McLachlan, Extension 6133
            Sarah Lavers, Extension 6824

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RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2016/2017
1st April 2016 to 24 June 2016

POLICY BOARD : LEADERSHIP BOARD

Description (1) £000's	Revised Annual Budget (2) £000's	Revised Period Budget (3) £000's	Actual (4) £000's	Adjustments (5) £000's	Revised Actual (6) = (4 + 5) £000's	Budget Variance (7) £000's	Budget Variance (7) %	
Employee Costs	24,833	4,849	4,806	40	4,846	3	0.1%	underspend
Property Costs	748	192	193	(1)	192	0	0.0%	breakeven
Supplies & Services	1,480	80	85	0	85	(5)	-6.3%	overspend
Contractors and Others	44,765	7,751	7,755	0	7,755	(4)	-0.1%	overspend
Transport & Plant Costs	722	113	121	(8)	113	0	0.0%	breakeven
Administration Costs	1,149	38	37	0	37	1	2.6%	underspend
Payments to Other Bodies	19,393	1,949	1,944	0	1,944	5	0.3%	underspend
CFCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	breakeven
Capital Charges	1,824	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	breakeven
GROSS EXPENDITURE	**94,914**	**14,972**	**14,941**	**31**	**14,972**	**0**	**0.0%**	**breakeven**
Income	(21,846)	(2,931)	(2,730)	(201)	(2,931)	0	0.0%	breakeven
NET EXPENDITURE	**73,068**	**12,041**	**12,211**	**(170)**	**12,041**	**0**	**0.0%**	**breakeven**

£000's

Bottom Line Position to 24 June 2016 is breakeven of   **0**   0.0%

Anticipated Year End Budget Position is breakeven of   **0**   0.0%

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2016/2017
1st April 2016 to 24 June 2016

POLICY BOARD : LEADERSHIP BOARD

Description (1) £000's	Revised Annual Budget (2) £000's	Revised Period Budget (3) £000's	Actual (4) £000's	Adjustments (5) £000's	Revised Actual (6) = (4 + 5) £000's	Budget Variance (7) £000's	%	
Adult Services	60,891	10,910	10,910	0	10,910	0	0.0%	breakeven
Leisure Services	12,177	1,131	1,301	(170)	1,131	0	0.0%	breakeven
NET EXPENDITURE	**73,068**	**12,041**	**12,211**	**(170)**	**12,041**	**0**	**0.0%**	**breakeven**

£000's

0	0.0%
0	0.0%

Bottom Line Position to 24 June 2016 is breakeven of   0

Anticipated Year End Budget Position is breakeven of   0

POLICY BOARD : LEADERSHIP BOARD: ADULT SERVICES

Description	Revised Annual Budget	Revised Period Budget	Actual	Adjustments	Revised Actual	Budget Variance		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4 + 5)	(7)		
£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	%	
Employee Costs	24,833	4,849	4,846	0	4,846	3	0.1%	underspend
Property Costs	355	66	66	0	66	0	0.0%	breakeven
Supplies & Services	1,478	80	85	0	85	(5)	-6.3%	overspend
Contractors and Others	44,765	7,751	7,755	0	7,755	(4)	-0.1%	overspend
Transport & Plant Costs	722	113	113	0	113	0	0.0%	breakeven
Administration Costs	229	38	37	0	37	1	2.6%	underspend
Payments to Other Bodies	10,310	867	862	0	862	5	0.6%	underspend
CFCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	breakeven
Capital Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	breakeven
GROSS EXPENDITURE	**82,692**	**13,764**	**13,764**	**0**	**13,764**	**0**	**0.0%**	**breakeven**
Income	(21,800)	(2,854)	(2,854)	0	(2,854)	0	0.0%	breakeven
NET EXPENDITURE	**60,892**	**10,910**	**10,910**	**0**	**10,910**	**0**	**0.0%**	**breakeven**

	£000's
Bottom Line Position to 24 June 2016 is breakeven of	**0**	0.0%
Anticipated Year End Budget Position is breakeven of	**0**	0.0%

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2016/2017
1st April 2016 to 24 June 2016

POLICY BOARD : LEADERSHIP BOARD: ADULT SERVICES

Description	Revised Annual Budget	Revised Period Budget	Actual	Adjustments	Revised Actual	Budget Variance		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4 + 5)	(7)		
£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	%	
Older People	41,647	6,894	6,898	0	6,898	(4)	-0.1%	overspend
Physical or Sensory Difficulties	5,182	1,128	1,133	0	1,133	(5)	-0.4%	overspend
Learning Difficulties	11,651	2,007	2,004	0	2,004	3	0.1%	underspend
Mental Health Needs	1,047	542	537	0	537	5	0.9%	underspend
Addiction Services	714	75	74	0	74	1	1.3%	underspend
Adults Change Fund	650	254	254	0	254	0	0.0%	breakeven
Social Work Management	0	10	10	0	10	0	0.0%	breakeven
NET EXPENDITURE	**60,891**	**10,910**	**10,910**	**0**	**10,910**	**0**	**0.0%**	**breakeven**

	£000's	
Bottom Line Position to 24 June 2016 is breakeven of	0	0.0%
Anticipated Year End Budget Position is breakeven of	0	0.0%

POLICY BOARD : LEADERSHIP BOARD: LEISURE SERVICES

Description	Revised Annual Budget	Revised Period Budget	Actual	Adjustments	Revised Actual	Budget Variance	
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4 + 5)	(7)	%
(1) £000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Employee Costs	0	0	(40)	40	0	0	0.0% breakeven
Property Costs	394	126	127	(1)	126	0	0.0% breakeven
Supplies & Services	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.0% breakeven
Contractors and Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0% breakeven
Transport & Plant Costs	0	0	8	(8)	0	0	0.0% breakeven
Administration Costs	920	0	0	0	0	0	0.0% breakeven
Payments to Other Bodies	9,083	1,082	1,082	0	1,082	0	0.0% breakeven
CFCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0% breakeven
Capital Charges	1,824	0	0	0	0	0	0.0% breakeven
GROSS EXPENDITURE	**12,223**	**1,208**	**1,177**	**31**	**1,208**	**0**	**0.0% breakeven**
Income	(46)	(77)	124	(201)	(77)	0	0.0% breakeven
NET EXPENDITURE	**12,177**	**1,131**	**1,301**	**(170)**	**1,131**	**0**	**0.0% breakeven**

	£000's	
	0	0.0%
	0	0.0%

Bottom Line Position to 24 June 2016 is breakeven of

Anticipated Year End Budget Position is breakeven of

Renfrewshire Council

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To: **LEADERSHIP BOARD**

On: **14 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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Report by: **Director of Finance and Resources**

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Heading: **Capital Budget Monitoring Report**

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1. **Summary**

1.1 Following changes in the remit of the Leadership Board as agreed by Council to include oversight of Renfrewshire Leisure Ltd, Renfrewshire Health and Social Care partnership and the Glasgow & Clyde Valley City Deal, the Board will now receive budget monitoring information relevant to these services.

1.2 Capital expenditure to 24th June 2016 totals £1.087m compared to anticipated expenditure of £1.086m for this time of year. This results in an over-spend position of £0.001m for those services reporting to this board, and is summarised in the table below:

Division	Current Reported Position	% Variance	Previously Reported Position	% Variance
Leisure Services	£0.017m o/spend	6% o/spend	*n/a*	*n/a*
Dev. & Housing (City Deal)	£0.016m u/spend	2% u/spend	*n/a*	*n/a*
Adult Social Care	£0.000m u/spend	0% u/spend	*n/a*	*n/a*
Total	**£0.001m o/spend**	**0% o/spend**	***n/a***	***n/a***

1.3 The 6% over-spend in leisure Services is due to a timing issue with the programme expected to fully spend by 31st March.

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1.4   The expenditure total of £1.087m represents 9% of the resources available to fund the projects being reported to this board. Appendix 2 provides further information on the budget monitoring position of the projects within the remit of this board.

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2.   **Recommendations**

2.1   It is recommended that Members note this report.

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3.   **Background**

3.1   This report has been prepared by the Director of Finance and Resources in conjunction with the Chief Executive and the Director of Development & Housing Services.

3.2   This is the first capital budget monitoring to members in 2016/17 and it details the performance of the Capital Programme to 24th June 2016, and is based on the Capital Investment Programme which was approved by members on 3rd March 2016, adjusted for movements since its approval. Appendix 1 lists the approved projects for information.

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4.   **Budget Changes**

4.1   Since the capital budget was approved budget changes totalling £3.464m have arisen which reflects the following:-

         Budget carried forward from 2015/16 (£4.631m):

         • Leisure Services (£3.418m).
         • Development & Housing(City Deal) (£0.813m).
         • Adult Social Care (£0.400m).

         Budget re-profiled from 2016/17 to 2017/18:

         • City Deal (£1.167m) reflecting an updated spend profile for 2016/17.

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Implications of the Report

1.   **Financial** – The programme will be continually monitored, in conjunction with other programmes, to ensure that the available resources are fully utilised and that approved limits are achieved.

2.   **HR & Organisational Development** – none.

3.   **Community Planning –**

      Greener - Capital investment will make property assets more energy efficient.

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. 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.

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List of Background Papers

(a). Capital Investment Programme 2016/17 & 2017/18 – Council, 3rd March 2016.

The contact officers within the service are:
  – *Geoff Borland (Finance & Resources)*

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Leadership - Appendix 1

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY - NON-HOUSING SERVICES

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

BOARD: LEADERSHIP

Project Title	Approved Programme @03/03/16	Current Programme MR 3
LEISURE SERVICES		
Leisure Investment Programme	0	841
Grass Pitches & Changing Facilities	2,250	4,827
Total Leisure Services	2,250	5,668
DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING(City Deal)		
Airport Access	918	1,252
Glasgow Airport Investment Area	2,769	2,858
Clyde Waterfront & Renfrew Riverside	3,385	2,609
Total Development & Housing(City Deal)	7,072	6,719
ADULT SOCIAL CARE		
Anchor Centre Roof Replacement	0	400
Total Adult Social Care	0	400
TOTAL LEADERSHIP BOARD	9,322	12,786

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CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 - BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 24 JUNE 2016 (£000s)

POLICY BOARD Department	Council Approved Programme	Current Programme	Share of Available Resources	Year to Date Budget to 24-Jun-16	Spent to 24-Jun-16	Variance to 24-Jun-16	% variance	Unspent Cash Flow For Year	% Cash Spent
Leadership									
Leisure Services	2,250	5,668	5,668	296	313	-17	-6%	5,355	6%
Development & Housing(City Deal)	7,072	6,719	6,719	790	774	16	2%	5,945	12%
Adult Social Care	0	400	400	0	0	0	0%	400	0%
TOTAL	9,322	12,787	12,787	1,086	1,087	-1	0%	11,700	9%

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To: Leadership Board

On: 14 September 2016

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Possible Implications for Renfrewshire of the vote to leave the European Union

1. **Summary and Key Messages**

1.1 The EU Referendum was held on 23 June 2016, with the outcome of the vote being a decision to leave the EU. A previous report to Council in April 2016 outlined the potential economic implications of leaving the EU for Renfrewshire; and following the vote Council agreed to support the Scottish Government in its efforts to reduce the impact of the result on Scotland.

1.2 This report outlines at a high level the potential implications for both the Council and Renfrewshire communities and businesses from the vote to leave the EU (or "Brexit") across a range of areas. What is clear is that the implications for Renfrewshire are likely to take several years to become fully apparent, during which ongoing uncertainty is likely to adversely impact on the Council's financial outlook. Brexit is not an event, but rather a process which will require the Council to be continually vigilant in understanding the implications of decisions taken prior to and throughout the exit negotiation period and subsequent to this as the UK trade and legal position develops.

1.3 Key messages that are outlined in more substantial detail in the main body of this report, are summarised below:

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- As anticipated, financial markets have experienced volatility since the vote, with the pound depreciating significantly against both the US dollar and euro although the stock market valuations of major international UK companies have recovered ground lost since the vote. To assist in stabilising matters the Bank of England has cut interest rates and has provided direct financial support to the financial markets, and has acknowledged that further support may be required.

- Both the Bank of England and many economic forecasters have downgraded their forecasts for UK economic growth over the next 2-3 years.

- Renfrewshire hosts many business of national significance for whom the implications of Brexit are again uncertain. An indication of wider business sentiment is available from a recent Fraser of Allander business survey, which suggests that over 60% of firms surveyed conclude Brexit will have a negative impact on their business, while only 19% viewed Brexit as being positive for their firm. Strikingly, 85% of firms stated they had made little or no preparation for an exit vote, therefore a key priority for many will be assessing what Brexit will mean for them. Building capacity and expertise for a post-Brexit business environment will – as for the government - take time. It is recognised however that there may be short term advantages from the current weakening of sterling for businesses in Renfrewshire who are net exporters.

- As well as being a large local employer, Glasgow Airport plays a key role in the nation's infrastructure and connectivity. Maintaining access to the European Single Aviation Market and the EU's multilateral aviation agreements (also known as 'Open Skies' agreements) is a priority for Glasgow Airport. This access has been key in allowing the aviation industry to grow, deliver cheaper air fares and open up new destinations. Continued access to international markets is crucial to supporting the UK aviation sector's future success and growth. Whilst there is still a great deal of uncertainty following the EU referendum around this and other issues, the airport has had early conversations with a number of airlines, including those who have contributed directly to the Airport's recent growth and who have expressed very real concern, in some instances indicating they are no longer planning to implement or are expecting to reduce previous expansion plans in the UK following the Brexit vote..

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- At this stage, it is not possible to say what the medium to longer term economic consequences or opportunities may be for the UK and Scottish economies. This will only become clearer over time and in particular as the terms of the UK's exit are agreed and the UK's future international trade position become clear.

- The immediate post referendum impact on the economy along with the ongoing uncertainty, has added a new and significant dimension to the Council's financial outlook and risks. The prospect of an emergency budget post Brexit was dismissed early by the UK Government. Additionally, the Government also confirmed that their key fiscal target to move the public finances into a budget surplus by 2020/21, remains but in the current context has been pushed back by an as yet unconfirmed period of time. The net impact on public sector spending plans across the UK and subsequently in Scotland of the decision to push back the fiscal surplus objective, coupled with the poorer economic growth forecasts that have emerged, will not become clearer until the Government announces a new Comprehensive Spending review in the autumn. What is clear at this stage is that the overall risks to the Council's financial outlook, in both the short and medium term, have increased and there is every prospect that as future spending plans of both the UK and Scottish Governments are confirmed the Council may face increased financial challenges moving forward than those previously projected prior to the exit vote.

- The Council receives EU funding directly in relation to a number of priority areas such as employability and economic development. Assuming the triggering of exit negotiations does not occur during 2016, and is thereafter followed by a 2 year negotiation period then funding of almost £4.8 million for current projects would appear to be secure. However, funding notionally allocated for Renfrewshire in the period 2018-20, of over £2.5 million, appears to be at greater risk. A recent announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer has sought to provide guarantee to such funding streams where they are fully signed before the UK Government's autumn statement announcement in November. The exact implications of this announcement in Scotland and in particular for the Council's EU funded projects has yet to be clarified and is subject to ongoing engagement with the Scottish Government. Future employability and economic development projects would be severely disadvantaged in the absence of any UK and or Scottish Government support which replaces the levels of EU funding traditionally enjoyed.

- In addition to the Council, a range of partner organisations including the NHS, Higher and Further Education sectors and 3rd sector agencies may potentially be affected in a number of ways,

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including access EU funding sources, collaborative working with EU partner institutions, access to skilled labour markets and students and increased cost of key commodities such as drug supplies. It will be important for the Council to work closely on a cross agency basis with key partners through existing arrangements to manage the possible impacts and risks that may arise from the exit process on behalf of the people of Renfrewshire.

- The Glasgow City Region City Deal has an advantage over many other City Deals in that the funding package is agreed, and has the potential to mitigate some of the suggested adverse economic effects of Brexit should infrastructure investment be accelerated.

- There is limited information available as to the number of EU nationals living and working within the Renfrewshire area. Detail from the electoral register suggests there are at least 2,000 EU nationals living in Renfrewshire – however this figure will not include any children, nor any EU nationals who have not attempted to register to vote. This will include employees of the Council, of whom at least 20 are EU nationals. The Council will aim to actively support all employees who could be affected by the vote, but particularly any EU nationals who are employees. However the rights after the UK leaves the EU for all EU nationals who reside in the UK and do not have residency status has yet to be clarified and may yet form part of the outcome of the exit negotiation process.

- The EU exit process is unprecedented and will require considerable government effort to negotiate. The complexity of UK governance, and of the negotiations with the EU and other countries with whom the UK would wish to have a trade agreement post Brexit, suggest that the Brexit process could take several years to complete, during which ongoing uncertainty with regards legal, social, financial and economic issues could have significant and ongoing implications for Renfrewshire. The Council will therefore need to remain alert to any negative impact or indeed opportunities as the exit negotiations unfold and the UK's future trade environment develops.

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2. **Recommendations**

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It is recommended that Council:

2.1   note the information contained in the report

2.2   note that the Chief Executive will form a working group, including representation from Community Planning Partners, to examine and continually monitor the implications of Brexit for the Council and Renfrewshire communities

2.3   note that the financial and economic risks associated with Brexit will be appropriately recognised in the Council's financial planning arrangements, and that those risks will be highlighted to the Scottish Government

2.4   note that the Head of HR, OD and Workforce Planning will communicate regularly with all employees to update them with regards any employment issues which result from changes in legislation linked to the Brexit process

2.5   note that specific discussion with regards the implication of Brexit will be included as a regular item on the Community Planning Partnership agenda

2.6   note that the Chief Executive will ensure the implications of Brexit for the Glasgow City Region City Deal will be regularly discussed with partner Councils and the City Deal PMO; and also that the City Deal Cabinet has agreed where possible to accelerate infrastructure investment projects

2.7   note that future briefings will be provided as appropriate to Members as the exit process develops.

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3.   **Background**

3.1   The EU Referendum was held on 23 June 2016, with the outcome of the vote being a decision to leave the EU. A previous report to Council in April 2016 outlined the potential economic implications of leaving the EU for Renfrewshire; and following the vote Council agreed to support the Scottish Government in its efforts to reduce the impact of the result on Scotland.

3.2   The implications for both the Council and Renfrewshire residents and businesses are potentially far reaching, and significant uncertainty remains with regards the timing of any action by the UK government to trigger formal exit negotiations. This report is set out over a number of areas with the potential implications outlined as far as current information is available.

4   **Risk areas and implications**

4.1   Political uncertainty and the exit process

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4.1.1 The UK government has seen considerable change since the referendum vote with a new Prime Minister and Cabinet now in place. The new Prime Minister has committed that whilst "Brexit means Brexit", she has also outlined to EU partners that there will be no commencement of official negotiations with regards the UK's exit in 2016. The rules for exit are set out in Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, however the process is unprecedented, and there is a significant level of uncertainty about how it will work.

4.1.2 The Article 50 procedure is started by the UK Government formally notifying the European Council of its intention to leave the EU. The EU and the UK will then be required to negotiate an agreement setting out the arrangements for the UK's withdrawal. The withdrawal agreement requires the consent of the European Parliament before being approved by the European Council. In effect, the withdrawal agreement will be subject to two votes. Firstly, a majority vote in the European Parliament is required before it is subject to a vote in the Council which requires a two thirds majority of all of the remaining member states. Clearly, before the approval of the EU institutions is sought, the terms of the withdrawal agreement will require to be approved by the UK Parliament. This raises the question of what happens if it is not possible to reach an agreement or if the proposed agreement is rejected by one of the institutions who are required to approve the agreement.

4.1.3 Article 50 provides that the EU Treaties cease to apply to the member state that is leaving from the date of entry into of the withdrawal agreement or, failing that, two years after notification of intention to withdraw. The two year period can be extended by the unanimous consent of all 27 remaining members. Therefore, there is a risk that the UK could leave the EU with the terms of their withdrawal remaining uncertain, although it could be argued that it would not be in the interests of either the UK or EU for that to happen. Article 50 does not specify what should be covered by the withdrawal agreement which leaves substantial scope for the negotiators to agree what should be covered.

4.1.4 The negotiating position of the UK is further complicated from existing devolution arrangements. The First Minister of Scotland has outlined her desire to explore all options for continuing Scotland's relationship with the EU. The Prime Minister has also outlined her desire that the Scottish Government be fully engaged in exit discussions. Negotiations are likely to place a large burden on government and will undoubtedly distract from the normal running of business. Trade negotiation capacity within government is unlikely to match that required, again potentially adding delays.

4.1.5 The complexity therefore of UK governance, and of the negotiations with the EU and other countries with whom the UK would wish to have a trade agreement post Brexit, suggest that the Brexit process could take several years to complete, during which ongoing uncertainty with

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regards legal, social, financial and economic issues could have significant and ongoing implications for Renfrewshire.

4.2　　　Economy

4.2.1　　Prior to the referendum the Remain campaign outlined warnings of what might happen to the economy and government finances in the event of a Leave vote. These warnings had, to varying degrees, been supported by the views and analysis of a majority of economists and think tanks. Immediately following the Brexit vote financial markets did indeed react adversely. The value of Sterling fell sharply against the Euro and Dollar, subsequently stabilising around a 10% drop in value. Additionally, sharp falls in the stock market were experienced albeit over the preceding weeks much of the lost ground was recovered following action from The Bank of England, which provided assurance in the immediate aftermath of the vote that all necessary steps had been taken and would continue to be taken to ensure the ongoing stability of the financial and banking system.

- The share value of the FTSE 100 companies (composed mainly of internationally operating companies) up around 6% from pre-Brexit levels.

- The share value of the FTSE 250 companies (composed mainly of more domestically focused companies) is now largely unchanged from pre-brexit levels.

- The value of domestically focussed UK companies are down by around 10% from pre-brexit levels, with the property, consumer services and banking sectors having particularly suffered

- Many other EU nations main share indices have performed worse than the UK's post Brexit

4.2.2　　More recently, the main ratings agencies have downgraded both the UK sovereign credit rating and that of several UK banks, reflecting a perceived increase in risk. According to Standard & Poor's, the vote was a seminal event which "will lead to a less predictable, stable and effective economic policy framework in the UK". Since the vote however, rates on UK government borrowing have come down, suggesting that despite the uncertainty financial markets continue to view the UK as a safe and secure investment option.

4.2.3　　Economic forecasts from Ernst Young, PWC and the Fraser of Allander Institute suggest that the UK (and Scottish) economy will slow sharply, with growth falling from 1.5-2% in 2016 to 0-0.5% in 2017. The IMF also outlined that Brexit has "thrown a spanner in the works" and has reduced its growth forecasts for 2016 and future years, while the

Scottish Chambers of Commerce declared it had "very acute fears" the Scottish economy could fall into recession, while the Fraser of Allander Institute suggested a "technical recession" in Scotland is highly possible. Additionally, the weaker exchange rate is beginning to push inflation upwards which, allied with poor confidence in the business sector has resulted in the Bank of England further cutting the base interest rate to a historic low of 0.25% and implementing further "quantitative easing" – the printing of money injected to support the economy.

4.2.4   In its August Inflation Report the Bank of England outlined its view, consistent with the economic commentators referred to above, that the outlook for UK economic growth has weakened markedly (GDP growth in 2017 falling from 2.3% forecast in May to 0.8%), that inflation will rise in the near term, and unemployment will eventually rise following demand weakness opening up spare economic capacity. The Bank has also suggested that further measures are expected to be required if economic data proves consistent with the Bank's forecasts, including further cutting the Bank rate close to 0%.

4.2.5   In addition to monetary policy changes implemented by the Bank of England, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer may also consider fiscal policy change, although the possibility of an "emergency budget" was relatively quickly dismissed by the UK Government. The Government has confirmed that their key fiscal target to move the public finances into a budget surplus remains an objective, but in the post Brexit context the previous timetable of 2020/21 has been abandoned and will be pushed back, by an as yet unconfirmed period of time. The net impact on public sector spending plans across the UK of this decision, coupled with the deterioration in economic growth forecasts that have emerged, will not become clear for a number of months.

4.2.6   It is now clear that the Chancellor will take time to assess developments over the coming months and consider consequential changes which will be detailed in the Autumn Statement, potentially to be announced in November. The current and forecast reduction in economic growth will, undoubtedly impact on the Government's anticipated tax receipts, placing additional pressure on the public sector budget; a situation compounded by growing inflation. There is therefore the risk that poorer post Brexit prospects for UK and Scottish economic growth may ultimately lead to UK Government action to increase the scale of reduction in public sector spending from that which was already planned for in the 2015 spending review. This may involve increasing either the depth of spending cuts and or pushing out and extending the programme of austerity over a longer period of time.

4.2.7   It is also recognised that the current weakening in the value of Sterling is likely to have some positive benefits in terms of exports which will be more competitive, providing an opportunity for growth for those companies who are net. Additionally, it is also acknowledged that there are undoubtedly longer term opportunities that may potentially flow

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from free trade with countries outwith the EU if the UK Government is successful in securing positive bilateral trade agreements.

4.3   Future Council Resources

4.3.1   As outlined in section 4.2 above, the general consensus of deterioration in the UK's economic outlook may result in the Government's programme of reduction in public sector expenditure across the UK being deeper and or extending for a longer period than was previously planned. Previous reports to Council have outlined the material risk of cuts to the Council's revenue grant continuing over the medium term, potentially at a similar scale to that experienced in 2016/17. The risk of this outcome and indeed the risk of it now extending over a longer period have undoubtedly been exacerbated by the post Brexit impact.

4.3.2   As detailed earlier, it is now inevitable that the outlook for public finances across the UK, which were previously outlined in the 2015 Comprehensive Spending Review, will be revisited by the new Chancellor. Even if a revised multi-year comprehensive spending review is set out by the UK Government, the ongoing level of economic uncertainty and as yet unknown outcome that will emerge from the exit negotiations, would necessitate that future years be treated with an appropriate degree of caution recognising the risk that future events may require further change. It is therefore inevitable that the post Brexit impact will compound the levels of medium term uncertainty over funding levels for both the Scottish Government and consequently Local Government.

4.3.3   In addition, and as previously reported to members, the Scottish Government in 2017/18 will also assume increased powers from the UK Government that will result in around 50% of the Scottish Budget being funded directly by devolved taxes. This in itself adds a significantly new dimension of risk to the Scottish public sector budget. Coupled with the impact of Brexit, the financial years 2017/18 and beyond present potentially a unique and unprecedented level of uncertainty and risk for public finances across Scotland. Consequently, the Council's financial strategy moving forward will need to recognise this fundamental shift in risk and continue to pro-actively plan for a potentially more negative medium term outlook emerging in the coming months and one which may be less stable, predictable and subject to revision over relatively short period of time.

4.3.4   There is some suggestion from economic commentators that investment in infrastructure and housing will be key to mitigating the economic impact of Brexit, as private sector investment (including foreign direct investment) is put on hold or cancelled altogether.

Should both Scottish and UK governments agree with this sentiment, it is possible that capital funding for infrastructure projects could be more readily available. Indeed, the Scottish Government have recently announced that £100 million of budget flexibility will be utilised to

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accelerate infrastructure investment programmes. In addition, potential freedom from the restrictions of Eurostat accounting rules could assist in the development of alternative funding models for infrastructure projects. However, conversely it is recognised that uncertainty over the general state of the economy may restrict government investment, leading to a 'perfect storm' where private investors are nervous or unwilling to invest, EU funding (or financing through the European Investment Bank) for infrastructure projects is no longer available and the UK government is unable to commit to large scale projects.

4.3.5   The report to Council in April outlined that the Council currently receives direct EU funding, which has averaged out at an equivalent of approximately £1.6m per annum and which would be at risk from Brexit. As outlined in detail in a report to the Economy and Jobs Policy Board on 31st August 2016 this funding largely supports projects aimed at supporting business growth, addressing youth unemployment, and supporting the long-term unemployed into work; in addition to supporting rural communities.

4.3.6   Assuming the triggering of exit negotiations does not occur until 2017, and is thereafter followed by a 2 year negotiation period then funding for current projects could be secure. However the risk of funding being withdrawn after this date could necessitate the reprofiling of programmes to ensure they are completed prior to the 2 year negotiation period ending.

4.3.7   On 13th August the Chancellor of the Exchequer issued a statement indicating the intention of the UK Government to provide guarantees of funding for a range of EU funding streams that are formally agreed prior to the Autumn Statement announcement in November, even where the funding extends beyond the UK exit from the EU. The announcement indicated that this guarantee would be extended to devolved administrations and that the UK Government would progress work with Devolved Administrations over the implications for EU funded projects. The exact implications of this announcement within Scotland and for the Council's projects has yet to be clarified with the Scottish Government. Prior to this announcement informal indications suggested that as the 2014-20 EU funding programme has effectively been split into 2 elements (2015-2018 and 2018-20), those projects which have been allocated a letter of award by the Scottish Government (Renfrewshire's have all been issued) in the 2015-2018 bracket will be honoured. As detailed in Appendix 1, across these projects, total EU funding of almost £4.8 million is potentially secured up to 2018.

Beyond this period, funding notionally allocated for Renfrewshire projects in the period 2018-20, totalling over £2.5 million, appears to be at greater risk and ongoing engagement is being progressed with the Scottish Government in this regard and in particular in the context of

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the statement released by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Future employability and economic development projects would however be severely disadvantaged in the absence of any UK or Scottish Government support which replaces the levels of EU funding traditionally enjoyed. EU funding has supported broadly 40% of the costs of these projects.

4.4   City Deal and the City Region

4.4.1   The Council is delivering 3 projects related to the Glasgow City Region City Deal – the Glasgow Airport Access Project (AAP), Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside (CWRR) project and Glasgow Airport Investment Area (GAIA) project. The overarching aim of City Deal is to enhance economic and employment prospects in the region through investment in key infrastructure projects and by supporting key sectors eg life sciences. Potentially much of this investment would have been in the form of foreign direct investment by overseas companies looking to locate their business in an area which would give them easy access to the UK, but also importantly the European market.

4.4.2   The City Deal Cabinet recently considered a report from KPMG which outlined potential implications for City Deal from the Brexit vote, including the fact that UK and Scottish Government funding is contingent on delivering additional economic benefit ie over and above what would have happened without City Deal. Any Brexit impacts will therefore affect the base case scenario which will require to be updated. Key messages from the report are:

- City Region investment is now even more relevant to generate economic growth, and there may be a case for accelerating the current programme to cushion some of the adverse economic impact of Brexit.

- The City Region economy is set to benefit from payments under the 2014-2020 EU budget, including Social Fund and Regional Development funding, and well as payments under the Common Agricultural Policy and research funding to Universities.

- Thereafter how the City Region is affected by the end of EU programmes will depend largely on future policies of the Scottish and UK governments.

- Post-Brexit, if powers are not reserved to Westminster, policy will automatically flow to the Scottish parliament eg regional and social policy, agriculture and fisheries.

- The downgrading of the UK's sovereign credit rating would be expected to push up borrowing costs, however the trend has recently been in the opposite direction as UK gilts are seen as a safe haven in uncertain times, pushing down gilt yields and

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therefore the rates at which Councils can borrow from the UK government.

4.4.3   A survey of infrastructure investors carried out by S&P Global ratings has suggested that over 70% were of the opinion that Brexit would suspend private investment in UK infrastructure for the full negotiation period, preferring to wait and see what the economic and Sterling impact will be. PWC in their recent UK economic outlook publication outline that overseas investment in commercial property will be particularly hit, and have also detailed that many commercial property funds have had to suspend trading in response to capital outflows. Taking an opposing view, the cheaper Pound could make the UK a more attractive investment in the longer term for those willing to take a risk while negotiations are ongoing, while the potential lifting of restrictions with regards state aid may provide opportunities for different development investment structures.

4.4.4   One further risk for the Glasgow City Region City Deal relates to the employment support projects (Youth Gateway and Working Matters) which are underpinned in part by EU funding. The delivery of these projects is potentially under some risk until the government clarifies how any gap in funding will be met.

4.5   Legal and procurement

4.5.1   The Council delivers its functions within a well established legal framework which includes provisions derived from Scottish, UK and EU legislation and case law. All existing EU provisions will continue to apply during the negotiation period following service of the Article 50 Notice. However, on the date that the UK's membership of the EU terminates, the continuing effect of any EU legal provision will depend primarily on the terms of the withdrawal agreement that has to be negotiated and also on the type of law and how it has been implemented in the UK.

4.5.2   There are two categories of EU legislation. There are the treaties and Regulations that are of direct effect (ie they don't need UK or Scottish legislation to implement them). In principle these will cease to have effect immediately on the UK's exit from the EU. The second category is law of indirect effect which is in EU Directives. These are the provisions that have to be transposed into domestic legislation through primary or secondary legislation. These provisions will continue to have effect unless specifically repealed.

4.5.3   EU law is adopted into UK law by the European Communities Act 1972. It provides for the direct import of EU Treaties into UK law which will mean that to prevent subsequent EU Treaties applying to the UK, the Act will require to be repealed. However, the UK Parliament is able to

introduce a statute to replace the1972 Act which will implement what has been agreed in the withdrawal agreement.

4.5.4   Due to the substantial amount of EU law that is now part of the UK legal system, it will be a difficult task to unpick all of this within a two year timescale. At this stage, it is understood that the UK Government intended approach will be to adopt a pragmatic approach, putting in place arrangements that will retain all aspects of EU law on day 1 following formal exit and thereafter undertake a programme to revise the as appropriate law over a longer period.

4.5.5   The Council will have a greater interest on how some areas of law derived from the EU are dealt with. For example, the council's procurement function is highly regulated by the EU Procurement regime. Also large areas of employment rights affecting the council's workforce such as maternity leave and TUPE, are derived from EU law; as are significant elements of environmental legislation. The Council will be required to ensure it remains aware of changes and anticipates potential areas where changes in legislation are likely. In this and other respects, particularly around the financial impact on the Council, the Chief Executive will set up a working group to closely examine the implications of Brexit as exit negotiations develop.

EU Nationals and Employees

4.5.6   In terms of the Renfrewshire population, there is limited information available as to the number of EU nationals living and working within the area. Detail from the electoral register suggests there are at least 2,000 EU nationals living in Renfrewshire – however this figure will not include any children, nor any EU nationals who have not attempted to register to vote. The rights after the UK leaves the EU for all EU nationals who reside in the UK and do not have residency status has yet to be clarified and may yet form part of the outcome of the exit negotiation process.

4.5.7   The Council will aim to actively support all Council employees who could be affected by the exit process, but particularly any EU nationals who are employees of the Council – data in this regard is based on employees voluntarily completing equalities questionnaires, so is subject to validation; however it appears that there are at least 20 EU nationals employed by the Council.

4.6   Community Planning Partners

4.6.1   The Council works cooperatively with its community planning partners, many of whom will also be affected directly and significantly by Brexit.

4.6.2   The NHS could be affected in a variety of ways:

- A substantial proportion of the NHS workforce consists of non-UK nationals. If following the exit of the UK from the EU it becomes more difficult to recruit EU nationals for key staff groups (eg

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consultants, specialist nurses), then this could have an impact on capacity of the NHS to maintain treatment time guarantees and possibly core services where sustainability would be under threat.

- It is not possible to say at this point what effect Brexit may have on pay policy or costs; however as mentioned above if Brexit results in a skills shortage, this could result in premiums being payable for certain skills.

- As with the economy generally, the fall in the Pound could result in higher costs of supplies and drugs sourced from outwith the UK; or difficulty in accessing these if trade agreements are not in place.

- Prior to the vote, Scotland's population was projected to increase by 4% over the next 10 years, much of this increase being attributable to net inward migration. It is possible that this projected increase is now overstated and will impact on future demand pressures.

4.6.3   Higher education could also be adversely affected and some general issues are outlined below.

- European collaboration with UK academics could be diminished, with some universities already reporting they have been asked to withdraw from joint submissions as EU colleagues have little confidence in what the future may hold for UK involvement in collaborative research.

- Current and prospective EU students at UK universities may fear their place may be under threat if their immigration status changes, or if access to student loans or tuition fees support is withdrawn.

- It may be more difficult to attract and recruit EU academics, and also prospective EU students such as those on the Erasmus+ student exchange programme. In the Glasgow City Region in 14/15 there were 6,400 undergraduate and post graduate students from EU member states, 8% of the total.

4.6.4   The University of the West of Scotland is likely to suffer from some if not all of these issues (UWS has in excess of 1,000 EU students and 100 EU staff members), and the Council will discuss these issues with the University and other Community Planning Partners in the coming weeks. UWS has stressed that there is no immediate material change to the University's business, including participation in EU programmes

such as Horizon 2020 (an EU funded research and innovation programme) and Erasmus+.

4.7   <u>Local business and connectivity</u>

4.7.1   As detailed above there are many areas where Brexit implications are currently unclear. Owing to these uncertainties there is an increasing risk that businesses will be reluctant to make significant decisions related to investment or recruitment.

4.7.2   An indication of business sentiment is available from a recent Fraser of Allander business survey, which suggests that over 60% of firms surveyed conclude Brexit will have a negative impact on their business, while only 19% viewed Brexit as being positive for their firm. Strikingly, 85% of firms stated they had made little or no preparation for an exit vote, therefore a key priority for many will be assessing what Brexit will mean for them. Building capacity and expertise for a post-Brexit business environment will – as for the government - take time.

4.7.3   For some businesses, notably those who are net exporters, the weakness of the Pound will make their products and services more competitive in the short term. The outcome of trade negotiations however will be critical to the success or difficulty many businesses will face in the longer term. In addition to the economic environment, changes the regulatory environment will impact on business eg changes to VAT regulations, the possible reintroduction of customs levies and controls as well as employment legislation. Some changes could benefit businesses where there is a relaxation of rules or removal of "red tape", which makes the UK more attractive to external investment; however these changes could also affect workers rights.

4.7.4   Renfrewshire hosts many business of national significance (Chivas, Diageo, Rolls Royce, HP) for whom the implications of Brexit are again uncertain. Glasgow Airport is also a large local employer and plays a key role in the nation's infrastructure and connectivity. Whilst there is still a great deal of uncertainty following the EU referendum, the airport has had early conversations with a number of airlines who harbour very real concerns. EasyJet has seen its costs increase by £40m in the four weeks since the referendum as a result of the drop in the pound vs the dollar. As airlines purchase fuel in dollars, they have experienced a marked increase in their cost base. Ryanair has stated it is unlikely to base any additional aircraft in the UK in 2017 as they will be allocated to European Union (EU) airports, whilst Wizz Air has confirmed it is planning to cut its proposed expansion in the UK following Brexit.

All three airlines have contributed to Glasgow Airport's growth in passenger numbers over the past 18 months. Early indications from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) also suggest the number of UK air passengers could be 3-5% lower by 2020 as a result of Brexit.

4.7.5   Maintaining access to the European Single Aviation Market and the EU's multilateral aviation agreements (also known as 'Open Skies'

agreements) is a priority for Glasgow Airport. This access has allowed the aviation industry to grow, deliver cheaper air fares and open up new destinations at home and abroad. This continued access to international markets is crucial to supporting the UK aviation sector's future success and growth.

4.8   Housing

4.8.1   There was some speculation in advance of the vote of the potential impact of a Brexit vote on house prices and demand; with some commentators suggesting both would collapse. While there is some anecdotal evidence of a reduction in some sale prices, there is also evidence that prices are holding up (eg the Nationwide Building Society July 2016 data for mortgage offers).

4.8.2   There is also some evidence since the vote of a reduction in houses being put up for sale as sellers adopt a "wait-and-see" approach which could be sustaining prices, in addition to an acknowledged under-supply of new housing.

4.8.3   Fears of poor economic growth in the UK have had an impact on the value of house builders, with many seeing a sharp fall in their share prices following the Brexit vote which has not rebounded as other FTSE companies have. There is also anecdotal evidence of some hesitance by housebuilders to commit to further developments. Whilst there is no indication of any impact for strategic housing sites in Renfrewshire eg the Bishopton ROF site, the Council should remain alert to market sentiment.

4.8.4   The demand for affordable housing is unlikely to diminish in the wake of the Brexit vote, and could possibly be exacerbated if there is a general economic downturn. Investment in housing, as with infrastructure project investment generally, could be viewed as a tool to mitigate the potential impact of the Brexit vote.

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Implications of the Report

1.   **Financial** – the Brexit vote presents significant economic and financial risks for the Council as outlined in the report.

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2.   **HR & Organisational Development** – as outlined in the report.

3.   **Community Planning** – as outlined in the report

4.   **Legal** – as outlined in the report

5.   **Property/Assets** - none

6.   **Information Technology** – n/a

7.   **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.   If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8.   **Health & Safety** – n/a

9.   **Procurement** – there could be significant changes to procurement regulations following Brexit, however the UK government could opt to continue with regulations at a UK level which reflect the EU standards in order to accommodate any requirement to continue to be able to access EU markets.

10.   **Risk** – as outlined in the report.

11.   **Privacy Impact** – n/a

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List of Background Papers

(a) UK Economic Outlook, PWC, July 2016

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(b) EU Referendum: Impact of Brexit on the Government & Public Sector, Ernst Young, 27 June 2016

(c) Glasgow City Region City Deal, Brexit - Briefing on possible implication for City Deal, KPMG, (report to City Deal Cabinet 16 August 2016)

(d) Economic Commentary, Fraser of Allander, July 2016

(e) Business Survey: First Reactions to EU Referendum Outcome, Fraser of Allander, 15 July 2016

(f) Inflation Report, Bank of England, August 2016

(g) Brexit and Local Government, House of Commons Briefing Paper, Number 07664, 20 July 2016

(h) UK Commercial Property Market Survey, Q2 2016, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

(i) Markit Flash UK PMI, News Release, 22 July 2016

(j) CFO Survey Q2 2016, Deloitte

(k) "TrEUble and Strife" report, CIPFA

(l) EY Item Club Summer Forecast, Ernst Young, July 2016

(m) Brexit – A public sector perspective, Grant Thornton

(n) Understanding local government Brexit Impacts, Grant Thornton, 31 July 2016

(o) The process of withdrawing from the European Union, HM Government, Cm 9216, February 2016

(p) "IMF warns of 'spanner in the works' and slashes forecasts", article in Financial Times, 20 July 2016

(q) World Economic Outlook, Update July 2016, IMF, July 2016

(r) Brexit: What next for Scotland's Economic Strategy?, Fraser of Allander, July 2016

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Author: Alastair MacArthur, Head of Finance Ext 7363

EU Funded Programmes

1.   **Business Competitiveness** (Total **£0.385m** EU grant funding from 2015-2018)

This project is for the delivery of access to finance to meet the needs of growth start-ups and growing businesses in Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde and enhance the services available via Business Gateway. This activity will provide suitable financial products which are designed to improve the survival rate of new enterprises and ensure sustainable business growth. The fund will support a range of SME sectors representative of the Renfrewshire economy.

New Start Growth Fund – growth start-ups in their first twelve months of trading.

Grant funding will be available up to a maximum level of £1,000

A business plan must accompany an application for financial support.

Growth Development Fund

This fund will offer discretionary business support and financial assistance to enterprises showing growth potential. Grants will be available at a rate of 50% of eligible costs, up to a maximum of £10,000.

2.   **Employability Pipeline** (Total **£1.687m** EU grant funding from 2015-2018)

This project supports the delivery of the Invest in Renfrewshire Employability Programme offered to Renfrewshire residents of all ages seeking support to access, improve and sustain their employability. The primary focus of this Operation is unemployed and inactive residents aged over 29 years, and will target those with health related barriers; those aged over 54 years; s, long-term unemployed, those in workless households, refugees, lone parents and those with low skills and multiple barriers to employment. The Operation will also support residents under the age of 29 years with multiple barriers to employment that are ineligible for YEI.

Activities include:

• Key Worker support including dedicated support at Stage 4/5 to transit, sustain and progress in employment
• Core skills, personal development, vocational skills and qualifications; and sector academy models
• Supported work experience and transitional employment

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3. **Youth Employment Initiative** (Total **£5.030m** EU grant funding from 2015-2018)

This project supports the delivery of our Invest in Renfrewshire Youth Employment Initiative to Renfrewshire residents aged 16-29 years who are not in education or training (NEET) and who are seeking support to access, improve and sustain their employability. This project excludes participants aged over 29 years or who are in full or part time education or training at the point of accessing the service. These clients are dealt with in our Invest in Renfrewshire Pipeline Operation.

The programme offers an intensive programme of support targeted on those who are furthest from the labour market, in particular, care leavers/LAAC, lone parents, homelessness, addictions, those with health issues and disabilities as well as those with low skills and multiple barriers to employment.

Activities include:

- Key Worker support for advice and guidance through all stages of the pipeline
- Core skills, personal development and vocational skills and qualifications
- Job search, job matching, CV development, applications and interview techniques
- Supported work experience and transitional employment opportunities
- Recruitment Incentives
- Sector based academy models

4. **Poverty and Social Inclusion** (Total **£0.391m** EU grant funding from 2015-2018)

Renfrewshire Council delivers employability services through the Invest in Renfrewshire (IiR) programme.   This project will deliver specialist support to clients with multiple barriers accessing employability services in Renfrewshire.

These services will complement provision delivered through the Pipeline and YEI. Specialist staff will provide support and advice in relation to health and wellbeing, finance, childcare and housing. Clients accessing these services will also be receiving employability support through the Pipeline or through Youth Employment Initiative (YEI).

Project Search, an intervention for young people with autism and learning disabilities will also be supported through the Poverty and Social Inclusion strand.

5. **LEADER** (Total **£2.323m** EU grant funding from 2015-2020)

LEADER is a bottom-up method of delivering support to communities for rural development. Grants are awarded via the Local Action Groups to projects that support delivery of the Local Development Strategy and the three key themes of the Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (GRI) LEADER Programme - economy, environment and community.

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The aim of LEADER is to increase support to local rural community and business networks to build knowledge and skills, and encourage innovation and cooperation in order to tackle local development objectives.

The GRI programme includes actions that will allow individuals, communities and businesses to:

- To support SMEs and micro businesses
- To promote tourism and increase the number of day visitors
- To secure a higher quality environment for residents and visitors
- To build stronger, more self-reliant and inclusive rural communities.

A proportion of the funding must be spent on business development, farm diversification and co-operation projects.

In addition to the above projects, the Council has a live application in progress for almost £3.8 million - the Paisley Actions and Innovations for a Strong Local Economy submitted prior to the Brexit vote. Usually only 1 or 2 awards are made under this particular EU programme, applications are highly competitive and therefore by nature the chances of success are more limited. Notwithstanding that context, the Council's application had progressed through the first round and is still under consideration.

Renfrewshire
Council

Renfrewshire
Council

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To: Leadership Board

On: 14 September 2016

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Report by: Chief Executive

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Heading: Strategic Partnership Agreement With West College Scotland

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1. **Summary**

1.1 Renfrewshire Council seeks to strengthen continually its relationship with key strategic partners in order to be effective in delivering services that have the maximum positive impact for Renfrewshire residents.

1.2 A Strategic Partnership Agreement has been developed with West College Scotland as a key partner that drives the attainment of skills and qualifications for Renfrewshire residents and contributes significantly to the value and competitiveness of the Renfrewshire economy. The Strategic Partnership Agreement is attached at Appendix 1.

1.3 The Strategic Partnership Agreement with West College Scotland is structured around four key strategic themes of Place; Economy and Jobs; Learning; and Expertise and Innovation. These four key themes will ensure that workstreams developed through the Strategic Partnership Agreement will remain focused on issues that deliver the greatest benefit to the Renfrewshire economy and residents. Strategic priorities aligned to each of the four themes have been developed have been identified from the Renfrewshire Council Plan and the West College Scotland strategic priorities document "Collective Ambition, Pride and Passion 2015-2020".

1

1.4   In particular, opportunities for collaboration between the Council and West College have been identified in relation to:

- Tackling social and economic deprivation within communities.

- Widening digital access and building digital skills.
- Equipping students with skills, attitudes, qualifications and experience to take advantage of City Deal opportunities and deliver more and better jobs for Renfrewshire.

- Developing student skills and experience to raise the overall level of attainment, but in particular reduce the attainment gap.

- Develop partnerships to transfer skills, knowledge and innovation to create an environment that encourages the testing of new ideas.

1.5   The partnership with West College Scotland will complement the Strategic Partnership Agreement agreed previously by the Council with the University of the West of Scotland. Opportunities for partnership working between Council, College and University will be identified from the Strategic Partnership Agreements to maximise collaborative gain.

1.6   The Strategic Partnership Agreement identifies individual officers from both West College Scotland and Renfrewshire Council to lead development of work on each of the four key themes and a Governance structure to steer and monitor progress on delivery of workstreams.

1.7   It is intended that West College Scotland will agree the Strategic Partnership Agreement with the Council through its own Governance structures in October 2016 and that the Strategic Partnership Agreement will be progressed by the Council/WCS partnership group.

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2.   Recommendations

2.1   It is recommended that members of the Leadership Board approve the Strategic Partnership Agreement with West College Scotland.

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3.   Background

3.1   Renfrewshire Council is seeking to strengthen partnership working with key partners, within the context of the development of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership.

3.2 The first Strategic Partnership Agreement was concluded between the Council and University of the West of Scotland and reported to the Leadership Board on 17 February 2016. The framework used for the Agreement with the University has been used as a template for development of a Strategic Partnership Agreement with West College Scotland.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The proposed SPA will create opportunities for sharing resources and collaborative working efficiencies.

2. **HR & Organisational Development** – No Implications

3. **Community Planning –** The intention of the Strategic Partnership Agreement is to strengthen partnership working with a specific community planning partner as part of continued development of an effective Community Planning Partnership.

4. **Legal** – No implications

5. **Property/Assets** – The proposed SPA will strengthen joint planning by UWS and the Council on property and assets.

6. **Information Technology** – No implications

7. **Equality & Human Rights** – No implications

8. **Health & Safety** - No implications

9. **Procurement** – The proposed SPA may create opportunities for benefits through joint procurement

10. **Risk** – This will be managed through the Council's risk management arrangements.

11. **Privacy Impact** – No implications

3

List of Background Papers

Renfrewshire Council Plan 2016-2017

West College Scotland: Collective Ambition, Pride and Passion 2015-2020

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Chief Executive's Service for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is *Stuart Graham, Partnerships Planning and Development Manager stuart.graham@renfrewshire.gov.uk, 0141 618 7408*

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Author   *Stuart Graham, Partnerships Planning and Development Manager, 0141 618 7408*

4

Strategic Partnership Agreement

between

Renfrewshire Council and West College Scotland

5

FOREWORD

PICTURE	PICTURE
	Cllr Macmillan

West College Scotland and Renfrewshire Council are ambitious about improving outcomes for the College's students and the benefits this brings to businesses and communities in Renfrewshire. Both organisations have their own strategic objectives and clear plans to achieve them, but we recognise that there are areas where we can achieve more by working in partnership.

As key partners and neighbours within the Renfrewshire area we are committed to supporting each other achieve our strategic objectives and we have identified a number of areas where close collaboration will deliver significant mutual benefit for our two organisations.

This Strategic Partnership Agreement provides a framework for West College Scotland and Renfrewshire Council to develop innovative, collaborative working that takes full advantage of each other's strengths and delivers real benefit for Renfrewshire students and communities.

Audrey Cumberford
Principal
West College Scotland

Councillor Mark Macmillan
Leader
Renfrewshire Council

1

1 PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

West College Scotland (the College) and Renfrewshire Council (the Council) are key organisations within the Renfrewshire area and each is committed to working collaboratively with the other to support the achievement of their respective strategic objectives.

This Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) sets out how the College and the Council will strengthen this relationship and focus resources on those high priority areas that are common to both organisation's strategic plans.

2 BACKGROUND

The College and the Council have a history of collaboration and the College is an active partner in the Community Planning arrangements for Renfrewshire. Both organisations have ambitious strategic plans which are being implemented within a constrained public sector fiscal environment. Both organisations recognise the value to be gained from effective and efficient collaboration.

A mapping exercise of contacts between the two organisations has been carried out. This identified that a significant amount of contact was taking place on a wide range of matters from routine operational issues to significant strategic initiatives.

Going forward, both organisations wish to strengthen collaboration by streamlining contact arrangements and ensuring that their finite resources are focussed on those areas of strongest common strategic interest. An analysis and comparison of the strategic plans for both organisations has been carried out to identify those areas and which are outlined in the following section.

3   FOCUS AREA FOR COLLABORATION

The focus areas for this SPA have been grouped into four key strategic themes as outlined in the table below.

Strategic Theme	Renfrewshire Council Strategic Priorities	West College Scotland Strategic Priorities
PLACE	• Regeneration of Paisley town centre	• Maximise value of the college estate and collaborate with partners for estates development and collective approaches to the use of space.
	• City of Culture 2021 Bid	• Grow profile and reputation nationally and internationally and create a distinct identity for West College Scotland**.**
	• Tackling Poverty	• Play a leading and pivotal role in tackling the significant social and economic deprivation in many communities in the West Region.
	• Carbon footprint reduction	• Develop an environmentally sustainable college.
	• Digital access	• Implement a whole college approach to developing the student digital experience.
ECONOMY & JOBS	• City Deal	• Provide students with most appropriate skills, attitudes and experiences to secure future employment.
	• More and better jobs for Renfrewshire	• Students are equipped with relevant training, qualifications and essential skills for employment and life.

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		• Involve industry in shaping, developing and delivering provision to enhance the overall student experience.
	• Tackling Poverty	• Vocational opportunities are a valued choice for all school pupils, with new routes to vocational qualifications and training contributing to increased positive destinations.
	• Increasing business start ups	• Develop partnerships, connections and alliances with business and industry to ensure employers are directly involved and invest in education and skills development.
LEARNING	• Reducing the attainment gap and raising overall attainment of Renfrewshire's young people.	• Achieve performance standards that set West College Scotland apart from other organisations.
		• Ensure all students have access to comprehensive, appropriate and responsive services to enable their success.
		• Develop international, community planning and business partnerships to enhance the curriculum, skills provision and student experience.
	• Improving outcomes for "looked after" young people.	• Provide effective transition and progression opportunities for students.
	• Positive destinations for school leavers	• Develop digital literacy and independent learning skills.

4

EXPERTISE & INNOVATION	• Improving access to expertise and resources within WCS.	• Contribute to research opportunities, including working with partners locally, nationally and internationally.
		• Look for new partners and new areas of activity which will grow income to reinvest in West College Scotland's core business.
		Develop strategic alliances with key agencies to enhance local, national and international activities.
	• Creating an environment that encourages the testing of new ideas and innovations.	• Be a strategic resource and valued partner, building relationships, leveraging resources to design, develop and deliver our products and services.
		• Develop partnerships to support skills development, knowledge transfer, innovation and enterprise for a global economy.

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4   GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The SPA will be governed by a Strategic Partnership Board, supported by a Lead Officers Group. The membership, responsibilities and meeting frequency of these two groups is detailed in Annex 1.

Meeting frequency

Twice yearly	Strategic Partnership Sponsors WCS Principal, RC Leader
Three times yearly	Executive Board
Quarterly	Lead Officer Group

WCS Lead Officer RC Lead Officer **PLACE**	WCS Lead Officer RC Lead Officer **ECONOMY**	WCS Lead Officer RC Lead Officer **LEARNING**	WCS Lead Officer RC Lead Officer **EXPERTISE**

As required
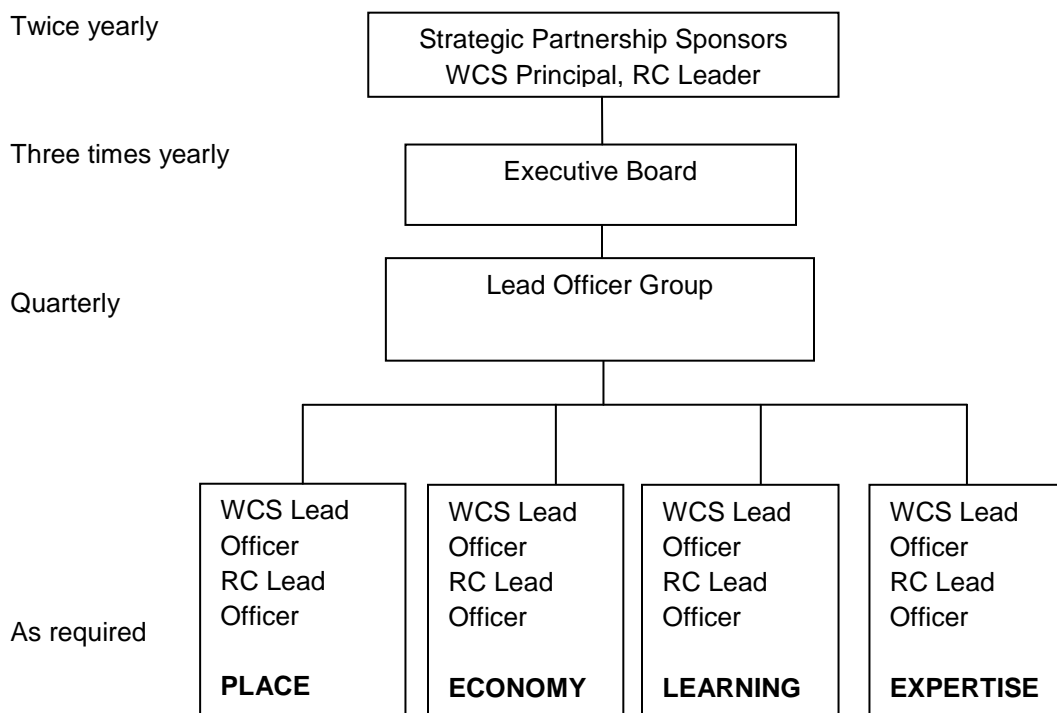
Role of Lead Officers

The College and the Council will identify individual Lead Officers for each of the strategic focus areas. These officers will be responsible for co-ordinating their organisations input to the relevant workstreams supporting these areas.

The College and the Council will also identify a single Senior Officer with overall responsibility for managing the processes associated with this SPA and ensuring its effective operation.

6

Linkage with Community Planning

The Council is statutorily responsible for co-ordinating Community Planning within Renfrewshire and seeks to do this in the most effective and efficient manner. The current arrangements for Community Planning are to be reviewed in light of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and it is the intention that this SPA will form part of the revised Community Planning arrangements. The aim will be to enhance the effectiveness of collaboration between the College and the Council and maximise the value gained from the resources invested.

5   JOINT WORKING PRINCIPLES

The College and the Council wish to use this SPA to strengthen the relationship between the two organisations in support of their mutual objectives. This will be achieved by adopting the following principles:

Principle	Behaviours
Clarity	Ensuring that the basis for collaboration is clearly articulated and the understood by both partners.
Mutual understanding and respect for differences	Seeking to understanding the specific environment and constraints faced by each partner and respecting those areas of differences.
Supportive	Committing to be supportive of each partner's strategic objectives.
Equality	Working together on the basis of an equal standing.
Openness and honesty	Commitment to dealing with each other in an open and honest matter and constructively seeking to resolve any issues/conflicts that emerge.
Fairness	Seeking to maintain fairness in all dealings between partners.
Informative	Seeking to keep each other informed of important developments and initiatives.
Confidentiality	Maintaining confidentiality as appropriate to the information made available by partners.
Best use of time and resources	Ensuring that all collaborative activities seek to make best use of partner's finite resources and expertise.

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6 PERIOD OF AGREEMENT

The agreement will run from 1 October 2016 to 31 December 2017. This period has been chosen to allow for Council elections in May 2017 to take place and for the priorities of the new Administration to be identified. It will also allow for the submission of the Paisley UK City of Culture 20121 bid. It is the expectation of both parties that this SPA would be replaced by a new agreement which would reflect any changes to the priorities of both organisations.

8

Strategic Partnership Agreement Governance arrangements

Strategic Partnership Sponsors

Sponsors	Responsibilities	Meeting frequency
WCS Principal – Audrey Cumberford RC Leader – Cllr Mark Macmillan	To strengthen relationships between the two organisations and deepen understanding of each others strategic priorities and challenges. To maintain strategic oversight of the SPA. To identify and agree new matters to be referred to the Executive Officers Group for development. To consider recommendations made by the Executive Board for changes to the SPA.	Twice yearly:

Executive Board

Membership	Responsibilities	Meeting frequency
WCS Principal WCS Executive Team RC Chief Executive RC Senior Management Team RC Coordinating Officer	To strengthen relationships between the two organisations and deepen understanding of each others strategic priorities and challenges. To oversee progress of the collaborative activity covered by the SPA and discuss and resolve any issues referred from the Lead Officers Group. To consider any matters referred for development by the SPA Sponsors and to instruct the Lead Officers to undertake development work as appropriate. To make recommendations to the SPA Sponsors for changes to the SPA.	Thrice yearly:

Lead Officers Group

Membership	Responsibilities	Meeting frequency
WCS 　　Place – David Alexander 　　Economy– Liz Connolly 　　Learning – Stephanie Graham 　　Expertise – Sara Rae RC 　　Place – Stuart Macmillan 　　Economy – Alasdair Morrison 　　Learning – Gordon McKinlay 　　Expertise – David Amos	To develop and progress the workstreams within each of the four strategic themes. To discuss and resolve any issues relating to cross cutting matters within the four strategic themes. To identify any issues for referral to the Strategic Partnership Group. To agree and prepare reports for the Executive Group and the Strategic Partnership Sponsors.	Quarterly: Note: lead officers may also meet on an ad-hoc basis as appropriate.

SPA Coordinating Officers

Officers	Responsibilities	Meeting frequency
WCS – Liz Connolly, Vice Principal, West College Scotland RC – David Amos, Head of Policy and Commissioning	To manage the processes associated with the SPA and ensure its effective operation. To co-ordinate the activity of the Lead officer's Group, identify and resolve any duplication, overlap or in-consistencies etc. To maintain oversight of contacts between the two organisations and act as first point of contact for consideration of new opportunities.	As per Lead Officers Group and ad-hoc as required.

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To: Leadership Board

On: 14th September 2016

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Auditing Best Value – a new approach

1.   Summary

1.1   The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and supporting Statutory Ministerial Guidance sets out the statutory duties and characteristics of a Council that is demonstrating Best Value. Audit Scotland have assessed if Local Authorities are meeting this duty through their audit work.

1.2   In 2014, Audit Scotland reviewed the Best Value 2 audit process, which covered 17 local authorities, included 26 audits across 5 years. Following on from this review, the Accounts Commission approved a new approach to Best Value audits on the 9th June 2016. This new approach sets out that all Scottish Councils will have a Best Value Assurance Report in the next five years, in order to provide greater assurances to the public that all Local Authorities are meeting their Best Value duties, rather than focus on local authorities where improvement is required.

1.3   The Accounts Commission have identified six councils for whom a Best Value Assurance Report will be completed between October 2016 and April 2017, Renfrewshire Council is one of the six.

1.4   This paper provides the Leadership Board with an overview of the key principles of the new Best Value approach, further details on the timescales of the audit, the changes to the auditing requirements for this new approach and the impact for Renfrewshire Council.

2.   Recommendations

2.1   It is recommended that members note:

- the contents of this report; and
- that Renfrewshire Council will be subject to a Best Value Assurance Report in 2016-2017.

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3.   Background

3.1.   Renfrewshire Council's last Best Value Audit took place in 2005 with the outcome being reported to the Accounts Commission in June 2006. Twelve broad areas for improvement for the Council were identified and progress was reported to the former Scrutiny and Petitions Board. Through this Best Value process each Local Authority was audited on a 3 year cycle.

3.2   Following on from the Crerar Report[1] Audit Scotland introduced a new proportionate and risk based approach to Best Value from 2009, often known as BV2. BV2 was based on an annual shared risk assessment process involving all scrutiny bodies that engaged with the Council such as the Scottish Housing Regulator). The aim of the shared risk assessment process has been to identify risks and develop a local Assurance and Improvement Plan. From 2009 to the present day this BV2 approach has covered 17 local authorities and included 26 audits (including follow up audits).

3.3   As the BV2 approach was heavily focused on risk, a number of high performing Councils with a mature and well developed approach to self-assessment were not subject to a Best Value 2 audit, which included Renfrewshire Council. This has meant that a handful of Councils have not had a BV audit in over ten years, therefore to provide greater assurances to the public for all Councils the Accounts Commission requested a review of Best Value.

4.   Review of Best Value 2014

4.1   Audit Scotland reviewed the Best Value 2 audits and approach in 2014. Following this review, new principles were agreed for the next approach. These are:
- include an emphasis on judgments;
- conclusions and recommendations for improvement;
- coverage of the wider scope for public audit as set out in the Code of Audit Practice;

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[1] Crerar Review "Independent review of Regulation, Audit, Inspection and Complaints Handling of Public Services in Scotland", October 2007

- commentary on a council's self evaluation;
- the effectiveness of its performance management arrangements; and
- commentary on the performance of a council in meeting the needs of its customers and communities.

4.2   This new approach will also be used as a platform to highlight positive audits and good practice. The introduction of the framework coincides with the new five-year audit appointments by the Commission.

5.   Best Value new approach - Year 1 Programme

5.1   The Accounts Commission recently issued a letter to all 32 Chief Executives setting out which councils will be subject to a Best Value assurance report in year 1, the six councils are:

1. Clackmannanshire;
2. East Renfrewshire;
3. Orkney;
4. Inverclyde;
5. Renfrewshire; and
6. West Lothian.

5.2   The Accounts Commission has advised that the audit work will commence in October 2016, when the newly appointed audit team is in place, the Commission will consider the first of the six Best Value Assurance reports in the spring 2017, but not before the local government elections.

6.   Changes to Auditing Practices for the new approach

6.1   As part of the annual audit, Auditors will now need to assess the following four dimensions: financial sustainability, financial management, governance and transparency and value for money. Conclusions will be drawn from the audit as an indication of the extent to which councils are achieving Best Value.

6.2   In previous years, the local audit team completed the annual accounts, statutory performance indicators, benefit performance audits etc whilst the central Best Value team in Edinburgh completed the Best Value audits, in an allocated number of days. This will change from October 2016. Our newly appointed audit team will be leading on the listed audit work above as well as the Best Value approach for Renfrewshire Council from October 2016.

6.3   In addition, the Shared Risk Assessment that occurs in November/December annually will be changed to a continuous assessment process. Auditors will undertake risk assessments and gather intelligence against the Best Value approach over the five year term, this will feed into the annual audit reports and Best Value assurance reports. Exhibit 1 sets out Audit Scotland's planning framework.

Exhibit 1 Audit planning framework
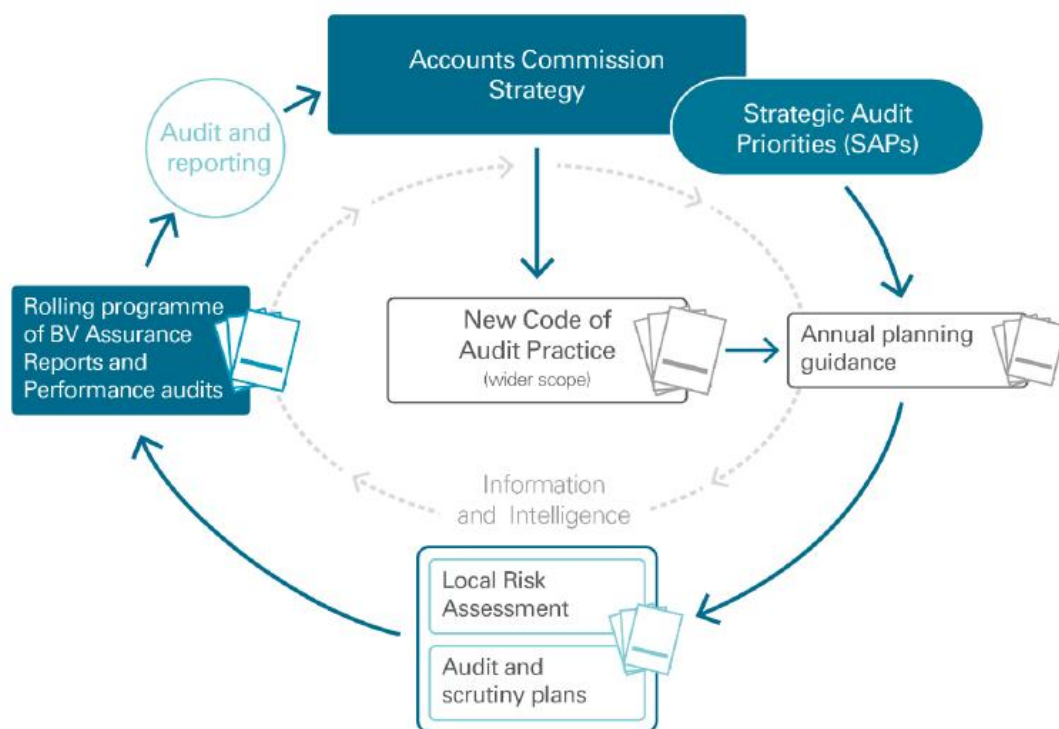
Source: Audit Scotland, 2016

7.   Impact for Renfrewshire Council

7.1   From October 2016, a new external audit team, from Audit Scotland, will be based in the Council. A Senior Audit Manager and Assistant Director of Audit Services will be leading on the new audit team, as well as the Best Value approach for Renfrewshire Council from October 2016. This will mean a far more continuous approach to engagement with the audit team, as they will be undertaking the Best Value Assurance report for the Council. Preparations and a programme for the new audit team are being worked on to assist with the transition of audit teams.

7.2   In June 2016, an Overview of Local Government Scotland 2015 was reported to Leadership Board, it noted the impact of reductions in public sector budgets coupled with increasing demand pressures on the provision of services. Despite these challenging times, as a Council we are focused on our priorities for Renfrewshire residents, such as Tackling Poverty and Regeneration, delivering our ambitious Better Council change management programme and our continued commitment to continuous improvement.

7.3   In conclusion, as part of evidence for the Best Value Assurance Report, Audit Scotland will be using available information and intelligence (i.e. service improvement plan reports) and may in addition request to meet with a selection of Elected Members.

Implications of the Report

1.   Financial *- none*

2.   HR & Organisational Development *- none*

3.   Community Planning – *none*

4.   Legal *- none.*

5.   Property/Assets *- none*

6.   Information Technology *- none*

7.   **Equality & Human Rights** *- none*

      (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** *-* Shared Risk Assessment is a proportionate and risk-based approach to assessing Scottish Councils.

11.   **Privacy Impact** *- none*

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List of Background Papers

(a)   Background Paper 1 – Auditing Best Value – A Summary of overall framework for our new approach, Audit Scotland.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Chief Executive's Service for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is *Nicola Irvine-Brown, Assistant Strategic Planning & Policy Development Manager* *Nicola.irvine@renfrewshire.gov.uk, 0141 618 7414*

_____

Author   *Nicola Irvine-Brown, Assistant Strategic Planning & Policy Development Manager, 0141 618 7414*

To: Leadership Board

On: 14 September 2016

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

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1. Summary

1.1 In June 2016 a report was submitted to Leadership Board which updated members on national developments that were taking place in relation to unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).

1.2 Specifically the report noted the intention of the UK Government to implement a national transfer scheme which would seek to disperse the 1000 plus unaccompanied children who are currently seeking asylum in Kent. Officers from the Council have been exploring options to support a small number of UASC in Renfrewshire and a proposed service model has now been developed for implementation during Autumn 2016 subject to board approval and agreement with the Home Office and Care Inspectorate.

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2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that members:

- Note the work undertaken by officers to consider the legal and financial implications of supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Renfrewshire and the role of officers in related national working groups

- Agree that the Director of Childrens Services now implements the proposed local support arrangements for UASC in Renfrewshire, subject to Care Inspectorate approval and final Home Office agreement.

---

3. Background

3.1 In June 2016, a report was submitted to the Leadership Board which provided an update on national developments relating to unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and the implications of these developments for the Council. The report noted that there are currently in excess of 1000 UASC currently receiving support from Kent County Council, with the UK Government now intending to move to a national transfer protocol which would seek to re-distribute this population of children and young people more evenly across the UK.

3.2 The Board agreed that the Council should seek to extend an offer of support to a small number of unaccompanied children and young people, subject to further more detailed work being conducted by senior officers to consider any associated legal and financial implications arising from offering this support. During the summer, officers from the Council have been working through some of these implications and have developed a service model which is able to support a small number of UASC initially.

Update on legal and financial implications

3.3 Elected members will be aware from the report in June that there is an urgent need in particular to offer support to older children, with available accommodation and educational placements under significant pressure within the Kent area. The UASC currently in Kent are from a variety of different countries including Afghanistan, Iraq and from Sub-Saharan African countries and countries such as Syria.

3.4 Unaccompanied children and young people are granted looked after status under current legislation, and must be supported by the local authority responsible for their care to apply for UK residency ahead of their 18th birthday. A decision is then made by the Home Office as to whether to grant permanent leave to remain in the UK. There is some potential for local authorities to incur legal costs in terms of supporting UASC through this process, particularly where an appeal is lodged if a child is not granted leave to remain in the first instance.

3.5 A range of legal issues relating to the provision of support to UASC, and which are pertinent to Scotland alone, are currently being explored through a national working group lead by the Scottish Government funded Migration, Population and Diversity team in partnership with the Home Office. A fundamental issue which requires to be addressed relates to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 which requires that support is available to all "looked after children" until their 26th birthday. Different arrangements apply in Scotland than in the rest of the UK in terms of supporting young people leaving care, and the current funding arrangements available to support UASC do not reflect the Scottish position.

3.6 From 1 July, the UK Government has been seeking to sign up local authorities to a national transfer protocol which would commit the Council to resettling a designated number of UASC based on the size of our local child population. The Home Office is likely to enforce this protocol in the future, and is working with the Scottish Government to take this forward in Scotland. Officers from the Council continue to support national work being progressed to ensure that the protocol meets the requirements of the Scottish local authorities based on the nature of current provision for looked after children and the legislative requirements which underpin these services.

3.7   It is unlikely that the legal implications relating to the provision of support to UASC will be resolved quickly at a Scottish level. Due to the recognised experience in Renfrewshire gained through the provision of support to Syrian refugees, the Home Office will work with the Council on a unilateral basis, and have indicated that they will support the development of the model proposed in Renfrewshire which with the experiences of other Scottish local authorities will seek to inform the development of a national commissioning model of service for UASC in Scotland.

Model of support

3.8   As highlighted above, significant pressure is being experienced in Kent in relation to older children, and as such local work to explore options for supporting UASC have focused on developing a service model which would meet the requirements of this group of children. Senior officers from Children's Services in partnership with Development and Housing Services, have been developing a service model which would seek to support young people within communities. The young people who would be supported in Renfrewshire would receive support to live independently and maintain a tenancy, to integrate in local communities, and to access opportunities to learn English and to access education and vocational opportunities.

3.9   The development of this model would require a variation to the current registration of the Throughcare service which would manage the delivery of this service. Early discussions are underway with the Care Inspectorate to progress this variation, which is essential to the Council's ability to participate in this particular scheme using the model proposed.

3.10   The funding allocated by the Home Office ranges from £31 to 42k depending on the age of the child, with a weekly support payment available for all young people when they turn 18. Any additional costs relating to the provision of service to UASC will require to be met by the host local authority. For example, the needs of the child or young person may change at any time and similar to the experience with the Syrian families, the trauma of conflict and personal experiences may not come to light through initial assessment, with needs becoming apparent several months after arrival.

3.11   In addition, as highlighted above officers have identified that additional legal costs may be incurred by the Council in relation to applications for permanent residency which the Council would be required to support children and young people in making. Given the looked after status of the children and young people, the Council may also be required to meet additional living costs to support the child and young person after their 18th birthday and during the residency application process should appeals be lodged.

4.   Integration support

4.1   To support the integration of refugees and asylum seeking children, as well as the increasing number of people who are settling in Renfrewshire from other countries and cultures, work is progressing to develop an integration network which brings together a range of organisations and community groups who play a role in terms of supporting successful integration within communities. The integration network would seek to involve all faith and community groups who can offer support to people from other countries and cultures coming to live in Renfrewshire.

Implications of the Report

1.   **Financial** – There are financial implications relating to the resettlement of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Renfrewshire. This is potentially a long term financial commitment for the Council and arrangements would require to be made for any costs to the Council over and above the funding provided by the Home Office, to be adequately provided for in the relevant Council budgets.

2.   **HR & Organisational Development** - none

3.   **Community Planning –**
There are implications and opportunities for local communities as the unaccompanied asylum seeking children integrate within local communities. Council officers will work with local communities to support successful integration.

4.   **Legal** – Officers from the Council continue to engage in national discussions relating to the transfer protocol and relevant legislation which underpins the support of UASC in Scotland by local authorities.

5.   **Property/Assets** - none

6.   **Information Technology** - none

7.   **Equality & Human Rights** - none

                (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** – Officers will continue to engage with Police Scotland and with other appropriate organisations to ensure that services meet the requirements of these vulnerable groups.

11.   **Privacy Impact** - none

List of Background Papers – n/a

Author   *Laura McIntyre, Strategic Planning and Policy Development Manager Tel 0141 618 6807*

To: Leadership Board

On: 14 September 2016

Report by: Director of Development and Housing

Heading: Paisley Town Centre – 10 year Action Plan

1 Summary

1.1. The regeneration of Renfrewshire's Town Centre remains one of the key priorities of the Renfrewshire Council Plan.

1.2. Whilst a number of Action Plans and Masterplans have been prepared in the past for Paisley Town Centre these do not reflect the current context in relation to the investment in the three Renfrewshire City Deal projects or the preparation of our bid for UK City of Culture 2021.

1.3. The Action Plan aims to achieve two things in particular. Firstly, an identification of the key priorities for Paisley Town Centre in the current context, and secondly, having identified these priority locations to outline a series of short, medium and longer term objectives for each area.

2 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Board:

Approves the draft Paisley Town Centre Action Plan for consultation during autumn 2016 and agrees that the outcomes of the stakeholder consultation will be reported back to Board alongside a final version of the Action Plan thereafter;

3 Background

3.1 As Paisley prepares to bid for UK City of Culture in 2017, and the outline business cases for the three Renfrewshire City Deal infrastructure projects are progressed with a total investment of £274m, Paisley is on the cusp of a "step change". So often overlooked during the last 20 years, Paisley now has an opportunity to place itself on a different footing and become a destination of choice for investment, and visitors, and a key player in the Glasgow City Region.

3.2 Paisley is Scotland's largest town centre. It has the fourth busiest railway station in Scotland at its heart and has one of the highest concentrations of listed buildings and significant built heritage of anywhere in the country. This is reflected in the approved Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy from 2014.

3.3 During late 2015 work commenced on developing a new Action Plan for Paisley Town Centre to reflect the emerging context of the City Deal projects, particularly the Airport Access Project and the Airport Investment Area, as well as the bid for UK City of Culture 2021. The intention was to create a framework which could help to shape the investment decisions of both the Council and other parties, including private sector landowners and investors. It was not intended to be a "blueprint" of definitive actions but instead wished to retain flexibility to allow other parties to bring ideas to inform the final Action Plan.

3.4 The draft Action Plan has been developed following a series of workshops and sets out a number of short, medium and longer priorities for 4 different Activity Areas viewed as crucial to the future success of the town centre.

3.5 Building on the award winning Paisley Town Centre Asset Strategy (The Untold Story) the purpose of an agreed Town Centre Action Plan is to demonstrate how all the relevant elements of proposed change come together and to illustrate to potential funders and investors that a clear strategy is in place to direct change in the locations that bring about the "step change".

3.6 The Action Plan takes its lead from the draft Renfrewshire Economic Framework (approved in draft by Board in June 2016) which identifies priorities for Paisley Town Centre as a focus on economic activity and investment over the next 3 years.

The Action Plan (2016 – 2026)

3.7 The draft Action Plan is attached for Members to consider. The Action Plan contains a number of elements (summarised below):

(i) Vision for Town Centre

(ii) Vision Goals
   o 4 Activity Areas – each with specific short, medium and long term actions against which progress can be monitored over time

   o **Gilmour Street Gateway** – focused on the potential of the fourth busiest station in Scotland which with the addition of the direct Airport link has scope to become a key driver for the area's regeneration;

o **High Street and UWS Campus** – deliberately co-joined with the objective of closer integration between "town" and "gown" which has commenced with the Strategic Partnership between Council and UWS and which the University Masterplan will embrace by connecting to the other nearby initiatives such as TCMC, the new Museum complex, the TA Building, etc;

o **Abbey and River Precinct** – this Area takes two of Paisley's key physical assets and seeks to increase activity around them and also enhance the environment to encourage high levels of investment in the vicinity of both;

o **Improving Connections** –workshop sessions identified the "disconnect" between the town centre and its residential catchment. This element focuses on how to overcome physical barriers to more Paisley residents using the town centre;

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4   Next Steps

4.1   Following consideration and comment from members of the Board officers are seeking endorsement of the draft Action Plan for public consultation during the late part of 2016. Following this consultation and engagement officers will bring back the outcomes for the Board's consideration and approval of an agreed 10 year Action Plan for Paisley Town Centre.

4.2   The consultation will take a number of formats with the specific details still being worked up. As a minimum this will include:

- Publicity of the draft Action Plan's existence via the usual digital channels as well as traditional media coverage highlighting where copies of the Action Plan can be accessed by interested parties and how they can submit comments;

- A public event where interested parties can "drop-in" and engage with officers to offer comments on the Action Plan and to entice views / ideas on the future of the Town Centre and where officers can update attendees on the latest development and proposals;

- Specific consultation meetings with key stakeholders, including Paisley First, UWS, WCS, Scotrail, Paisley 2021 Trust, Piazza Centre, Paisley Centre, etc to begin to understand and define what role they can play role in the regeneration of Paisley Town Centre

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None at present beyond those already identified in approved Council budgets. Further reports will follow with costs of elements of the Action Plan when these are in a position to be implemented.

2. **HR & Organisational Development** –No significant requirements.

3. **Community Planning** –

    Jobs and the Economy – the project will significantly support the objectives to develop Renfrewshire's Town Centres as thriving places, supporting local places, businesses and communities.

    Greener – the capital works will provide a significant opportunity to improve the efficiency of the buildings. A carbon management plan will be produced at a more detailed design stage.

    Empowering Communities – there will be new roles and opportunities for Museum Volunteers in the completed Museum and content will be developed in partnership with communities, ensuring that the museum has a strong community identity.

4. **Legal** – No implications at this time

5. **Property/Assets** – The Action Plan will lead to a number of specific property and land interventions. The details of these will be brought back to the appropriate Board in due course.

6. **Information Technology** – No significant implications.

7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety -** None at this stage of project development

9. **Procurement** – All commissions will be procured through the appropriate procedures set out in the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts.

10. **Risk** – Any significant risks to the local authority will be monitored as the Action Plan is implemented and reported back to the appropriate Board

11. **Privacy Impact** – None.

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List of Background Papers

(a)   None

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Author: Alasdair Morrison, Head of Regeneration (Ext: 4664)

Date: 08/09/2016

Paisley Town Centre

Action Plan 2016-2026

June 2016

CONTENTS

1. Paisley Town Centre: Vision for 2026

Centred on its world class cultural and heritage assets, Paisley Town Centre has begun to see an increase in regeneration activity and investment. Set within the context of the approved Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy as the regeneration strategy for the next 20 years, this activity contributes to re-establishing Paisley as Renfrewshire's primary town centre for the benefit of local people and businesses as well as the national and international community. There is much still to do and a clear vision for the future of the Town Centre will provide the essential framework for further activity and investment.

The vision for Paisley Town Centre for the next 10 years can be summarised as:

The vision is defined by a series of goals and an Action Plan which sets out strategic activity areas to deliver transformation change. The activity areas (detailed in Section 3) are:

- Gilmour Street Gateway

- High Street & University Campus

- Abbey & River Precinct

- Improving Connections

2. VISION GOALS

The vision goals are to create:

- **an international culture & heritage destination**

- **a smart business place**

- **a centre for education & innovation**

- **a liveable, attractive & green place**

- **a connected & accessible place**

- **resilient, strong partnerships**

The Council is supporting the process of regeneration to put Paisley back on the map and recognises that the town centre is at the heart of this. Leading Paisley's bid to become UK City of Culture in 2021, there are a number of key buildings being regenerated to provide the platform for activity - the Russell Institute and the Arnotts building are being brought back into active use, plans are well advanced for major improvements to Paisley Museum and the Museum Store and a number of other key buildings are under consideration for investment (the former TA building, Coats Memorial Church and the former Liberal Club). Resources are aligned to deliver current regeneration initiatives and future project resources will be identified and secured as projects develop. The recent and current regeneration activity in the town centre is summarised in Appendix 1: Regeneration Activity, Platform for Change.

The revival of Paisley town centre as a whole will however require a collaborative partnership approach involving the public and private sector and the wider community working together to achieve shared long term goals by 2026.

This Action Plan provides the platform for activity and investment for all potential stakeholders and partners to reach these goals. With the Council commitment to the Action Plan, other investors and stakeholders will be encouraged to contribute to its delivery. Using its own investment as a catalyst, the Council will work with businesses, education and cultural organisations as well as the wider Renfrewshire community to use the Action Plan as a tool to facilitate the delivery of the change in perception, function and vision.

The Action Plan will deliver a step change through a collaborative approach to the town centre's regeneration. Over the next 10 years the Council will support and work with others to deliver this and develop a town centre that re-establishes Paisley as a vibrant, cultural and business centre, a centre that its residents are rightly proud of, and a centre that attracts national and international business and attention.

3.   ACTIVITY AREAS

To focus investment and delivery, strategic town centre activity areas have been identified. Through active engagement with all town centre stakeholders, these enabling activities will be further developed to become the regeneration prospectus for Paisley Town Centre.

The activity areas are shown in the diagram below:

- Gilmour Street Gateway
- High Street and University Campus
- Abbey and River Precinct
- Improving connections
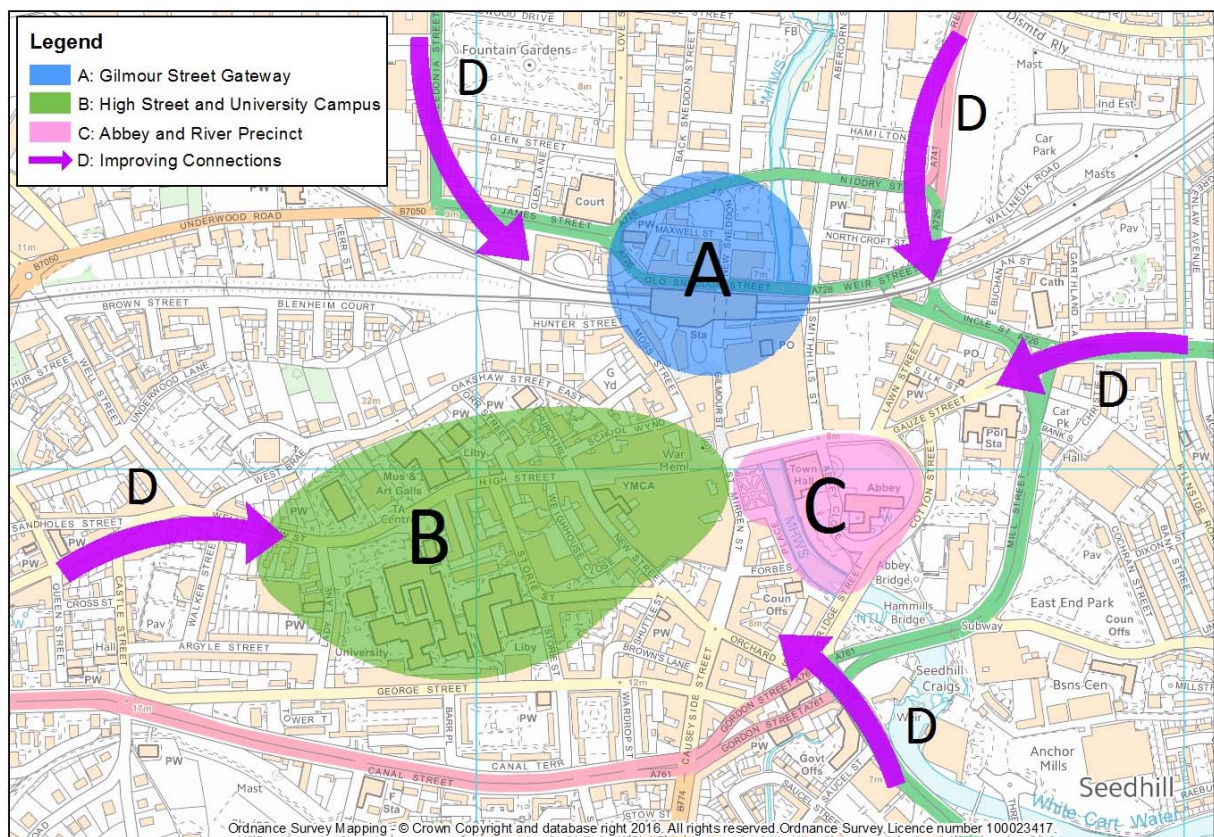
The activity areas provide an umbrella for short, medium and long term actions which will deliver transformational change. Combining physical projects, measures to boost access to work, training and learning opportunities as well as promotional and marketing initiatives, they will attract more people and activity to the town centre. Resources for the delivery of the Action Plan will be identified as projects develop.

The following tables show the objectives and short / medium / long term actions for each of the four activity areas.

ACTIVITY AREA 1: Gilmour Street Gateway

Objectives	Short Term (by 2018)	Medium Term (by 2021)	Long Term (by 2026)
RAILWAY STATION • Strong sense of arrival and positive image • Modern, integrated rail station providing a busy 21st century transport hub	Develop a masterplan for Paisley Gilmour Street station and the surrounding area Promote town centre events and regeneration achievements within station premises	Phased delivery of Gilmour Street Gateway Masterplan Provide clear signage, tourist information, wayfinding to improve sense of arrival Increased visitor and passenger numbers	
CONNECTIVITY • Efficient transfer between different modes of transport (rail, cycle, bus, taxi and private car) • Swift, direct connections to the airport and to Glasgow city	Examine potential for relocation and enhancement of access to and from Gilmour Street Station (inc. taxis, buses, car parking, cycling, etc)	Begin to implement enhancements and relocation of transport access points	Deliver fixed public transport connection between Glasgow Airport and Gilmour Street station
RAILWAY ARCHES / COUNTY SQUARE • Thriving commercial activity in & around station/arches • Improve the contribution of County Square as a key public space in the town centre • Breakdown barrier that the arches create	Gathering information on ownership, floorspace capacity and constraints to future alternative uses of the arches	Develop options for redevelopment of land and property in and around Gilmour Street Station	
SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENT SITES • Creation of commercial and residential opportunities to the north and south of the station	Examine area in vicinity of Carnegies nightclub and New Sneddon Street for new development	Phased delivery of Gilmour Street Gateway Masterplan	

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ACTIVITY AREA 2: High Street and University Campus

Objectives	Short Term (by 2018)	Medium Term (by 2021)	Long Term (by 2026)
HIGH STREET VIBRANCY • Increased footfall in the town centre • Create a vibrant and attractive High Street in which people want to spend time • A vibrant evening economy • Deliver Museum / Library and Museum Store projects	Widen the promotion and marketing of town centre events Extend the range, frequency & quality of town centre events Deliver the Library relocation project Deliver the Museum Store project Develop initiatives for both pop-ups and stalled spaces Achieve Purple Flag status for town centre	Enhancements to potential venues and spaces to dwell Deliver pop-ups and stalled spaces initiatives Deliver requirements of Purple Flag status Identify development opportunities for evening activities	Deliver the new Paisley Museum project
IMPROVING THE BUILT FABRIC AND PUBLIC REALM • Deliver the TH/CARS2 project • Reduce the number of vacant properties in and around High Street	Deliver Yr1 & Yr2 of the TH/CARS2 project Continued discussion with property owners on potential floorspace demands Deliver "Developer Day" initiative	Deliver Yr3, Yr4 & Yr5 of the TH/CARS2 project Participate in Government revaluation of town centre business rates Design and implement a lighting and public realm strategy Enhancements to potential venues and spaces to dwell	

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ACTIVITY AREA 2 (cont.): High Street and University Campus

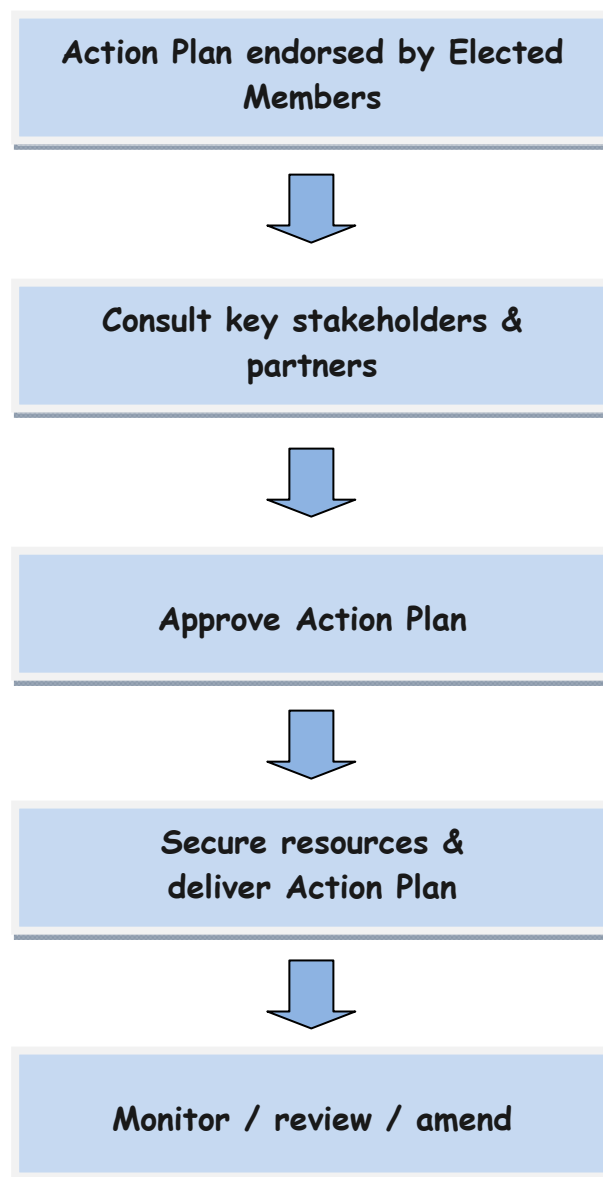| Objectives	Short Term (by 2018)	Medium Term (by 2021)	Long Term (by 2026)
OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOWN CENTRE LIVING • Increased number of students and residents living in the town centre	Identifying residential development opportunities Discussion with Scot. Govt on potential funding sources for new residential development	Develop and deliver residential development opportunities	
OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS • Employment opportunities for the High Street • The High Street is a focal point for innovation and design • Promote creative / cultural / entrepreneurial activity on the High Street • Integration of UWS campus and High Street business	Support University campus masterplan 2021 Bid Office open in High St Develop proposals for innovation & design centre on High St	Deliver innovation & design centre on High St	

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ACTIVITY AREA 3: Abbey and River Precinct

Objectives	Short Term (by 2018)	Medium Term (by 2021)	Long Term (by 2026)
INCREASED ACTIVITY • Increase visitor numbers to key attractions by creating a destination of national significance focussed around the Abbey, Abbey Drain and Town Hall • Improve Dunn Square as a key public space to increase use • Attract a range of different uses to the area including water-based activities and visitor facilities	Prepare a public space masterplan and activity programme for the town centre focussing on the riverside, Dunn Square and Abbey Close Develop the Abbey Drain, Fourth Cloister and visitor experience projects	Deliver riverside/Abbey Close public space improvements and activity programme Develop improvement proposal for Dunn Square and secure required funding Develop strategy for water-based activity on river,	Deliver the Abbey Drain, Fourth Cloister and visitor experience projects Implement strategy for water-based activity Deliver Dunn Square improvements
ENHANCED ENVIRONMENT • Create an attractive riverside greenspace for informal use and for events • Improve access to the river for viewing and water based activities	Develop partnership strategy to improve water quality in river Prepare proposals for improved access to the river and creation of riverside greenspace	Develop strategy for improved access to river Provide riverside seating and path improvements	Deliver strategy to improve water quality in river Implement strategy for improved access to river

ACTIVITY AREA 4: Improving Connections

Objectives	Short Term (by 2018)	Medium Term (by 2021)	Long Term (by 2026)
INCREASED USE OF TOWN CENTRE • Better integration with neighbouring communities and works as the heart of the local community • Easy access to the town centre, prioritising walking and encouraging dwell-time • A town centre that attracts national and international visitors • Enhancement and promotion of car parking provision	Review of car parking and preparation of enhancement strategy	Improvements to existing car parking offer Improvements to key gateways including signage and traffic flow Improve and simplify user signage identifying key points of interest	Creation of easily navigable pedestrian and cycle links with neighbouring communities Promote a communications campaign to emphasise active travel and associated health benefits
OVERCOMING PHYSICAL BARRIERS • A welcoming and easily understood town centre • Encourage the availability and swift take up of town centre development sites through increased visibility • Overcome the physical and perceived barrier presented by the ring road • Create clear gateways into the town centre on main routes	Develop a clear transport strategy to encourage use of the town centre by different forms of transport Feasibility study to redesign ring road, focussing on key junctions and opportunities to create developable sites	Improvements to key gateways including signage and traffic flow Incremental redesign of road approaches to the town centre Phased delivery of ring road redesign	Complete phased delivery of ring road redesign
DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES • Create viable development sites alongside new gateways	Feasibility study to identify opportunities to create developable sites following a redesign of ring road junctions	Market and develop proposals for opportunity sites	

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4. Next Steps

To achieve robust, deliverable regeneration of the town centre, the Action Plan must be endorsed and supported by the wider regeneration community. The next step is therefore to seek endorsement of the Action Plan by elected members before consulting key stakeholders and partners. The approved Action Plan will then provide the basis for collaborative working to achieve further reaching regeneration of Paisley Town Centre.

It is essential that the Action Plan is monitored to ensure that it remains current and is able to continue to meet Renfrewshire's regeneration agenda. The summary table for each activity area detailed in Section 3 provides a monitoring tool to measure progress and success and to enable the Action Plan to be reviewed and amended accordingly.

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┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
│   Action Plan endorsed by Elected    │
│               Members                │
└─────────────────────────────────────┘
                   ↓
┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
│    Consult key stakeholders &        │
│             partners                 │
└─────────────────────────────────────┘
                   ↓
┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
│          Approve Action Plan         │
└─────────────────────────────────────┘
                   ↓
┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
│         Secure resources &           │
│         deliver Action Plan          │
└─────────────────────────────────────┘
                   ↓
┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
│        Monitor / review / amend      │
└─────────────────────────────────────┘
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Appendix 1: Regeneration activity: platform for change

The process of regenerating Paisley Town Centre and reviving its economic fortunes has already started. The lessons learned from previous initiatives, as summarised below, provide a platform for change and have been applied to develop this new 10 year Action Plan.

The Untold Story

In 2014, the Council approved a heritage regeneration strategy for Paisley - "The Untold Story: the Paisley Town Centre Asset Strategy & Action Plan" presented or the first time, critical thinking about how Paisley's international-standard but largely undiscovered textile, fashion, religious and architectural heritage could be brought together to showcase the town centre.

Paisley has a unique but untold story about its central role in the development of the world's textile and fashion industry and the creation of the Paisley Pattern. Its compelling story has the potential to attract visitors and build on its legacy to become a focus for future innovation and excellence. By telling its story well, Paisley can attract tourism, create jobs, tackle negative perceptions of the town, build pride in the town centre and inspire major town centre regeneration. Supporting projects which the Council has since promoted include:

- **Russell Institute**: £4.5m restoration of a category A listed building providing a skills and employability hub with Skills Development Scotland alongside the Council's Invest in Renfrewshire team which will bring additional jobs to the town centre early in 2017.

- **Museum Store:** a publicly accessible facility in the heart of the High Street. Displaying over 350,000 items, it is due to open in Autumn 2017.

- **Paisley Museum:** £56m flagship project to redevelop Paisley Museum and transform it into a national museum of textile and design, creating a major visitor destination.

- **Library:** opportunities are being investigated to relocate the lending Library to the High Street with the aim of improving service provision, increasing footfall and improving accessibility to learning services.

- **Townscape Heritage Initiative and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (THI/CARS):** £3.5m investment in building repair, shopfront improvements and public spaces in the area around Causeyside Street. The creation of a high quality environment has increased business interest, resulting in a reduction of vacant properties.

- **Incube:** new shop and retail skills academy recently opened on High Street, providing a base and practical support/business skills training to help start-up and early stage business growth.

- **Arnotts redevelopment:** 42 new residential apartments completed as part of the Arnott's building redevelopment. The Pendulum Bar and Grill

120-seat restaurant is due to open on the ground floor in autumn 2016. In addition, a further block of flats is being built as part of the Cloisters development on Cotton Street.

- **City of Culture Bid 2021:** Paisley is bidding to become UK City of Culture 2021. Bringing significant media attention which will increase dramatically as the bidding deadline approaches, it offers the opportunity to focus the minds of those who live, work and use the town centre on how it can meet their needs for the 21st century, how the bar can be raised and how actions can be delivered.

- **City Deal:** Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal identified some £274m investment over the next 10 years for development of three major regeneration projects. City Deal will deliver a train/tram link between Paisley town centre and Glasgow Airport which will place Paisley firmly as a key regional gateway with related potential to grow visitor numbers and build town centre employment. The Glasgow Airport Investment Area Project aims to open up and improve access to economic development locations adjacent to Glasgow Airport, in particular along the White Cart Corridor and the Clyde Waterfront. The Renfrew Riverside Project seeks to significantly improve connectivity and enhance economic development opportunities at key development sites on the south bank of the river.

These projects are keys elements to trigger far reaching change however it should be recognised that significant and transformational change takes a long time. Many towns and cities can illustrate this through their experiences over a number of years to achieve sustainable change. Regeneration activity is the foundation for a town centre to reposition itself in terms of how it is perceived, how it delivers its role and how it provides a high quality place for residents, businesses and visitors.

Appendix 2: Workshop Summary

Two workshops were held in March/April 2016 to identify key issues for town centre regeneration and the challenges for delivery. Discussions were wide-ranging, however in terms of recapturing the town centre as an important place for Paisley, Renfrewshire and the wider area, a number of themes for regeneration emerged.

The importance of Paisley Gilmour Street

Paisley Gilmour Street is the 4th busiest station in Scotland with 4 million passengers using it annually. However, it does not integrate well in the town centre and appears relatively isolated. The station is the main point of town centre arrival but its arches to the north form a physical barrier.

Connections to and from the town centre

The road network restricts how local people use the town centre. The existing roads (Renfrew Road, Greenock Road, and Mill Street_effectively form a barrier, isolating Paisley's communities from its centre. With priority given to traffic, getting to and from the town centre can be most difficult for those living closest to it. In taking people 'through' not 'to' the town centre, the road also helps shape what people think of it. Connections between the town centre and these roads are often unclear to residents and visitors alike, affecting the choices they make of where to park, shop or be entertained.

Making the most of Paisley's heritage

Paisley town centre has a rich heritage with many beautiful and historically significant buildings yet many people, residents as well as visitors, are not aware of them or their story. The town needs to shout about its assets and provide a comprehensive experience for visitors, including cafes, restaurants, accommodation and other businesses to support and build its cultural assets.

Encouraging more and sustainable activity on the High Street

Over the years the High Street has struggled to retain trade, illustrated by continuing vacancies and low footfall affecting surrounding streets. High Street has the capacity to be a focus for activity, helping to differentiate it from other town centres. Paisley should be a busy place that people want to come to because it has a unique offer. For many people the High Street is a symbol of the health of the town centre. Building interest, activity and footfall will be critical to encourage change and encourage people who live, work and visit the area to use the town centre.

Changing perceptions

The perception of Paisley town centre must be improved to encourage people to use it as well as promote it as a place to visit and do business. In raising the aspiration of the town centre, local people will be more engaged with the place which will then be actively involved in promoting their place and taking pride in what Paisley has to

offer. Alongside physical improvements, this will be critical in changing external perceptions of Paisley.

Effectively integrating the University and College into the town centre

The University and College are important for Renfrewshire and for Paisley town centre. More needs to be done to encourage better integration. Attracting students to live, work and socialise in the town centre will support and encourage a range of businesses. Student markets for shopping, catering, entertainment and accommodation have traditionally tended to be seen as separate from those of the local community. Opportunities to integrate town centre and student markets should be identified and developed.   Masterplanning work in both campuses currently being carried out by both organisations will hopefully go some way to addressing this. The physical relationships and connections between the town centre and the campuses are critical – the buildings must be integral to the town centre rather than separate entities.

June 2016

To: Leadership Board

On: 14th September 2016

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Living Wage Accreditation – progress report

1.   Summary

1.1   This report notes the Council's successful Living Wage Accreditation under the scheme organised by the Poverty Alliance in partnership with the Living Wage Foundation.

1.2   The report also provides details of the Living Wage Accreditation Action Plan which is set out in Appendix 1.

2.   Recommendations

2.1   It is recommended that the Board:

2.2   Note the Council's accreditation as a Living Wage employer in terms of the Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Scheme.

2.3   Approves the Living Wage Action Plan set out in Appendix 1 to support the payment of Living Wage across Renfrewshire.

1

3.   Background

3.1   The importance of the Living Wage was emphasised within the report of Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission, stating "It is estimated that around a fifth of Scotland's workforce earn less than the Living Wage. The Living Wage would make a significantly positive impact in sectors with low pay such as cleaning, catering, caring and retail".

3.2   Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission made a recommendation to "Halve the number of workers in Renfrewshire being paid below the Living Wage". One of the key priorities within the Tackling Poverty Strategy is to 'Increase the number of households who can access employment that provides an acceptable standard of living'.

3.3   However, work is no longer a guaranteed route out of poverty, and more people living in poverty are working, than not. Therefore, good quality, stable employment which provides an acceptable standard of living has being an increasingly critical element of tackling poverty.

3.4   In February 2016 the Council authorised the Chief Executive to submit an application for accreditation as a Living Wage employer and noted progress on a range of activities to support the payment of Living Wage across Renfrewshire. A Living Wage Working Group has been established with representation from Legal, Procurement, Invest in Renfrewshire, HR, Health and Social Care Partnership, Children's Services and Communications and Marketing. This working group has overseen the development of the Living Wage Accreditation application, and will act as a steering group for the Living Wage Campaign being developed within marketing.

3.5   The Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently and updated annually, and is calculated according to the basic cost of living in the UK.

3.6   The Living Wage used for the purposes of this report is the one set by the Centre of Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University which for 2015/16 was set at £8.25.

3.7   As part of the nationally negotiated pay settlement, the Council has been paying the Living Wage + 1% from 1 April 2016, which is £8.33.

3.8   In 2015, there were approximately 15,000 jobs across Renfrewshire, which are paid below the Living Wage and that equates to 20% of the jobs in the area. This is an improvement on the figures from 2014, where 16,000 jobs were estimated as paying below the living wage (21%).

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4.   Living Wage Accreditation

4.1   The Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Initiative was established in 2014 with the aim of increasing the number of employers in Scotland who are recognised for paying their staff the Living Wage. The Initiative is hosted by the Poverty Alliance working in partnership with the Living Wage Foundation.

4.2   The purpose of applying for accreditation was to demonstrate the council's commitment to the Living Wage and to the differences payment of the Living Wage can make to the lives of its employees and in tackling low pay by contractors who provide services funded by the council.

4.3   In the process of achieving accreditation, the Council had to confirm that all directly employed staff are paid the Living Wage and that there is a plan in place to secure the Living Wage for contractors' staff who regularly provide services on council premises.

4.4   The accreditation has been confirmed in July by a signed licence agreement between the council and the Living Wage Foundation.

4.5   The Living Wage applies to all staff over the age of 18 that work regularly on the council's premises. This includes directly employed staff, contracted staff and sub-contracted staff. Regularly is defined for these purposes as two or more hours in any given day for eight or more consecutive weeks of the year.

4.6   The Initiative does not require applicants to insist on payment of the Living Wage by all of the Council's contractors although the Council already takes steps to encourage contractors to pay the Living Wage.

4.7   In addition, the Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Scheme has introduced new requirements in relation to care contracts which Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership agreed to meet and is committed to working towards the standards set out in the accreditation licence.

5.   Living Wage Accreditation Action Plan

5.1   In order to be accredited, the Council was required to undertake phased implementation of measures identified in the application. In addition, the Council has also produced a Living Wage Action Plan which responds to any areas of development to maintain accreditation, along with any wider actions that the Council can undertake to demonstrate commitment and leadership around the benefits of the Living Wage.

3

5.2   The action plan comprises of actions which will be achieved towards the accreditation renewal and wider actions relating to communications,marketing and partnership working. The action plan will build on work already done and strengthen the Council's commitment to Living Wage in Renfrewshire.

5.3   As part of the action plan we will develop and implement a Living Wage communications and marketing strategy which main objective will be to identify:

- key audiences including general public, staff, partner organisations, employers and wider business communities;
- means of internal communication to inform wider workforce on the implementation of the Living Wage;
- means of external communication with general public, partner organisations and wider business community.

5.4   In addition to the primary tackling poverty objective of raising the number of citizens in Renfrewshire paid a Living Wage, the action plan also aims at increasing the number of accredited Living Wage employers in Renfrewshire and increase residents' and employers' awareness of the Living Wage. The Council is fully committed to identifying opportunities to encourage our community planning partners and wider business community in the area to pay the Living Wage.

5.5   The action plan will be monitored and reported on by the Living Wage Working Group which will make sure the Council takes part in regular reviews with the Scottish Living Wage Foundation to confirm progress is being made towards the action plan.

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Implications of the Report

1.   **Financial** – The costs of becoming Living Wage accredited are already accounted for within the pay award for April 2016. Additional resources may be required within the Corporate Procurement Unit for additional negotiation and monitoring requirements associated with accreditation.

2.   **HR & Organisational Development** – It is anticipated that Living Wage accreditation will have a positive impact on Renfrewshire Council staff, considering the associated benefits relating to employee engagement and productivity.

3.   **Community Planning –**

4

Jobs and the Economy – The Jobs and Economy Board have recently added a target to the Single Outcome Agreement to increase the number of accredited Living Wage employers in Renfrewshire. The work surrounding Living Wage will support the CPP to achieve these targets

4.   **Legal** – The accreditation is confirmed by a signed licence agreement between the council and the Living Wage Foundation.

5.   **Property/Assets** – Not Applicable

6.   **Information Technology** – Not Applicable

7.   **Equality & Human Rights** – It is anticipated that the increase in Living Wage payment across Renfrewshire will have significant positive impacts on equality and human rights, considering the overrepresentation of many equality groups within low pay sectors.

8.   **Health & Safety** – Not Applicable

9.   **Procurement** – Living Wage Accreditation will add additional requirements to the Council's procurement unit, and as a result additional resource will be required but contained within existing budget provision.

10.   **Risk** – Not Applicable

11.   **Privacy Impact** – Not Applicable

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Author: Kasia Owczarek, Tackling Poverty Interim Lead Officer, Chief Executive's Service, 0141 618 7405

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Appendix 1: Living Wage Accreditation Action Plan

Objective	Action	Lead	Timescale
Living Wage Accreditation renewal	Continue to use and expand the fair working practices in our procurement exercises	Procurement Manager	Ongoing
	Ensure that all relevant contractors which supply an employee (other than an apprentice or intern) who provides a service to or on behalf of the Council are identified and encouraged to meet the requirements of the Living Wage.	Procurement Manager	31 December 2016
	Ensure that all Craft Apprentices are either in receipt of the Living Wage or there is a plan in place with agreed milestones to bring them up to the Living Wage within agreed timescales.	Head of HR, Organisational Development and Workforce Strategy	31 December 2016
	Ensure that all adult social care and support services staff are either in receipt of the Living Wage or there is a plan in place with agreed milestones to bring them up to the Living Wage within agreed timescales.	Procurement Manager / Head of HR, Organisational Development and Workforce Strategy	31 December 2016
	Make a firm commitment to a programme that ensures the Living Wage is kept on the agenda and	Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership Service Manager - Contracts	Ongoing

Category	Action	Responsible	Timescale
	progress is made towards its introduction for contracted-out staff working in private care homes (residential care).		
Communications and marketing	Develop and implement Living Wage communications and marketing strategy.	Head of Marketing	31 December 2016
	Communicate and publicise council's accreditation and its commitment to implementing the Living Wage action plan by means of external (press opportunities, social media, Living Wage Foundation press office) and internal (newsletters, staff forums, team meetings, Renfo, surveys) communication.	Head of Marketing	Ongoing
Partnership working	Identify opportunities to encourage other community planning partners, local organisations and businesses to pay the Living Wage.	Economic Development Manager	Ongoing
	Take part in regular check-ins with the Poverty Alliance to confirm the progress being made towards the action plan.	Strategic Lead Officer (Tackling Poverty and Welfare Reform)	Ongoing

2

To: Leadership Board

On: 14 September 2016

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Digital Renfrewshire Strategy

1.   Summary

1.1   This Digital Strategy "Digital Renfrewshire" sets out a vision and approach to tackling digital exclusion in Renfrewshire and ensuring that all of our citizens and businesses can benefit from the rapidly changing digital environment. It follows on from the Digital Participation Plan which is an important component of the Council's Tackling Poverty programme. The Digital Participation Plan identified the need for an overarching Digital Strategy that would co-ordinate existing and future digital initiatives so they have the maximum impact on digital participation across Renfrewshire.

1.2   The Digital Strategy seeks to raise awareness of the growing digital divide and seeks to address this through a cross cutting action plan which will be refreshed on an annual basis in response to changing needs and emerging digital developments. The Strategy includes detail on governance, consultation and the mechanisms for measuring success.

2.   Recommendations

2.1   It is recommended that members:

- note the evidence of digital exclusion in Renfrewshire and the need for a Digital Strategy which puts Digital Participation at the centre, and

- approve the content of the Digital Strategy set out in Appendix A

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3. Background

3.1 This Digital Strategy: Digital Renfrewshire sets out a vision and approach to tackling digital exclusion in Renfrewshire. It is supported by an action plan that will be refreshed on an annual basis to reflect the fast- growing digital society we find ourselves in. The Digital Strategy has been developed in response to The Tackling Poverty Strategy and The Renfrewshire Digital Participation Plan (2016). The Digital Participation Plan recommended the need for an overarching Digital Strategy to coordinate existing and future activities, share resources and work in partnership towards a shared vision.

3.2 Digital participation describes people's ability to gain access to digital technology, and understand how to get the best out of it. Increased digital participation can improve people's quality of life, save them money, boost economic growth and allow many public services to be delivered more cheaply and responsively.

3.3 The vision set out in the Strategy is that '*In a Digital Renfrewshire we will make sure everybody has the opportunity to reach their digital potential and maximise the wider economic, educational, health, social and cultural benefits for all*'.

3.4 The strategy seeks to raise awareness of the growing digital divide in our society. There is evidence that Renfrewshire has a high likelihood of digital exclusion[1]. Digital exclusion, also referred to as 'Digital Poverty', often goes unseen by those unaffected by it and the true impacts are rarely reported on. Those most likely to be digitally excluded are already facing social inequality with those in lower socio-economic groups, retired, unemployed, in poor health and less educationally qualified at greatest risk.

3.5 Increasingly, access to the internet is being referred to as the fourth utility on a par with gas, electricity and water, but we recognise that in Renfrewshire many people do not have such universal access to the internet. Our Digital Strategy therefore seeks to target our efforts to support those most at risk of digital exclusion. We believe if we get it right for those who face the most barriers to digital we will get it right for everyone else. We want to ensure those who would like to use digital are enabled where possible, and individual choice not to use digital continues to be supported.

3.6 Tackling digital exclusion is a complex challenge and cannot and should not be met by any one organisation or service. In a time of severe public sector financial constraints, sharing resources, expertise and coordinating efforts is essential. Developing strong relationships with partners has been key to the development of the strategy and this will be further strengthened through its implementation.

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[1] GoOnUK Digital Exclusion Heatmap   https://doteveryone.org.uk/resources/heatmap/

3.7   Building on the consultation outcomes and research findings from the Renfrewshire Digital Participation Plan, the strategy has been developed in partnership with a wide range of public, private and third-sector organisations and council services. The Digital Participation Group has facilitated on-going consultation which has resulted in a shared vision and agreed priorities which have been broad together into 4 key workstreams;

1. **Digital Participation** - Tackle digital exclusion by removing the barriers to digital participation and increasing promoting and increasing access to existing digital support services and coordinating efforts across Renfrewshire.

2. **Connectivity** - Enable digital participation through provision of a robust digital infrastructure which makes it as easy as possible to access the internet wherever you are**.** This includes the Council's £1m investment to expand the existing free public Wi-Fi provision to a wider range of public buildings and across the town centres in Paisley, Johnstone and Renfrew.

3. **Digital Public Services** - Become an efficient, effective and sustainable Council by developing easy to use Digital Public Services available 24/7**.** This includes the Council's existing Customer Access Project which is rolling out a range of new digital services for Council Tax, Housing and other high volume transactional services.

4. **Economy** – supporting economic growth within Renfrewshire's economy through increased use of digital technology by local business and tackling the growing digital skills gap through educational and training initiatives.

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Implications of the Report

1.   **Financial** – The initiatives set out in the strategy will be taken forward from within existing budgets. Efforts will be made with partners to identify external funding opportunities and leverage additional resources to support the shared objectives.

2.   **HR & Organisational Development** – None however the need to increase the digital skills of our workforce will be reflected in the development and delivery of a Human Resources and Organisational Development Workforce Strategy.

3.   **Community Planning –** The plan was developed in partnership with Community Planning Partners. The Digital Strategy will contribute to meeting some key of the performance measures within the Community Plan.

4.   **Legal** – none

5. **Property/Assets** – The implementation of the Public Wifi outdoor coverage areas is likely to involve the use of Council assets such as CCTV, Street Light and Traffic light columns.

6. **Information Technology** – The council is investing £1million in a free public Wi-Fi project to increase access to the internet. However future investment in infrastructure is envisaged. The Digital Strategy has proposed the need to review and respond to the connectivity needs of public access points and learning centres. In terms of council infrastructure the development of a refreshed ICT strategy will include plans to develop and improve council workforce connectivity.

7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. The Digital Strategy aims to challenge and reduce social inequality. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety** – The Digital Strategy recommends the needs for increased basic digital skills of its workforce and citizens. Internet safety underpins the definition of basic digital skills.

9. **Procurement** – Any procurement activity associated with the implementation of the strategy will be taken forward in accordance with the Council's standing orders and procurement policies.

10. **Risk** – The Council and its partners are committed to reducing social inequality by increasing digital participation through a coordinated approach as detailed in the Digital Strategy. If the Council and partners do not effectively tackle the causes and impacts of digital exclusion, there is a risk that the digital divide will increase within Renfrewshire.

11. **Privacy Impact** – Privacy impact assessments will be undertaken for all appropriate initiatives in the Digital Strategy and a robust approach to information security and data protection is a key underlying principle.

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List of Background Papers

Renfrewshire Council Digital Strategy: Digital Renfrewshire (Appendix A)
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Author   *Diane Webb, Digital Assistance Project Manager (Policy and Commissioning)*
              0141 618 7999

Renfrewshire Council Digital Strategy 2016-2019
"Digital Renfrewshire"

*'In a Digital Renfrewshire we will make sure everybody has the **opportunity** to reach their **digital potential** and maximise the wider economic, educational, health, social and cultural benefits for all'.*

Betty, a housebound pensioner due to a fall, trying out a virtual reality film of New York **"Wow, it's exciting, so real, it's almost like being there. It would be great to take people round galleries or parks**. *"Roar: Connections for Life*

Contents

Join the conversation online… Digital Renfrewshire   @DigiRen @dianeeva #DigiRen

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Executive Summary

This Digital Strategy: Digital Renfrewshire sets out a vision and approach to tackling digital exclusion in Renfrewshire. It is supported by an action plan that will be refreshed on an annual basis to reflect the fast-changing digital world we find ourselves in. The Digital Strategy has been developed in response to The Tackling Poverty Strategy and The Renfrewshire Digital Participation Plan (2016). The Digital Participation Plan recommended the need for an overarching Digital Strategy to coordinate existing activities, share resources and work in partnership towards a shared vision.

The challenge

This strategy seeks to raise awareness of the growing digital divide in society. There is evidence Renfrewshire has a high likelihood of digital exclusion[1]. Digital exclusion - also referred to as 'Digital Poverty'- often goes unseen by those unaffected by it and the true impacts are rarely reported on. Those most likely to be digitally excluded are already facing social inequality, with those in lower socio-economic groups, retired, unemployed, in poor health and less educationally - qualified at greatest risk

Our approach

Some in society think of the internet as the fourth utility on a par with gas, electricity and water. We must consider what this means in terms of provision. While we want to maximise the benefits of digital services we need to consider how these are delivered. We are not in a position to gift universal digital access, but we need to prioritise access for those who are digitally excluded where this is the chosen method of access.

Our priorities

The challenge is as complex as digital is cross cutting but through consultation with partners it has been agreed that digital participation is at the core and the key supporting areas of work have been prioritised into 4 workstreams;

1. Tackle digital exclusion by removing the barriers to **Digital Participation**
2. Enable digital participation through provision of a strong digital infrastructure of **Connectivity**
3. Becoming an efficient, effective and sustainable council by developing our **Digital Public Services**
4. Grow Renfrewshire's **Economy** by maximising the use of digital technology and tackling the growing digital skill gap

A call to action

This Digital Strategy is a call to action to work in partnership to build coordinate efforts, share our resources, knowledge and energy to achieve a shared vision. We want this to be a Digital Strategy by and for Renfrewshire. We are all responsible for closing the digital divide. In the words of Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the internet[2];

"This is for everyone".

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[1] GoOnUK Digital Exclusion Heatmap   https://doteveryone.org.uk/resources/heatmap/
[2] Tim Berners-Lee London, Olympics Opening Ceremony, 2012   https://mobile.twitter.com/timberners_lee/status/228960085672599552

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Digital Renfrewshire: The Challenge

The Fourth Utility

We live in a world where technology growth has exploded. Having access to the internet is an essential component of 21st-century life and is often referred to as the 'fourth utility'. One example that crystalizes this societal shift is the recent reporting of the most common question asked by Syrian refugees on arrival in Europe "Do you have Wi-Fi?" In 2015 the UN Human Rights Council argued internet access was a human right. For many of us it is hard to imagine what it is like to be digitally excluded apart from that temporary moment of panic when we lose our signal or our power runs out. This strategy seeks to raise awareness of this shift and the growing digital divide.

The Digital Divide

Life is immeasurably enhanced for those who have the access, motivation and skills to get things done online. The internet is vital for accessing products and services, gaining self-sufficiency, keeping in touch with friends, reducing isolation, attainment and learning, saving money, finding work and staying healthy. For some people it's been a genuine life-saver. However a fifth of UK households do not have even **basic internet services** in their home. This rises to more than a third of households in the lowest socioeconomic groups and two thirds of households with occupants aged over 75 years[3]. This is incongruent to the rise in digital health. But still far too many people risk being left behind.

> *"A lack of internet access will increasingly come to represent both a symptom*
> *and a cause of Poverty"*[4](Carnegie UK Trust, 2014)

A Digital Skills Crisis

The challenge is complex and simply having access to the internet isn't enough. Searching, completing online forms, transacting, communicating, responsible use and staying safe are now vital basic digital life skills. The UK is facing a digital skills crisis. Up to 800,000 adults in Scotland, or one in five, still lack the basic digital skills to get things done online[5]. In the UK an estimated 5.8 million people have never used the internet at all, of which 27% are disabled adults.

> **"It is estimated 26,000 adults in Renfrewshire don't have basic digital skills".**

This digital skills gap is costing the UK economy an estimated £63 billion a year in lost additional GDP. Significantly, half of all charities and a quarter of SMEs in Scotland lack basic digital skills. Today, 90% of jobs require basic digital skills and the majority are advertised and recruited online.

> *"The value of digital inclusion for a new user with basic digital skills has been calculated*
> *to be £1,064 per annum rising to £1,756 for advanced users and £3,568 for a professional or remote*
> *worker"*[6](GoOnUk, now DotEveryone 2014)

The Renfrewshire Tackling Poverty Commission said: "Poverty is changing, and our response needs to change". This strategy has reached the same conclusion. The potential for digital participation to reduce social inequality cannot be underestimated. Our response to digital exclusion needs to change.

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[3] Ofcom, Communications Market Report, 2012 — http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/market-data/communications-market-reports/cmr12/

[4] Across the Divide: Carnegie Trust UK, April 2013 — http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?guid=7324c775-a74a-47d6-b9ad4a4c173087a3

[5] BBC Learning Audience Research — http://www.bbc.co.uk/corporate2/insidethebbc/whatwedo/learning/audienceresearch

[6] BT – Valuing Digital Inclusion, 2014 — https://www.btplc.com/Purposefulbusiness/Connectivity/Beingonlineisgoodforsociety/Valuing-Digital-Inclusion.pdf

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Our Approach

Digital Participation as the Driver
The Digital Strategy is underpinned by The Tackling Poverty Strategy and The Renfrewshire Digital Participation Plan (2016). The plan was developed in partnership with over 40 different representatives from the public, private and third sector, and local academic institutions. Engage Renfrewshire, our third sector interface, has been a key partner and supporter of the digital agenda.

Why Digital Participation?
"Digital participation describes people's ability to gain access to digital technology, and understand how to use it creatively. Increased digital participation can improve people's quality of life, boost economic growth and allow more effective delivery of **sustainable** public services"[7]. It also allows people to engage actively in shaping the "future direction of society in a way that was not possible in an analogue world"[8].

The Digital Participation Plan recommended the need for an **over-arching Digital Strategy** to ensure everyone in Renfrewshire has the opportunity to reach their digital potential.

This is for Everyone
Research reveals that those who can benefit the most from technology are those most likely to be digitally excluded and already facing social inequality. The key groups who face the highest levels of digital exclusion are;

- disabled or people with long term health conditions
- older adults (65years+)
- people in poverty and the children of those families

We want to tackle the challenge of digital exclusion head on. We believe if we get it right for those who face the most barriers to digital we will get it right for everyone else. Taking a person-centred approach, this strategy has to be for everyone. We want to ensure those who are in a position to use digital are enabled where possible, and individual choice not to use digital continues to be supported.

"Getting access to the internet when you do not have a computer is soul-destroying when everyone else these days has access" (Community Learning and Development, Course Participant)

Partnership is Key
Digital exclusion is a complex challenge and cannot and should not be met by any one organisation or service. In a time of severe financial constraints within the public sector, sharing resources, expertise and coordinating efforts is essential. Developing strong relationships with partners has been key to the development of the strategy. We will continue to grow and develop these further as opportunities to strengthen our approach are identified.

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[7] Scotland's Digital Future: A strategy for Scotland, March 2011   http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Economy/digital

[8] Scottish Government Digital Participation: A national framework for local action, 2014   http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/04/6821

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Strategic Alignment

The Digital Strategy will continue to actively look for opportunities to promote Digital across all our other **major** strategic initiatives such as;

- Tackling Poverty
- Paisley bid for UK City of Culture 2021
- Our Council Plan[9] – "A Better Future, A Better Council"
- Our Community Plan[10]

The Digital Strategy aligns with the relevant Scottish and UK Government digital strategies, particularly the Scottish Government's Digital Strategy "Scotland's Digital Future: A Strategy for Scotland" which sets out the actions required to ensure that Scotland is able to take advantage of the opportunities of the digital age[11]. We will engage proactively with a range of digital government programmes such as the Scottish Futures Trust Public Wireless Programme and the national Superfast Broad Band Rollout Programme.

An Evolving Strategy

The strategy has to be cross-cutting in the same way technology is tightly woven into today's modern society. However, we need to recognise that longer term strategies need to keep pace with emerging technology if they are to remain relevant and deliver the anticipated benefits

"radio took 38 years to reach 50 million users, television took 13 years, web took 4 years and Facebook took just 10 months. In 2015 nearly 75% of internet users have a social media profile, compared to 22% in 2007"[12]*(Ofcom 2015)*

Today it's Pokémon Go, but what will 2021 look like? This document should be viewed as a starting point, a snapshot in time. This strategy is alive and will evolve in response to changing technology and the shifting needs of our citizens, staff and local businesses.

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[9] Renfrewshire Council Plan 2014-2017 http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/3cb3ae2c-6cc9-4b7e-a879-1828f6da2484/ce-RenCouncilPlan2014-2017.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

[10] Renfrewshire Community Plan 2013-2023 http://www.renfrewshire2023.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/CommunityPlan1.pdf

[11] Scotland's Digital Future: A strategy for Scotland, March 2011 http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Economy/digital

[12] Statistics from Ofcom: Adults' Media Use and Attitudes Report, 2015. http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/other/research-publications/adults/media-lit-10years/

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Our Vision and Priorities

*'In a Digital Renfrewshire we will make sure everybody has the **opportunity** to reach their **digital potential** and maximise the wider economic, educational, health, social and cultural benefits for all'.*

Building on consultation outcomes and research findings from the Renfrewshire Digital Participation Plan, the strategy has been developed in partnership with a wide range of public, private and third-sector organisations and council services. The Digital Participation Group has facilitated on-going consultation which has resulted in a shared vision and agreed priorities.

Priorities
In order to achieve the vision our four key priorities are;

1. Tackle digital exclusion by removing the barriers to **Digital Participation**
2. Enable digital participation through provision of a strong digital infrastructure of **Connectivity**
3. Become an efficient, effective and sustainable council by developing our **Digital Public Services**
4. Support growth in Renfrewshire's **Economy** by maximising the use of digital technology and tackling the growing digital skill gap

These priorities are represented below as four workstreams with digital participation at the core.
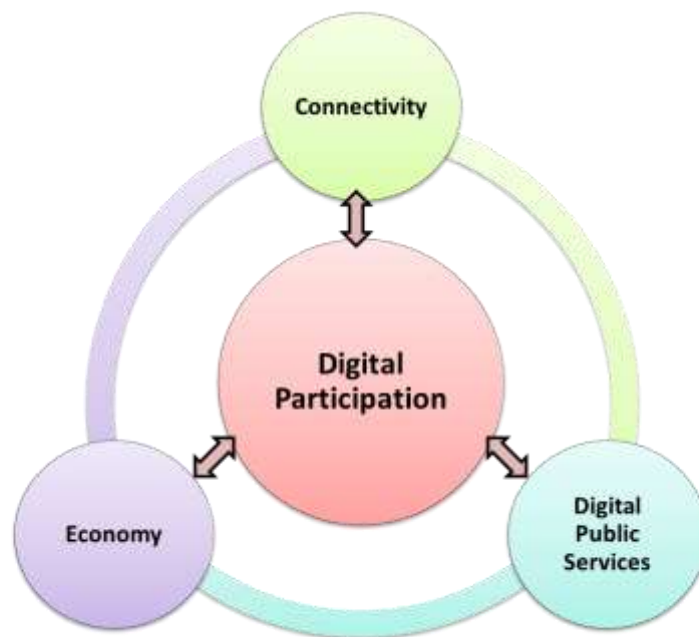
"Digital must move away from being an 'add on' to being fundamental to the future of efficient and sustainable 21st century services"
(Renfrewshire Digital Participation Group, 2016)

Delivery of Workstream 1: Digital Participation

Our aspiration

We want everybody to have the opportunity to reach their digital potential. We are determined that everyone will have the means of access, awareness, skills and confidence and motivation to participate online responsibly.

Overview

Digital Participation is the driver for this strategy and we will put the needs of the individual and the organisation at the centre. In a time where public services face increased financial pressures, the digital divide is widening particularly as more products and services go online i.e. Universal Credit, it is essential that we not widen the digital divide. We recognise that those individuals who require access to these essential services or who could benefit most from being online, are also those most likely to be digitally excluded and already facing social inequality.

Challenge

There is a long history of Renfrewshire Council services working to close the digital divide with the provision of free access to connectivity and support for digital skills in libraries and learning centres. These services are well established in the community, alongside partner agencies, and have provided a source of stigma-free digital access and support. They continue to achieve positive outcomes but initial findings indicate the growing demand outweighs capacity.

The key barriers to Digital Participation are as follows and will inform our priorities;

- **Access** to technology such as a computer or the internet for completing an online job application can be an issue due to affordability and lack of availability in your local library or in the area you live.
- **Digital Skills and Confidence -** basic digital skills such as searching for information, completing forms, emailing and shopping online are now becoming necessary for daily living in a digital society, therefore building confidence is fundamental to digital participation
- **Motivation** is vital for increasing digital participation. Understanding the benefits and opportunities digital can bring and reducing fears around internet safety through education are key.

Our Priorities

1. **We want to reduce the barriers** to digital participation across Renfrewshire;
2. **We want to target efforts** towards those who have the most barriers to digital exclusion first;
3. **We want to build capacity** for digital participation across council services and partner agencies;
4. **We want to co-ordinate efforts** across council services and partner agencies.

What we will do

1. Increase awareness of where to access free internet, technology and digital skills training across Renfrewshire.

2. Increase the digital skills of our workforce through our Organisational Development and Workforce Planning Strategies.

3. Increase the digital skills of our citizens in partnership with national skills programmes and our existing Community Learning and Development Strategy.

4. Review and develop existing digital participation services by identifying gaps and prioritising areas of need.

5. Continue to develop and promote Renfrewshire Digital Volunteer Services.

6. Tackle areas of high digital exclusion by setting up focused working groups on digital participation. A digital housing group will be set up first.

7. Target efforts and develop effective solutions to complex digital exclusion issues by testing and evolving our approaches based on what works best.

8. Drive a call to action working with new and existing partners to coordinate efforts

9. Sign up to the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), Digital Participation Charter

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Delivery of Workstream 2: Connectivity

Our aspiration

Access to the internet -the fourth utility- is improved and increased. It is accessible anywhere, at any time with a device that meets the needs of the user.

Overview

One of the key outcomes of the digital participation consultation and research was the need for increased access to free public Wi-Fi. The overwhelming consensus of the digital strategy consultation was that one of the fundamental building blocks to achieving the vision is access to the internet and technology. Both have been identified as major barriers to digital participation as a result of cost, availability and speed. Individuals who cannot afford home broadband may rely on a Pay as You Go mobile phone and depend on free public Wi-Fi to keep costs down. Ofcom reports that 71% of UK adults now have access to a smartphone[13], but this may be through circumstance rather than choice. A smartphone offers many benefits in terms of access, but it can be limited for other uses, such as completing an online job or benefits application.

Challenge

Libraries and community education centres are the main providers of public access to computers and internet but demand is high and the standard of technology and internet is variable. National Improvements and investment are being made to general broadband infrastructure but there are still local gaps in coverage and speeds can vary significantly.

Our Priorities

Our four priorities are all focused on improving digital infrastructure to enable connectivity;

1. **Wi-Fi** enables internet access on the move and provides an essential means of access for individuals who rely on free Wi-Fi due to the cost of home broadband or mobile phone contracts.
2. **Broadband** availability and quality of speed is vital for business growth and home access
3. **Technology** we use in our personal lives should be reflected in the workplace to reduce the need for workarounds and enable easier digital skills transfer between home and work.
4. **Smart Cities** 'A Smart City or town should enable every citizen to engage with all the services on offer, public as well as private, in a way best suited to his or her needs. It brings together hard infrastructure, social capital including local skills and community institutions, and (digital) technologies to fuel sustainable economic development and provide an attractive environment for all.'[14]

Renfrewshire Council is currently updating its **ICT Strategy**, and a revised version (2017-2020) is planned. This new ICT Strategy will align with the Digital Strategy. It will define how technology and digital services can support delivery of the council's ambitions and enable improvements in service delivery while contributing to overall efficiency savings for the council.

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13 Statistics from Ofcom: Adults' Media Use and Attitudes Report, 2015.   http://media.ofcom.org.uk/facts/)
14 Smart Cities Background Paper, Department for Business Innovation & Skills, October 2013   https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/246019/bis-13-1209-smart-cities-background-paper-digital.pdf

What we will do

1. Increase access to the internet by investing in a free public Wi-Fi for key town centre and public buildings across Renfrewshire.

2. Advocate for the improvement and availability of broadband infrastructure across Renfrewshire.

3. Develop a mechanism for citizens to voice broadband issues in partnership with Digital Scotland and Community Broadband Scotland.

4. Promote and drive forward improvements to council connectivity and develop a culture of digital participation through the refreshed ICT Strategy aligned to the Digital Strategy.

5. Increase digital participation by reviewing and responding to the connectivity needs of public access points and learning centres.

6. Develop a vision of what future Renfrewshire towns can offer residents in regards to digital by producing a Smart Cities plan which links to the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal Programme.

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Delivery of Workstream 3: Digital Public Services

Our aspiration

Digital technology will transform public services to deliver responsive, user-focused and efficient digital public services.

Overview

A key focus for this workstream is Renfrewshire Council's Customer Access Project which, is developing and enabling a range of new council digital services. The drivers for the project are twofold; to deliver measurable cost savings and efficiencies and to respond to changing customer needs by offering council services online. Traditional channels such as telephone and face-to-face will continue to be improved for those who choose or require this method.

Challenge

A high number of users of council public services are the same users who we have identified as those most likely to be digitally excluded. As more public services and products move online, there is a risk that the digital divide will grow deeper. This reinforces the need for an overarching digital strategy that coordinates efforts to reduce digital exclusion and achieves the vision for everyone.

Our Priorities

These four priorities have been developed in relation to the existing council customer project but could be aligned to other digital service development if deemed complementary or developed further;

1. **Sustainability, Efficiency and Effectiveness -** Digital transformation is vital in a time of financial pressure across public services. However both go hand in hand, and without upfront investment in reducing digital exclusion the vision of the digital public services will not be realised.

2. **Accessibility and Usability –** We need to make sure that the services we choose to deliver digitally can be used effectively by all our customers who choose to use them. For example, individuals with a visual impairment who struggle with small print or may require the functionality of text to speech. In the same way we include ramps and disabled parking spaces in the physical world we must do the same in the online world.

3. **Motivation -** The majority of users of council public services are those we have identified as the most likely to be digitally excluded. In addition to lack of access and digital skills, a lack of motivation has been identified as a key barrier to people going online. This could be caused by a lack of awareness of the benefits available from the internet, and/or they may be fearful of the risks. The Customer Access Project is investing in this area to change customer behaviour and increase the successful adoption of digital public services. This approach seeks to complement aims of the digital participation workstream.

4. **Digital Service Development and Partnership**
   There are significant opportunities for partnership and shared learning within other areas of digital service development, such as the tele-care and tele-health developments within the Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership. The same challenges exist and a clear focus on digital participation will be fundamental to the successful widespread adoption of any new digital services.

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What we will do

1. Increase efficiency and effectiveness by delivering digital services that become the preferred choice for customers.

2. Involve customers in the design and development of digital services to ensure they are fit for purpose and will be widely used.

3. Actively market the availability of digital public services and promote the benefits to be gained by using them.

4. Review and improve the support available for customers who need help to make best use of available digital services.

5. Build on and explore opportunities for partnership working across areas of digital service development

Delivery of Workstream 4: Economy

Our aspiration

We want to support growth in Renfrewshire's economy by maximising the use of digital technology and tackling the growing digital skills gap.

Overview

This digital skills gap is costing the UK economy an estimated £63 billion a year in lost additional GDP. This is a major risk to business growth, innovation and broader societal development. There is a clear link between market competitiveness and the uptake and application of digital technology in the workplace. Significantly half of all charities and a quarter of SMEs in Scotland lack basic digital skills. Today, 90% of jobs require basic digital skills, which have been categorised by the UK Government into three key areas; basic digital literacy skills, digital skills for the general workforce; digital skills for ICT professions (digitally innovative and creative individuals, organisations and businesses)[15].

The Challenge

Digital skills need to improve continuously across the whole UK population so that all sectors and organisations can take advantage of the benefits offered by digital technologies. There is a need for action to be taken to re-skill the workforce continuously and create a pipeline of new talent coming out of education. There is a common misconception that young people are 'digital natives' but this is not always the case and some may leave education without basic digital skills e.g. creating a CV. A recent report from Child Poverty Action Group shows that children and young people living in a low income household do not have the same access to ICT facilities at home as children from families with a higher income. This means that there is a sizeable number of young people who are not only digitally excluded, but excluded from education and their peers too[16]. There are 600,000 vacancies in the ICT sector, forecast to rise to 1m by 2020. The people building the internet and the services we all use, are overwhelmingly men. Women occupy just 17 per cent of tech jobs in the UK. If we do not understand why, and try to rectify it, we are missing out on half the talent pool[17]. Education services have a role to play in tackling this challenge.

Our Priorities

1. **To support the business sector.** Helping businesses make the most of what digital can offer to increase productivity, competitiveness, efficiency and support innovation.

2. **To grow jobs and support access to sustained work.** Tackling the growing digital skills gap and ensuring Renfrewshire's people are digitally skilled for the current and future demands of the workplace.

3. **To work in partnership with the education sector to prepare children and young people for the future job market** Aligning ICT education with the future demands of the workplace and job market and raise awareness of the lack of basic digital skills of young people leaving education.

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[15]"Digital Skills for the UK Economy" by Eorys UK, UK Government, 2016   https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/digital-skills-for-the-uk-economy
[16] Cost of the School Day, Child Poverty Action Group, 2015   http://www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/CPAG-Scot-Cost-Of-School-Day-Report%28Oct15%29.pdf
[17] Gender equality in the tech sector will benefit the global economy   http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e2f8ad0a-bdd6-11e5-9fdb-87b8d15baec2.html#ixzz4HbiGXNHa

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4. **To reduce gender inequality in the technology industry.** Working in partnership with education, STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Maths) initiatives and industry to reverse the growing trend and increase the digital skills talent pool.

What we will do

1. Develop and promote a digital support plan for business – highlighting current areas of support and developing potential new services to meet local demand and address gaps.

2. Develop a digital skills plan based on the three categories of skills requirements highlighted by the UK Government in Digital Skills for the UK Economy.

3. Identify opportunities to work in partnership with other agencies in the planning and delivery of our new digital approach.

4. Work in partnership with the children and young people services to improve and develop digital skills in education aligned to the GoOnUK Basic digital skills framework.

5. Work in partnership with education, STEM initiatives and industry to reverse gender inequality.

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Principles

The following guiding principles will guide and underpin the development and delivery of initiatives contained within the Digital Strategy;

- **Accessibility and Usability**
  We will put the person at the centre of digital service design and involve them in the design and delivery of our digital initiatives
- **Information Security**
  We will maintain the highest standards of information security and governance
- **Open Data**
  We will promote an open data approach based on the Council open data strategy
- **Digital Trends**
  We will endeavour to keep pace with digital trends through research and testing of innovative approaches
- **Partnership**
  We will actively seek opportunities for partnership and collaboration to maximise impact through joint investments
- **Sustainability**
  We will design services that have a robust business case and can be sustained in the future

Outcomes and Measures

The outcomes and measures have been developed in line with the vision of the Digital Strategy

'In a Digital Renfrewshire we will make sure that everybody has the opportunity to reach their digital potential and maximise the wider economic, educational, health, social and cultural benefits for all'
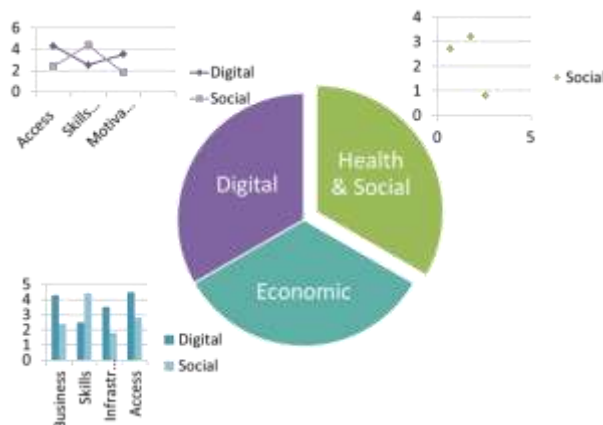
Outcomes
The key outcomes of the digital strategy have been identified as;

Reduced social inequality

Improved education and attainment

Improved health and well being

Economic growth

Reduced unemployment

Sustainable and efficient public service delivery

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Measures

The outcomes will be measured by developing a Renfrewshire '**Digital Strategy Dashboard'**.

(Example for illustration purposes)

The dashboard will be developed based on existing national approaches to digital measures including:
1. UK Government Digital Engagement Outcomes
2. GoOnUK (now DotEveryone) Heatmap
3. GoOnUK Basic Digital Skills Evaluation Framework

The measures above provide a national measure and additional work will be required to create a Renfrewshire view. We will identify additional measures already in use by each workstream and gaps that may require additional local measures or further development.

We will seek to identify commonality across other council measurement requests and in particular the Paisley 2021 and Tackling Poverty Programme to share findings, coordinate efforts and reduce duplication.

It is envisaged the measures will focus on the following outcome groupings;

Digital Outcomes - People are being enabled to take advantage of digital technology;
Economic Outcomes - Digital technology is improving people's economic and life chances
Health & Social Outcomes - Digital technology is supporting health and social progress

Potential indicators that can be used to measure Digital Participation are;

Digital Indicators
- Infrastructure (Broadband / Mobile 4G)
- Who is offline?
- Basic Digital Skills
- Basic Digital Skills Used

Social Indicators
- Age
- Education
- Income
- Health

Governance and Shaping

Governance
A *Digital Steering Group* has been created to bring each workstream and priority areas of work together to coordinate efforts and resources, reduce duplication and keep pace with digital developments. The group will also make strategic decisions. It is envisaged that this group membership will expand over time but at present senior officers will represent ICT, Customer Services, Renfrewshire Leisure (Libraries), Community Education, Children's Services, Economic Development, Community Resources, Health & Social Care Partnership, Policy and Commissioning and Housing. Reference groups will be represented by the CEO of Engage.

Shaping
*Digital Participation Group (organisations)*
The Digital Participation Group was formed as a result of the initial consultation and engagement period on the Digital Participation Plan. Membership is at 40-50 members and growing, representing a range of public, private and third sector organisations and local academic institutions across Renfrewshire. The DPG meets approximately every 2 months across various partner venues and is planned and delivered in partnership with the CEO of Engage as the Chair and the Digital Team within Policy and Commissioning. The meetings encourage networking, sharing of resources and information, training, digital conversations and call to action.

Digital Delivery (frontline)
Led by the Digital Participation Officer this group will bring together frontline staff and local champions who are delivering digital participation across the public, private and the third sector. This provides the opportunity for sharing resources and improved coordination of activity. The group also encourages digital skills sharing to increase staff digital skills.

Digital Voices (users)
A mechanism will be developed to formalise consultation, user testing and the use of critical friends on digital developments across the council. This will cover timing, methods, representation and digital advocacy to ensure users are supported throughout the process by someone with digital awareness.

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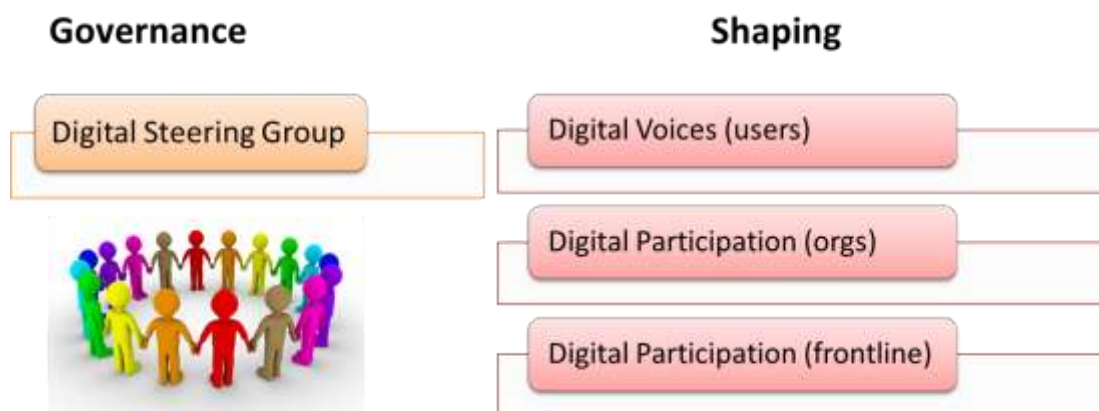
Appendices

Appendix 1: Map of Digital Exclusion (with a Poverty Weighting)

Combined count of highest 20% per datazone of 8 digital exclusion indicators
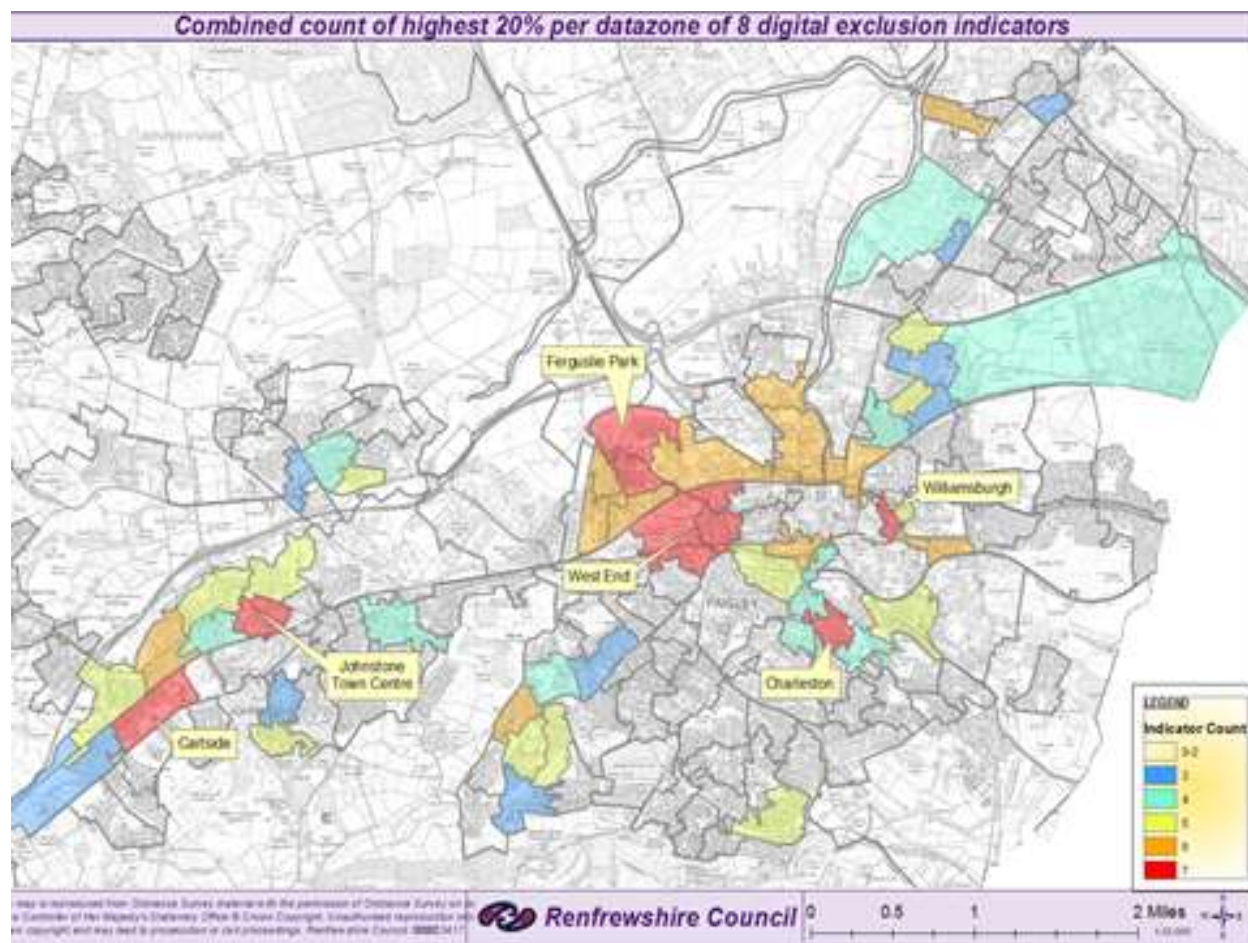
Appendix 2: Combined Action Plan 2016-17

Action	Digital Participation	Digital Public Services	Connectivity	Economy
Digital Participation				
Increase awareness of where to access free internet, technology and digital skills training across Renfrewshire	x	x	x	x
Increase the digital skills of our workforce through development and delivery of a HR, OD and Workforce Strategy	x	x	x	x
Increase the digital skills of our citizens in partnership with national skills programmes and our existing Community Learning and Development Strategy	x	x		x
Continue to develop and promote Renfrewshire Digital Volunteer Services	x	x		x
Review and develop existing digital participation services by identifying gaps and prioritising areas of need	x	x	x	x
Tackle areas of high digital exclusion by setting up focused working groups on digital participation. A digital housing group will be set up first.	x	x		x
Target efforts and develop new solutions to complex digital exclusion issues using test and learn	x	x		x
Drive a call to action working with new and existing partners to coordinate efforts	x	x	x	x
Sign up to the SCVO Digital Participation Charter	x	x	x	x
Connectivity				
Increase access to the internet by investing in a 1 million free public Wi-Fi project	x	x	x	x
Advocate for the improvement and availability of broadband infrastructure across Renfrewshire	x	x	x	X
Develop a mechanism for citizens to voice broadband issues in partnership with Digital Scotland and Community Broadband Scotland	x	x	x	x
Promote and drive forward improvements to council connectivity and develop a culture of digital participation through the refreshed ICT Strategy aligned to the Digital Strategy	x	x	x	
Increase digital participation by reviewing and responding to the connectivity needs of public access points and learning centres	x	x	x	x
Develop a vision of what future Renfrewshire towns can offer its residents in regards to digital by producing a Smart Cities plan which links to the G&CV City Deal Programme	x	x	x	x
Digital Public Services				
Increase efficiency and effectiveness by delivering digital services that become the preferred choice		x		

Increase access to digital public services by reviewing current provision of customer digital support	x	x	x	
Increase access to digital public services by develop an accessible customer digital self-service space	x	x		
Promote and facilitate the design, development and delivery of usable and accessible digital services	x	x		
Promote the opportunity to use digital public services and the overall benefits of digital participation	x	x	x	x
Build on and explore opportunities for partnership working across areas of digital service development	x	x		x
Economy – still needs work / review				
Develop and promote a Digital Support Plan for Business – highlighting current areas of support and developing potential new services to meet local demand	x			x
Develop a Digital Skills plan	x			x
Work in partnership with, and involve others, in the planning and delivery of our new digital approach	x	x	x	x
Work in partnership with the Children and Young People Services to improve and develop digital skills in Education aligned to the GoOnUK Basic digital skills framework	x		x	x
Work in partnership with education, STEM initiatives and industry to reverse gender inequality	x			x

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To: **LEADERSHIP BOARD**

On: **14TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

Report by: **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES and DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & RESOURCES**

Heading: **RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL - INTEGRATED ENFORCEMENT POLICY**

1. **Summary**

1.1 In order to ensure enforcement decisions are consistent and transparent, local authorities are encouraged to develop Enforcement Policies in relation to the legislation enforced by the local authority.

1.2 In March 2015, Fergus Ewing MSP, in his role as Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism wrote to all Scottish Local Authorities, advising of the publication of the Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice. The Code, which has been introduced under section 5 of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, applies to various devolved functions of Local Authority Regulators, such as Trading Standards Officers, Environmental Health Officers or Community Safety Wardens. A similar code exists for reserved matters (i.e. UK Government legislation) – the "Regulators' Code".

1.3 These Codes, which were developed by and with both regulators and business, require regulators to take a risk-based approach, to communicate clearly and to take steps to understand those they regulate, in line with the principles of Better Regulation. Regulators were advised to review existing enforcement policies or service-specific enforcement guidance for compliance with the Code.

1

1.4   In late 2015, Community Resources initiated a review of existing enforcement policies across the Council, in line with the requirements of these codes. The review has been completed, and a single strategic Integrated Enforcement Policy for Renfrewshire Council has been developed. This may be backed up within each relevant service area with specific operational enforcement guidance, as required.

1.5   The purpose of this report is to seek the Leadership Board's approval of the Integrated Enforcement Policy, as attached at Appendix 1.

2.   Recommendations

2.1   It is recommended that the Leadership Board:

(i)   approves the Renfrewshire Council Integrated Enforcement Policy attached as Appendix 1;

(ii)   authorise officers to prepare guidance notes relevant to individual service areas, as appropriate.

3.   Background

3.1   In 1998, Renfrewshire Council adopted the UK Government's Enforcement Concordat, which was endorsed in full by COSLA, Local Government Regulation (formerly LACORS) and the Scottish Government.

3.2   Changing economic priorities in the UK mean that businesses require greater support to allow for economic recovery. Regulators contribute towards this challenge through the advice given to legitimate businesses, particularly during start up and by protecting legitimate businesses from being undercut by fraudulent trading.

3.3   On publication of these new Strategic Codes, regulators were encouraged to:

- Review existing core operational policies e.g. enforcement policy, service charters etc. and ensure alignment with the Code.
- Take account of the Code in developing new operational policies and build the Code into relevant staff training/awareness-raising.
- Ensure that the Code and core operational policies are available to regulated operators/persons so they know what to expect.
- Pursue continuous improvement under the Code and share and seek to understand good practice with other regulators.
- Use existing Governance arrangements to publish an annual statement on compliance with the Code.

2

3.4 The policy attached at Appendix 1 takes into account the requirements of the "Regulators' Code" for reserved matters (i.e. UK Government legislation), and the "Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice" for devolved matters (i.e. Scottish Government legislation). These codes exemplify "best practice" and stress the need for regulatory services to adopt a positive and proactive approach towards ensuring compliance by:

- Helping and encouraging businesses and individuals to understand and comply with the law,
- Responding proportionately to breaches of the law, and
- Using comprehensive risk assessment and local/national intelligence sources to concentrate resources in the areas that need them most.

3.5 The Renfrewshire Council Integrated Enforcement Policy will be reviewed whenever there are significant legislative changes, or changes in central or local government policy. Any significant changes to the Enforcement Policy will be reported to the relevant Policy Board. A statement on compliance with the policy will be published annually, in line with existing governance arrangements.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial -** none.

2. **HR & Organisational Development -** none.

3. **Community Planning**
   Jobs and the Economy - This policy will support economic recovery by setting out guidelines along which regulators will seek to ensure compliance, rather than enforcement unless necessary.

   Safer and Stronger - The policy allows for regulators to take enforcement in circumstances where this is required, to ensure a level playing field for businesses which will allow legitimate business to flourish.

4. **Legal -** none.

5. **Property/Assets -** none.

6. **Information Technology -** none.

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. 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 –** the proposed new categories will not require the Council to gather any additional personal or sensitive data, than is already gathered in the course of the administration of this scheme.

List of Background Papers

(a)   None

Author: Shona MacDougall, Director of Community Resources

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Appendix 1

REGULATORY SERVICES

INTEGRATED ENFORCEMENT POLICY

1. **Introduction**

Renfrewshire Council has statutory powers and duties to determine applications and consider suspension of licences and to enforce certain pieces of legislation in the Renfrewshire area. Laws and regulations play an essential role in ensuring a thriving, fair and safe society. They provide essential rights and protections for residents, consumers, workers, businesses, communities and the environment; can stimulate innovation and modernisation and support economic development. Often, the assurance of regulatory controls delivers multiple benefits – for communities, the environment and the economy.

This Enforcement Policy governs how these regulatory controls are applied across Renfrewshire Council, in services such as:

- Consumer Protection - Food Safety, Health & Safety, Trading Standards,
- Environmental Health - Contaminated Land, Housing Disrepair, Air Quality,
- Community Safety Partnership - Community Safety, Environmental Legislation, Anti-social Behaviour,
- Building Standards,
- Civic Government Licensing, and
- Housing.

The policy sets out the key principles which govern the work of a range of Enforcement Officers across the Council, including Civic Government Enforcement Officers, Environmental Health Officers, Trading Standards Officers, Technical Officers and Community Safety Wardens. These principles are designed to ensure that enforcement is carried out in a consistent and fair manner.

This policy takes into account the requirements of the "Regulators' Code" for reserved matters (i.e. UK Government legislation), and the "Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice" for devolved matters (i.e. Scottish Government legislation). These codes exemplify "best practice" and stress the need for regulatory services to adopt a positive and proactive approach towards ensuring compliance by:

- Helping and encouraging businesses and individuals to understand and comply with the law,
- Responding proportionately to breaches of the law, and
- Using comprehensive risk assessment and intelligence sources as appropriate, to concentrate resources in the areas that need them most.

Council services seek to achieve these aims by various methods, including the provision of advice to businesses - particularly during start up, promoting good business practices rather than stifling entrepreneurial activities and protecting legitimate businesses from being undercut by fraudulent trading.

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2.   Aims

The Renfrewshire Community Plan 2013-23 sets out a vision for Renfrewshire as a fairer, more inclusive place where all of our people, communities and businesses thrive.

Regulators within the Council aim to achieve this by:

- Protecting the mental health and physical, or emotional wellbeing of our residents,
- Having a growing economy that creates employment for a well trained, qualified and motivated workforce,
- Having attractive environments and town centres that support the growth of local communities and the economy,
- Supporting people to live independently for as long as possible in their own homes, and protecting members of the community from abuse and neglect,
- Ensuring the safety and security of the public, visitors, workers and residents of Renfrewshire, and
- Protecting the environment from pollution or contamination.

3.   Principles of Enforcement

The "Regulators' Code" and the "Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice" both stress a focus on ensuring compliance from businesses by treating all regulated persons and businesses in a fair and consistent manner, taking proportionate enforcement action where necessary, while reducing the legislative burden on compliant businesses. The information below details the approach which regulators will take when considering whether enforcement action is appropriate in any case. These criteria reflect the recommendations to Regulators as set out in the Codes.

Council Services adopt a positive and enabling attitude - to ensure outcomes, where possible, contribute to sustainable economic growth. At all times Enforcement Officers will be helpful and assist with enquiries to their service. In cases where Officers are not able to assist, they will ensure service users are directed to the appropriate alternative service. There may be occasions where we may not be able to undertake action as requested by service users, and in these instances these decisions will be fully explained. Services will exercise their regulatory functions in an efficient and timely manner, in order to minimise costs and bureaucracy.

Council Services are alive to other interests and business factors - including relevant community and business interests; taking business factors appropriately and proportionately into account, where possible, in their decision making processes; and protecting public health and safety. Where possible, before we take enforcement action, we will provide an opportunity to discuss the matter and, where possible, discuss points of difference. However, this will not apply when immediate action is

required (for example to prevent or respond to a serious breach, or where there is an imminent risk to health and safety).

Services adopt risk and evidence based approaches - which help target action where it's needed and help to ensure the achievement of measurable outcomes. We will use this approach to take into consideration the likelihood of non-compliance and the impact of non-compliance. We will use these principles to determine the frequency of inspection, and we will consider those principles when arranging other visits, for example to take samples and carry out projects. We will normally investigate all complaints from the public.

Services develop relationships and communication with those they regulate - and have clear two-way communication in place. Information is made available to regulated persons by Council Services in relation to reasons for decisions, appeals procedures and fees, on the Council's website and otherwise, as appropriate. In some cases, appeals require to be made to an external body, such as in Civic Government licensing where appeals are to the Sheriff.

Services tailor their approach - depending on the nature of the sector they are regulating and the desired outcomes. This includes a commitment to advice and support for those who seek to comply at an early stage, as we recognise that prevention is better than cure, allied with robust and effective enforcement when justified.

The Council is committed to the five principles of better regulation:

Transparency - Our services will provide clear and transparent information, as far as legislation allows, in relation to the enforcement activities carried out. Where Officers decide to take enforcement action, they will ensure that the reasons are made clear and any appeal procedures are explained.

Accountability - Our services may publish Improvement Plans or locally reported Operational Plans, which set clear performance standards that services are required to achieve in order to demonstrate their performance.

Consistency - Our services exercise their duties in a fair, equitable, non-discriminatory and consistent manner. While Officers must be able to exercise professional judgement, they must also take into account any local or national guidance available. Our Services ensure liaison arrangements are in place with other Local Authorities in order to maintain and promote consistency where required.

Proportionality - At all times, Officers will take action proportionate to the level of risk presented. Officers will work with businesses and the public to ensure they can meet legislative requirements without unnecessary expense. In certain situations enforcement penalties and fees are set by legislation and as such these cannot be changed. In relation to proportionality the following factors will be considered:

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- The seriousness of the breach involved,
- Any steps taken to prevent the breach or minimise the impact,
- History of compliance,
- Likelihood of recurrence of the contravention, and
- The need to deter future breaches.

Necessity (work targeted only where needed) - Our services will undertake routine work on a risk-assessed basis, to avoid an unnecessary burden on compliant businesses. Other enforcement activities may be intelligence-led to ensure resources are targeted where required.

Our Services are committed to pursuing continuous improvement - Many services conduct customer satisfaction surveys to inform service development. Complaints made about services will be dealt with in accordance with the Council's complaints procedure. This procedure ensures that where disputes cannot be resolved, a Manager will investigate the complaint and respond with a written detailed account of the investigation.

4.   Enforcement Guidance

Services may produce their own guidance documents, detailing any enforcement and regulatory action which is specific to their own service area.

5.   Exemptions to the Policy

This Enforcement Policy should be adhered to at all times when making enforcement decisions, however it is recognised that there may be occasions where the policy may not be followed.

Should an Enforcement Officer consider it appropriate not to strictly follow this policy due to the seriousness of a contravention or persistence of breaches, that Officer may exercise their professional discretion to take the action deemed most appropriate in those circumstances. This decision must be notified to the relevant Manager as soon as possible.

Any departures from the policy will be recorded in accordance with Council or legislative procedures.

6.   Review of the Policy

This Enforcement Policy will be subject to review and changes will be recorded. An annual statement on compliance with the code will be published in line with existing governance arrangements. The Policy will be reviewed where:

- There are any significant legislative changes,
- There are changes in national or local priorities,

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- There is a need identified as part of our annual statement of compliance with the codes,
- Feedback from customers and employees indicates change is required, and
- There are changes in roles and responsibilities of Renfrewshire Council.

7. Publication of the Policy

This Enforcement Policy will be available on the Council website at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk, and in addition the document can be made available in an abridged leaflet form for anyone who requires it.

8. Contact

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Renfrewshire House,
Cotton Street,
Paisley   PA1 1AN

Tel: 0300 300 0380

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