
To: Leadership Board

On: 1 December 2021

Report by: Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Levelling Up Fund Announcement

1. Summary

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Council is delivering an ambitious regeneration agenda, focused on creating the infrastructure and business environment that will generate economic growth, jobs and ensure that the area is a fairer, more inclusive place where all our people, communities and businesses thrive.
 - 1.2 This report is to update the Board on the success of the bid to the UK Governments Levelling Up Fund which will be used to deliver the AMIDS South project.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Leadership Board is asked to:
 - i) Note the successful funding award of £38.7M from the Levelling Up Fund for the AMIDS South Project, representing 90% of the total project costs and the scope as outlined in this report.
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3. Levelling Up Fund Round One

- 3.1 The Leadership Board on 16 June 2021 approved the submission of a Transport bid to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund to finance the AMIDS South Project, including the requirement to provide a local authority contribution.

- 3.2 The Levelling Up Fund is a competitive fund established by the UK Government, with funding distributed to places across the UK on the basis of successful project selection.
- 3.3 Mr Gavin Newlands, MP provided his priority support to the AMIDS South bid, which falls within his constituency boundary and we received letters of support from a number of other sources including local businesses, Scottish Enterprise, West College Scotland and transport bodies including SPT and Glasgow Airport demonstrating the positive local response and enthusiasm for the proposal.
- 3.4 The Council has now been notified of the success of this bid, resulting in an award of £38.7million from the UK Government Levelling Up Fund which represents 90% of the total project cost. The 10% match funding contribution of up to £4.3M will be funded from Prudential borrowing supplemented from other funding sources where possible and this will be built into future long-term financial planning to ensure the financial commitment arising from the prudential borrowing is appropriately planned for and accommodated.
- 3.5 This award represents the third highest award of all the UK-wide projects and the highest award made in Scotland in the first round of the fund confirmed by the Chancellor during his UK budget announcement on Wednesday 27 October.

4. AMIDS South Project

- 4.1 The AMIDS South project will provide a 1.7km 'gateway route' along the White Cart river with a network of road, cycling and walking links from the town centre train station and bus interchange to Glasgow Airport, AMIDS and onto Inchinnan. The project includes landscaping as well as a new bridge crossing around Paisley Harbour for pedestrians, cyclists and road traffic. AMIDS South is a high-impact local transport scheme which will reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, cut congestion, support economic growth and improve the experience of transport users.
- 4.2 Economic analysis demonstrates the project could bolster the local economy by an additional £136 million, cut carbon emissions by 21,700 tonnes and help existing and new companies to grow creating new job opportunities for years to come.
- 4.3 An new east-west road linking Renfrew Road to the new Gateway route is also included and will increase connectivity to and from the new manufacturing district and improve accessibility to the proposed new Paisley Grammar community campus, West College Scotland and the Gallowhill area. An extension to the new Renfrew – Paisley active travel route into the Gallowhill catchment area will provide a new safe active travel route to the education facilities. The funding also enables improved walking and cycling on Greenock Road between Inchinnan Business Park and AMIDS, which is now being procured.
- 4.4 Inclusion of traffic calming works on Love Street will improve the environment for local residents and pedestrians with this residential area benefiting from a reduction in traffic flow due to the new routes.

5. Levelling Up Fund Future Rounds

- 5.1 The Levelling Up Fund is a competitive fund established by the UK Government, with funding distributed to places across the UK on the basis of successful project selection. The Fund has aside at least £800 million across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland over four years from 2021-2022 to 2024-2025.
- 5.2 A local authority can bid under one of three themes; up to £20m per each MP constituency within the area plus one transport bid which may be up to £50m. Renfrewshire Council can therefore bid three times to the fund.
- 5.3 The successful AMIDS South proposal is a bid under the Transport theme therefore the Council still have the opportunity for two remaining bids of £20M, one per constituency in future rounds.
- 5.4 Officers are currently considering and collating potential future LUF bids that could form the basis of future submissions in each of Renfrewshire Council's two Westminster constituencies and will discuss options with relevant stakeholders as part of this project development.
- 5.5 Timing of the next call for bids has not yet been confirmed but it is expected to be around March 2022.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The Levelling Up Fund will provide £38.7M funding for this project. The Council intend to fund the required 10% match funding contribution of up to £4.3M from Prudential borrowing supplemented from other funding sources where possible. This will be built into future long-term financial planning to ensure the financial commitment arising from the prudential borrowing is appropriately planned for and accommodated.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community/Council Planning**
 - *Our Renfrewshire is thriving* – The AMIDS South project will link our communities. The projects align with and aid the outcomes of the Renfrewshire Economic Strategy 2020 -2030 and the Renfrewshire Economic Recovery Plan
 - *Our Renfrewshire is well* - The new safer walking and cycling infrastructure will help encourage active travel by children and young people, as well as adults.

- *Reshaping our place, our economy and our future* – AMIDS South will link to AMIDS and other investment in active travel infrastructure and education and will provide connectivity and access to new and existing jobs for people in our communities. During the project construction period new jobs will be created.
- *Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all* – the AMIDS South project links our less advantaged communities with education and job opportunities and provides healthy transport options
- *Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy* - The completed infrastructure will include segregated provision for walking and cycling, it will also enable improved public transport links. AMIDS incorporates an overarching sustainable transport plan which through the LDP will be managed as sustainable linked communities.
- *Working together to improve outcomes* - Officers are working closely with local communities, neighbouring councils, private sector organisations, Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and other partners to ensure the maximisation of positive outcomes from the programme of projects noted within this report.

4. **Legal** – None.

5. **Property/Assets** – some land acquisition will be required to deliver aspects of the AMIDS South project although much is already owned by Renfrewshire Council or in the current public road network.

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 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** – all contract requirements will be procured in accordance with legal and governance requirements.

10. **Risk** – Project specific and Programme level risk registers will be kept under regular review and reported to the Council's internal City Deal and Infrastructure Programme Board.

11. **Privacy Impact** – None.

12. **COSLA Policy Position** – Not applicable.
13. **Climate Risk** – the project will provide sustainable active travel routes and encourage sustainable neighbourhoods and transport links including provision of blue green infrastructure.

List of Background Papers

None.

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