



To: Planning and Property Policy Board

On: 25 August 2015

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Erskine Town Centre Strategy - Charrette

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Planning and Property Policy Board of 10 March 2015 approved a draft town centre strategy and action plan for Erskine town centre, as a basis for consultation with the local community and key stakeholders.
 - 1.2 The Scottish Government has recently promoted the Charrette Mainstreaming Programme Fund, which seeks to support communities to actively participate in the design and development of plans for the future of their areas. A key area of focus for the fund is the development of town centre action plans.
 - 1.3 An application to the Charrette Mainstreaming Fund is proposed to support the consultation exercise which will inform the final Erskine town centre strategy. The representations received during the consultation exercise will be reported to the Board with the finalised strategy and action plan in early 2016.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:-
 - (i) Agrees that the Director of Development & Housing Services submits an application to the Scottish Government's "Charrette Mainstreaming Programme Fund" to support a consultation exercise to inform the Erskine Town Centre Strategy;

- (ii) Notes that further reports will be provided to the Board on completion of the consultation process and prior to the approval of the final town centre strategy and action plan.
-

3. Background

- 3.1 The Planning and Property Policy Board of 10 March 2015 approved a draft town centre strategy and action plan for Erskine town centre, as a basis for consultation with the local community and key stakeholders. The draft strategy explains the role of the town centre, strengths and potential for future enhancement, seeking views on priorities for action and opportunities for change.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government has recently promoted the Charrette Mainstreaming Programme Fund, which seeks to support communities to actively participate in the design and development of plans for the future of their areas. The Charrette process involves the preparation of plans through a series of workshops and consultation events with local communities and key stakeholders. A key area of focus for the fund is the development of town centre action plans.
- 3.3 The Council has a track record of using the charrette process to develop plans through consultation and with the support of the Scottish Government successfully delivered a charrette in Johnstone South West during 2011. The lessons learned from this experience will greatly benefit in the development and implementation of further charrettes as part of a range of approaches to consultation.
- 3.4 Following discussion with the Scottish Government and in view of the wide range of issues and opportunities identified within the draft Erskine town centre strategy, it is considered that the Charrette Mainstreaming Programme Fund represents an excellent opportunity to support the programme of consultation and engagement proposed to inform a finalised strategy.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The draft Erskine town centre strategy will be subject to consultation between August and November 2015. It is the intention to submit an application to the Charrette Mainstreaming Programme Fund in the next month to support this consultation programme.
- 4.2 The representations received during the consultation period will be reported to the Board with the finalised strategy and action plan in early 2016.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – A successful application to the Charrette Mainstreaming Programme Fund will require the Council to match fund grant assistance provided by the Scottish Government. This will be met from approved Development and Housing Services budgets and will not exceed £15,000.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** –
Empowering our Communities – Increased participation and engagement with local communities in developing the Erskine town centre strategy.
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.
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – A successful application to the Charrette Mainstreaming Programme Fund will require the Council to procure consultancy services to deliver a programme of community engagement. This will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders relating to contracts.
10. **Risk** – None
11. **Privacy Impact** - None

List of Background Papers

- (a) None

Author: Sharon Marklow, Assistant Manager (Policy), 0141 618 7835, email: sharon.marklow@renfrewshire.gov.uk