

**To: Leadership Board**

**On: 24 February 2021**

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**Report by: Chief Executive and Director of Finance & Resources**

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**Heading: Scottish Government “Clyde Mission” Fund 2020: Award of Grant Funding**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 In September 2020 the Scottish Government launched a new fund called “Clyde Mission” as part of the Programme for Government which would be open to applications from 7 local authorities containing the Clyde Corridor.
  - 1.2 Renfrewshire Council submitted 4 applications and on 21 December 2020, the Scottish Government announced that 12 projects would receive funding. One of these applications by Renfrewshire Council was awarded funding. The Renfrew to Paisley Active Travel Route was successful in being offered £935,000 towards its delivery in 2021.
  - 1.3 The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the award of the Clyde Mission funding and to seek the authorisation of the Board to homologate the decision to accept the grant award and move towards an award of a contract to deliver the project.
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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 offer from the Scottish Government Clyde Mission Fund 2020/21 of £935,000 for the Renfrew to Paisley Active Travel Route.
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### **3 Background**

- 3.1 The Clyde Mission was first announced by Scottish Government at the State of the City Conference in Glasgow in January 2020. The announcement included a new team to be set up within Government to focus on maximising the economic potential of the River Clyde. Input was to be sought from local authorities, private sector, government agencies and others.
- 3.2 The prospect of a Clyde Mission Fund was raised by Scottish Government in summer 2020 and formalised in the Programme for Government in September 2020. The initiative was to focus on making better use of the river to assist in driving forward the place ambitions of the areas surrounding it
- 3.3 The initially announced £10m in capital funding was to be available to anybody within 6 local authority areas to apply for (Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Argyll & Bute, West Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City and South Lanarkshire).
- 3.4 The criteria for applications were that the project had to be for capital spend only; had to be able to demonstrate how it would result in economic benefits for local communities and the city region; and demonstrate a physical relationship with the River Clyde. The maximum contribution to be made available to any project was £2m.
- 3.5 The four guiding principles outlined by the Government for successful applications to the Fund were:
- Contribution to inclusive economic growth;
  - Contribution to reducing carbon emissions or improving the environment;
  - Involvement of partners and communities in the project;
  - Benefits to communities;
- 3.6 Renfrewshire Council initially applied for 4 projects at Stage 1 of the Clyde Mission funding process. These were:
- Renfrew-Paisley Active Travel Route (successful award);
  - AMIDS Riverside Park (shortlisted);
  - AMIDS Public Transport Link;
  - AMIDS District Heating Network;
- 3.7 In December 2020, Scottish Government announced that 12 projects would be supported by the Clyde Mission fund which now had £11.2m available to distribute to successful projects. The successful projects for 2020/21 are listed in Table 1 of this report.

**Table 1: Clyde Mission – successful projects 2020/21**

<b>Project proposal</b>	<b>Total grant</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>
Glasgow City Council - Water Row, Govan – Enabling Works	£1,980,000	Glasgow
West Dunbartonshire Council - Scottish Marine Technology Park – Enabling Works	£1,980,000	West Dunbartonshire
SWG3 Masterplan – Social Infrastructure Works	£1,850,000	Glasgow
Inverclyde Council - Inchgreen Marine Project – Platers Shed	£1,360,000	Inverclyde
Clyde Gateway URC – Regeneration Route	£1,200,000	South Lanarkshire
Renfrewshire Active Travel Route	£935,000	Renfrewshire
Argyll & Bute Council - Dunoon Rural STEM Hub	£490,000	Argyll & Bute
Govan Heritage Trust - Renewable Energy	£463,000	Glasgow
Stobcross Crane Regeneration	£452,000	Glasgow
Govan Riverside Town	£200,000	Glasgow
Ceminer Ltd - Project Supergrade Scotland Ltd	£179,000	West Dunbartonshire
Clyde Cycle Park – Active Travel	£145,000	South Lanarkshire
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£11,234,000</b>	

#### **4. Renfrew - Paisley Active Travel Route**

4.1 The project intends to link the River Clyde (at Renfrew Riverside) to Renfrew Town Centre to Wright Street (Renfrew) via the public parks and residential streets to Paisley Town Centre (Gilmour Street; via the former route of the Paisley – Renfrew railway line).

4.2 The approved Renfrewshire Cycling Strategy (2016-2025) highlights the proposed route between Renfrew Riverside and Paisley Town Centre as one of the highest priority routes to enhance the existing network. In developing the 2014 Strategy significant consultation was undertaken with the public, local employers and community partners. This was done via workshops, meetings and online surveys. A key message from these consultations was that to increase cycling in Renfrewshire required more dedicated cycle paths, particularly to meet gaps in the cycling network.

- 4.3 This proposed route will link to existing active travel and cycling networks at River Clyde and to those planned for AMIDS, Glasgow Airport and Inchinnan (via new Wright Street Bridge). The proposed route will have direct access to Westway Business Park, West College's Paisley campus and the Chivas site (the proposed site for a relocated Paisley Grammar campus) and will run through or past many residential and business areas and community facilities including schools and open spaces. It will also offer a safe cycling route between two of Renfrewshire's largest town centres for the first time in many years.
- 4.4 The vast majority of the 5km route is in the control of Renfrewshire Council or its partners (Sustrans, Railway Paths Ltd, etc). The active travel corridor will be about 50% off road and 50% on existing adopted streets, albeit located away from those busiest with vehicle traffic. The route will also link to other planned active travel investment at the Carlile Place pedestrian bridge and at Gilmour Street Station. Lighting and drainage will be added along the route as required to ensure safety of all users. All on-street routes will seek to minimise any disruption to existing business or residential car parking arrangements.

## **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 The offers of grant made by Scottish Ministers through the Clyde Mission fund was formally accepted by the deadline set by Scottish Government of January 2021. This commits the Council to draw down the funding in full before 31 March 2021 and have committed a contract to spend the funding by this date also.
- 5.2 Once the Council were made aware of the successful application they commenced their procurement process and published a tender for the delivery of the Active Travel Route as proposed to meet the Government's timescales. The outcome of this tender process will be presented to the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Board in March 2021
- 5.3 We would anticipate having the route completed by the end of 2021.

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## **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 Clyde Mission drawdown requirements and financial reporting 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 Renfrew Riverside to Paisley Town Centre Active Travel Route 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 former railway line route and provide opportunities for active travel and further investment along its route. Increased usage of our town centres offers potential increases in leisure trips and footfall to traders, assisting the economy of our town centres.

4. **Legal**

None beyond those associated with a procurement process of this type.

5. **Property/Assets** – the Council are currently negotiating with Railway Paths Ltd to take ownership of part of the route in their ownership. Any land on the route transferred to the Council will become part of its overall maintenance responsibility once the active travel route is constructed and in place.

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 undertaken as part of this proposed new active travel route and the spending of the awarded funds 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**
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## List of Background Papers

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