

To: Leadership Board

On: 23 February 2022

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund: Award of Grant Funding – Exchange Young People’s Theatre (PACE)

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Leadership Board has previously considered and approved submissions to the Scottish Government’s Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) 2021/22. This fund is one of the mainstays of capital funding for regeneration and is available through a competitive annual application process. Of the schemes submitted for consideration in 2021 the application for funding for the Exchange Young People’s Theatre, being led by the PACE Theatre Company, has been successful with £800,000 being awarded.
 - 1.2 The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the announcement of the RCGF funding for the Exchange Young People’s Theatre and to agree to delegate authority to the Director of Finance and Resources to accept the formal grant award when it is received from the Scottish Government and coordinate the delivery of the project accordingly.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board
 - i. Agrees to delegate to the Director of Finance and Resources authority to accept the expected formal grant offer from the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund of £800,000 for the Exchange Young People’s Theatre project.
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3. Background

- 3.1 In December 2021 the Scottish Government announced 19 projects around Scotland that have been successful in securing Regeneration Capital Grant Fund investment for financial year 2022/23.

This followed an extensive application and shortlisting process in the second half of the year at the outset of which Renfrewshire Council submitted 5 applications, approved by the Leadership Board on 16 June 2021.

- 3.2 Of the Renfrewshire projects submitted I am pleased to report that the Exchange Young People's Theatre project, being led by the PACE Theatre Company, has been successful in securing £800,000. This success follows extensive work between PACE and the Council to develop a clear business case and regeneration justification for the investment.

4. Exchange Young People's Theatre

- 4.1 The project takes on the vacant former theatre/hall and nightclub 'Mannequins' on Old Sneddon Street, Paisley. The project will deliver Scotland's first theatre designed for and with young people, by restoring and re-purposing a historic disused building in Paisley town centre. The project is being led by PACE Theatre Company and has been supported in its early phases by Renfrewshire Council through the allocation of Town Centre Fund budget. This has secured and improved the building fabric with the funding now coming from the Scottish Government enabling fit out works to commence to provide space for creative learning, a 100-seat studio theatre space, an interactive sensory creative play space, workshop space, community hub and family-friendly café.
- 4.2 The aim of the project is to extend cultural provision and creative learning work with children and young people in Renfrewshire, with a particular focus on those deprived of cultural engagement or who are disadvantaged in other ways. The project represents an important strategic element in the regeneration of cultural life of Paisley and Renfrewshire.
- 4.3 The award of this funding also represents national recognition of the project and will form the basis of further bids to others to secure further capital funding towards the ultimate goal of restoring the full 300 plus seater theatre auditorium within the building.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 A formal offer of grant will be made by Scottish Government to the Council for the project and when received requires to be formally accepted. A deadline is normally given and as this may fall out with standard Board cycles. This report therefore seeks delegated authority for the Director of Finance and Resources to accept the grant when offered. A third-party contract of grant will be required for PACE Theatre Company to sign in order to bind it 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 project 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.
- 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. 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 PACE Theatre Company for the RCGF grant award.

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 – None.**

10. **Risk – None.**

11. **Privacy Impact – None.**

12. **COSLA Policy Position** – None.

13. **Climate Risk** – None.

List of Background Papers

(a) Report to Leadership Board, 16th June 2021 – Regeneration Funding Bids Update

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