



To: Economy and Jobs Policy Board
On: 20 May 2015

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Invest in Renfrewshire: Retail Improvement Scheme Update

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Retail Improvement Scheme 2014/15 and seeks agreement to an allocation of £300,000 for the continuation of the Scheme during financial year 2015/16.
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2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- i. Agrees to the allocation of £300,000 of Invest in Renfrewshire funding to allow a Retail Improvement Scheme to be operated across Renfrewshire during 2015/16;
 - ii. Notes the successful delivery of the Retail Improvement Scheme in 2014/15, as set out in Appendix 1.
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3 Background

- 3.1 The Retail Improvement Scheme (RIS) is part of the Invest in Renfrewshire Programme and allows owners and occupiers of small business properties in established retail areas throughout Renfrewshire, to apply for assistance of up to 80% and £10,000 of the cost of shopfront improvements.
- 3.2 During 2014/15, 42 projects were supported and Appendix 1 provides summary details on the properties:

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|---|----------|
| Number of awards made | 42 |
| Total amount awarded | £307,000 |
| Overall approximate expenditure by applicants | £570,000 |

- 3.3 Approximately 45% of the awards made were for the maximum allowable and it is estimated that approximately 92% of the total expenditure is being, or has been, paid to Renfrewshire based contractors.
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4 Retail Improvement Scheme 2015/16

- 4.1 Considerable interest continues to be expressed in the RIS and over 120 preliminary applications for funding are to hand.
- 4.2 The guidelines for 2015/16 will be broadly similar to those as before, and it is proposed to continue to use the assessment framework previously approved by the Board, to ensure that assistance is given to properties which will deliver the greatest impact.
- 4.3 The Scheme will also cover parts of Paisley which had previously been eligible from the Paisley Town Centre Property Improvement Grant Scheme. However, the areas covered by the Townscape Heritage Initiative and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (THI/CARS) programmes will only be considered for RIS funding if THI/CARS is unable to provide support.
- 4.4 Early applications for funding will be encouraged, particularly those relating to vacant and prominent properties requiring attention, with a view to ensuring best use of all available funding.
- 4.5 The Board will be kept up to date on progress made with regards to the Scheme.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – As noted above it is proposed to allocate £300,000 to the Retail Improvement Scheme as part of the Invest in Renfrewshire Initiative.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** –
Greener – Helping to promote pleasant and well designed, sustainable, places which provide needed services.
Jobs and the Economy – Positive investment in small businesses is welcomed in what can be a difficult economic climate.
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.

List of Background Papers

- a) Report to Economy and Jobs Policy Board on 21 May 2014, "Invest in Renfrewshire: Retail Improvement Scheme Update"

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Appendix 1 – Retail Improvement Scheme Offers of Support 2014/15

| Location | Types of business | No. of awards |
|------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Main Street, Bridge of Weir | Hairdresser | 1 |
| Old Greenock Road, Inchinnan | Hairdresser | 1 |
| Church Street, Johnstone | Financial Services | 1 |
| High Street, Johnstone | Hairdresser Financial Services * Hairdresser Hairdresser^ | 4 |
| Houston Square, Johnstone | Funeral Director | 1 |
| McDowall Street, Johnstone | Hairdresser | 1 |
| Thorn Brae, Johnstone | Nursery and play area | 1 |
| Thornhill, Johnstone | General Store Veterinary Practice | 2 |
| Napier Street, Linwood | Hairdresser | 1 |
| Broomlands Street, Paisley | Laundry Services | 1 |
| Braehead Road, Paisley | Hairdresser | 1 |
| Foxbar Road, Paisley | Hairdresser | 1 |
| Glasgow Road, Paisley | Cafe * Chiropractic Clinic | 2 |
| George Street, Paisley | Funeral Director*^ | 1 |
| Greenock Road, Paisley | Interior Design | 1 |
| Lochaline Road, Paisley | General Store | 1 |
| Love Street, Paisley | Hot Food Takeaway^ Laundry Services^ | 2 |
| Maxwellton Street, Paisley | Hot Food Takeaway * | 1 |
| Neilston Road, Paisley | Hairdresser Showroom General Store Financial Services | 4 |
| Skye Crescent, Paisley | Butcher's Shop^ | 1 |
| Well Street, Paisley | Barber's Shop | 1 |
| Wellmeadow Street, Paisley | Hairdresser Locksmith^ | 2 |
| Ferry Road, Renfrew | Hot Food Takeaway | 1 |
| Hairst Street, Renfrew | Barber's Shop Dental Clinic | 2 |
| High Street, Renfrew | Hairdresser | 1 |
| Paisley Road, Renfrew | Beauty Salon Butcher's Shop Hot Food Takeaway* Hot Food Takeaway* Financial Services^ Funeral Director^ | 6 |
| Total Applications | | 42 |

Note – Vacant properties are marked with an *
Those properties marked with an ^ represent projects carried over from 2013/14