

To: Economy and Jobs Policy Board

On: 16 November 2016

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Community Economic Development Team

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 25 May 2016 the establishment of a new Community Economic Development (CED) Team was reported to the Economy and Jobs Policy Board.
 - 1.2 This report updates the Economy and Jobs Policy Board on the progress of the CED team and the development of a CED Team Action Plan and related targets.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Note the development and implementation of a CED Team Action Plan.
 - 2.2. Agree that further reports will be brought forward to the Economy and Jobs Policy Board to update on progress.
-

3. Background

- 3.1. In October 2015 Renfrewshire published its Tackling Poverty Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2015-2017.

- 3.2 In line with the recommendations of the Strategy a new post was created to focus on community economic development and funding. The post holder started with Renfrewshire Council in March 2016 and joined with the two existing Economic Development Officers (Social Economy Officer and Funding and Development Officer) to form a new community economic development team.
-

4. Community Economic Development Team Activity

- 4.1 The team's primary focus over the first few months was to build awareness of the team and the support they could provide at community level. Relationship building was a key priority and the team sought to link up with community organisations through existing contacts within the team and through referrals from other council departments.
- 4.2 In addition to working with local community organisations and responding to requests for support, the team has been co-locating with Engage Renfrewshire 2 days per month and co-ordinating key activities to avoid duplication.
- 4.3 The team have developed a small number of outline community profiles to guide their work at local level and to provide useful data to organisations seeking funding.
- 4.4 Overall the team has given support to 71 organisations, including 35 social enterprises receiving developmental support and 36 organisations seeking specific support related to funding. Much of this work is in progress; however 17 funding applications have been submitted to date.
- 4.5 2016/17 will be the baseline year for the Community Economic Development Team and a more detailed Action Plan, informed by the Year 1 experience, will be prepared for 2017/18.
-

5. Team Aim and Objectives

- 5.1 The team's key aim is to build economic development services and capacity in local communities, especially those in greatest economic and social need. Success will be measured by the amount of additional activity generated and sustained.
- 5.2 The team will work to the following four key objectives:
1. To support local areas to identify community needs in order to secure new investment, services and funding.

2. To help community organisations to engage with and benefit from key Council initiatives, developments and funding opportunities.
 3. To grow the social enterprise sector.
 4. To support Council services and initiatives to access funding and link with communities (corporate role).
-

6. Action Plan and Targets

6.1 The team has established related activities and targets for their first year and will support the objectives through the following areas of activity:

6.2 Community Engagement and Establishing Needs

The team will work with local communities to establish local needs and identify potential projects and initiatives. They will support local communities to develop community profiles and action plans that can be used to support funding applications and the development of new services.

They will actively promote council initiatives and priority agendas (for example City of Culture 2021) to community organisations to encourage new local approaches and community involvement in wider agendas for action.

Key **targets** under this theme include:

- Develop a database of active community based organisations and planned or potential project ideas which can be used as a Council resource;
- Engage with, and provide development support, to 30 community groups per year;
- Complete four community profiles and action plans per year.

6.3 Secure Funding and Investment for new Services:

In response to reducing local authority budgets and a community reliance on council grants the team will provide funding and development support to increase the uptake of external funding.

Funding support will be delivered across all of Renfrewshire with a particular focus on those organisations and groups completely new to funding and those seeking to build capacity to apply for larger grants.

Targets: Success will be measured in terms of the numbers of organisations supported to submit funding applications and the **additional** number of grants secured for Renfrewshire, compared to an average year.

The team will:

- Deliver capacity building support to 60 community organisations per annum
- Work with 30 community organisations to submit funding applications
- Secure 20 additional small grants per annum (up to £10,000 funding each)
- Secure 5 additional medium grants per annum (£10,000 - £100,000 funding each)
- Initiate development work on two large scale projects (over £100,000 funding) per year (this year the focus will be youth development and poverty);
- Provide community project and funding information:
 - Deliver 2 community funding events per annum
 - Distribute quarterly newsletters on funding
 - Distribute monthly e-alerts advising of new funds announced

The team will collaborate with Engage Renfrewshire to ensure a co-ordinated approach and complementary services.

6.4 External Funding Support to Council Departments

The team has a role within the council to advise and assist other departments with external funding opportunities and thereby supports the council to reduce spend where alternative sources of funding exist. They will ensure that Council services are aware of, and knowledgeable about, sources of external funding and will support the development and application process.

Key **targets** include:

- Proactive work to secure external funding for 6 Council projects per annum;
- Provide regular external funding information and advice:
 - Deliver 2 Council funding events per annum
 - Distribute quarterly newsletters on funding
 - Distribute monthly e-alerts advising of new funds announced

6.5 Growing the Social Enterprise Sector

In May 2014 the Economy and Jobs Policy Board approved a new Strategic Framework for the development of the social economy in Renfrewshire. This Strategic Framework was built around four key priorities: Awareness Raising; Capacity Building; Market Development and Community Assets.

The following challenging targets have been put in place for the annual work with social enterprises:

- Deliver 10 Social Enterprise Small Grant Fund investments
- Evaluate the impact of the Small Grants Programme investments to date to inform programme planning for 2017/18
- Assist two organisations to access social investment funding per annum (moving organisations from grant to loan funding)
- Assist five organisations per annum to become incorporated social enterprises (ie moving to charitable status, protecting members liability, formalising governance and widening the scope for funding support)
- Measure and report any increase in annual turnover, and employment growth for Small Grant Fund recipients
- Support 2 social enterprises per annum to consider and progress asset transfer projects

6.6 Further reports will be brought forward to the Economy and Jobs Policy Board to update on progress.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – the Invest in Renfrewshire budget will support the creation of the additional post in the period to March 2018.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – the additional Economic Development Officer post is being funded via Invest in Renfrewshire.
3. **Community Planning** –
Jobs and the Economy – the programme has a key aim of supporting the social economy and introducing additional funding resources into community based projects.
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 as the report 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** –

9. **Procurement** - none

10. **Risk** – none

11. **Privacy Impact** - none

List of Background Papers

The contact officer within the service is Susan Boath, Assistant Manager (Funding and Development), ext 7729, susan.boath@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Author: Susan Boath, ext 7729, susan.boath@renfrewshire.gov.uk