
To: Leadership Board

On: 2 December 2020

Report by: Chief Executive and Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: Scottish Government 'Regeneration Capital Grant Fund 2020/2021': Award of Grant Funding

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 10th September 2020 the Scottish Government announced that funding would be available immediately through the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) 2020/2021 for specific community led regeneration projects. Two projects in Renfrewshire have been awarded funding - the Johnstone Community and Wellbeing Hub delivered by Active Communities (Scotland) Ltd and the Mossedge Centre, Linwood delivered by Linwood Community Development Trust.
 - 1.2 The purpose of the grant funding is to stimulate local construction and support areas impacted by deprivation in their recovery. The funding is available immediately and must be committed by 31st March 2021.
 - 1.3 The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the award of the RCGF funding (£730,000 for Johnstone and £400,000 for Linwood) and to seek the authorisation of the Board to homologate the decision to accept the grant awards and coordinate the delivery of the projects accordingly.
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2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
 - i. homologates the decision of the Director of Finance and Resources to accept the grant offers from the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund 2020/21 of £730,000 for Johnstone Community and Wellbeing Hub and £400,000 for the Mossedge Centre Linwood, respectively.
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3 Background

- 3.1 On 10 September 2020 the Scottish Government announced £12million of new investment for regeneration through the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund. This funding was made available immediately and must be spent or committed by 31 March 2021. Two projects in Renfrewshire have been awarded funding as part of this investment, Johnstone Community and Wellbeing Hub has been awarded £730,000 and Mossedge Centre, Linwood awarded £400,000.
- 3.2 The Leader of the Council was informed of the formal offers of grant which were received on 21 September 2020 and offers had to be accepted by 5th October 2020. Due to the tight timescale set by Scottish Ministers for acceptance of the grant offers, the Director of Finance and Resources on behalf of the Council was therefore required to accept the grants by 5 October 2020 or the grant funding would have been lost.
- 3.3 Local authorities were not involved in the selection of which projects were offered financial support. The decisions were taken by Scottish Government with the aim of directing the additional funding to projects already well advanced towards delivery and where further funding would result in supporting accelerated delivery of the chosen projects.

4. Johnstone Community and Wellbeing Hub

- 4.1 The project is being delivered by Active Communities (Scotland) Ltd and will bring the former police station in Quarry Road back into active use and support the ongoing regeneration of Johnstone town centre by creating an accessible Community and Wellbeing Hub. An application for RCGF funding was submitted in 2019 for this project and was unsuccessful however the feedback received from the Scottish Government was that this is a strong project but was unsuccessful due to the exceptionally high demand for funding that year. A Stage 1 application was therefore submitted in June 2020 seeking RCGF funding in 2021/2022. The announcement of the advance funding in the current year required the withdrawal of this application and removed the requirement for the submission of a Stage 2 application.
- 4.2 The total project cost is in the region of £1.9million and Active Communities have been successful in securing substantial funding from a variety of sources for the delivery of the project. This includes £400,000 from the Council's allocation of the Scottish Government Town Centre Capital Fund, £110,000 from the Community Empowerment Fund as well as £567,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund and £200,000 from the Robertson Trust as well as funding from the Scottish Land Fund to purchase the building through a community asset transfer. The award of the RCGF grant completes the required funding package to deliver the project.
- 4.3 The project is well developed with the enabling works currently on site and the main construction works tendered in November 2020. It is expected that this contract will be awarded by Active Communities by March 2021 and therefore the RCGF funding can be fully committed by the deadline of 31 March 2021.

5. Mossedge Centre, Linwood

- 5.1 Linwood Community Development Trust (LCDT) was awarded a grant of £800,000 through the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund in 2017 to build a 3G pitch and changing facility as part of wider plans to develop the Mossedge Village site in Linwood. The Council contributed £300,000 in grant funding to support the project at that time, with land at the Old Clippens School site in Linwood also granted to LCDT through a community asset transfer. LCDT were unfortunately not successful in gaining funding from the Big Lottery Fund to enable the fit out of the centre but have successfully accessed a range of other smaller community grant funds to support the last stage of the delivery of the project.
- 5.2 The pitch and centre building shell were constructed and delivered by LCDT in line with the initial grant funding in 2017/18, and the additional £400,000 of RCGF funding allocated in 2020/21 will be used to complete this work. It is anticipated that this will be fully committed by the end of March 2021.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The offers of grant made by Scottish Ministers through the RCGF were formally accepted by the deadline set by Scottish Government of 5 October 2020. A third-party contract of grant has been prepared which Active Communities and Linwood Community Development Trust will be required to sign in order to bind the groups to the specific terms and conditions of grant and enable them to draw down the grant from the Council. The management and monitoring of the grant will be carried out by Council officers and progress reports submitted to the Scottish Government as required.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial**
Grants awarded to the Council will be monitored in accordance with the terms and conditions of grant. The Council will liaise with Scottish Government to comply with RCGF drawdown requirements and financial reporting requirements. Where grants are awarded to third parties, officers will liaise with those organisations to ensure they comply with requirements.
2. **HR and Organisational Development - none.**
3. **Community Planning**
 - Our Renfrewshire is thriving – Community-led regeneration projects result in a stimulus to the local economy via contracts won and visitors and user numbers. The Johnstone and Linwood projects will support the objectives to develop Renfrewshire's economy, including its Town Centres as thriving places, supporting local places, businesses and communities.
 - Our Renfrewshire is well - The delivery of actions through the projects have the potential to positively impact on physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing. Implementing the

projects will assist Renfrewshire citizens to have a positive attitude to their community.

- Our Renfrewshire is safe - Working in partnership with community, public and private sector stakeholders and organisations to achieve positive outcomes.
- Reshaping our place, our economy and our future - The projects will secure the productive re-use of a town centre building and provide new facilities and services which will contribute to supporting growth and sustainable jobs. Increased footfall offers potential benefits to traders, assisting the economy of our town centres.

4. **Legal**

A third-party contract of grant will be prepared which will be signed by Active Communities (Scotland) Ltd and Linwood Community Development Trust for the respective RCGF grant awards.

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 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**

All commissions funded by the RCGF grant will be procured through the appropriate procedures set out in the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts.

10. **Risk**

The projects actively monitor key risks and issues associated with delivery in accordance with the Council's Project Management Framework. Risks are identified and mitigating actions and allowances have been made and will be continually monitored.

11. **Privacy Impact** - None

12. **COSLA Policy Position** - None

13. **Climate Risk** – None..

List of Background Papers

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