



To: **Jobs and Economy Thematic Board**

On: **8 February 2016**

Report by:
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REGENERATION UPDATE

1. Summary

- 1.1 The report provides a summary of the various regeneration activities currently being taken forward in and around Paisley Town Centre. Since the last update report a number of key milestones have been reached on projects such as City Deal, the bid for City of Culture 2021, the OBC for the Paisley Museum redevelopment.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the content of the Update Report.

3. Projects

- 3.1 The following section offers an update on some of the regeneration projects currently underway.

Museum Refurbishment / Extension

- 3.2 The Outline Business Case (OBC) for the redevelopment of the Paisley Museum has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in December 2015 seeking £15 million in support funding towards the overall costs. The business case for the museum project estimates a potential threefold increase in visitor numbers annually to the Museum, and a positive impact on the local economy both through jobs and procurement spend. The business plan indicates 240 jobs will be created as a result of the project through the construction and additional visitor spending in Renfrewshire.
- 3.3 The Council anticipate that an initial view will be forthcoming from HLF on the funding bid in March 2015 with a final decision towards summer 2016.

New Paisley Central Library

- 3.4 As a result of the proposed redevelopment of Paisley Museum consultations are underway on the potential to create a new modern library in Paisley Town Centre that meets the requirements of all users. Subject to the outcomes of the consultation

the Council would wish to locate any new library for Paisley as centrally as possible to support the wider regeneration proposals, officers are exploring options for a library to occupy a vacant property on, or in the vicinity of, Paisley High Street to concentrate the positive impact of additional footfall as a result of this investment.

Relocation of Renfrewshire Museum Stores

- 3.5 This project will relocate the Council's museum collections storage facility from Whitehaugh Barracks into the lower ground floor of the former Littlewoods store on Paisley High Street. This property will be leased by Renfrewshire Leisure and will enable many elements of the collection to be seen by visiting members of the public for the first time. The project remains on programme.

Paisley 2021 Hub

- 3.6 Paisley's candidacy for UK City of Culture 2021 is becoming well established, with early progress being made to develop and promote the town's bid for this prestigious award. Partnership structures have been established with a broad membership of key stakeholders.
- 3.7 A Bid Director has been appointed and a core team has now assembled from existing resources within the Council and the University of the West of Scotland. Over the course of 2016 and through 2017 this team will lead the preparation of the Bid and engage in substantive work with the cultural and other communities of interest. Keeping in mind the principles expressed above the team is seeking to define its identity as being of the town as distinct from being viewed as a "Council team".
- 3.8 A decision has been taken to locate the Bid Team at 5 High Street, Paisley (former Burger King restaurant). This location can be used to both present a public facing centre of attention for the bid and be used as an opportunity to assist with the continued regeneration of Paisley Town Centre. As well as accommodating the core 2021 team the premises will also provide the facilities for meetings, community engagement, exhibitions, publicity and dealing with requests for information from the public and visitors alike.

The Russell Institute

- 3.9 Work has now started on site to refurbish the A-listed Russell Institute back into use. The former health centre has been vacant since 2011 but following a £4.5 million investment by Renfrewshire Council it will re-open in October 2016 as the home to both Skills Development Scotland in Paisley as well as the Council's Employability Service – securing accommodation for 80 office jobs into the town centre.
- 3.10 The building - on the corner of New St and Causeyside St – is one of the town's best known buildings and the intention is to restore as many of the original features as possible including its distinctive external bronze statues.

Townscape Heritage/Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme II

- 3.11 The Heritage Lottery Fund approved a Stage 1 award with £113,300 allocated to develop detailed plans for a large-scale project to target £4m of property and public realm improvements to the west area of High Street, Paisley. Dedicated project staff have now developed the full Stage 2 application for submission in February 2016

that also incorporates extensive programmes of education, training, events and engagement. The project will run over 2015/2016 through to 2020/2021. Early action works to restore stone work around Dunn Square were completed in January 2016.

Events and Festivals

- 3.12 A bid for funding has been submitted to EventScotland for a major 'Paisley Makes' event in 2016. This will have a strong textiles theme and be targeted at a broad range of design and craft interests from businesses to hobbyists. Planning work is underway for the 2016/2017 events programme, and will identify new opportunities to build on the scale, diversity and year round nature of the events calendar to support both town centre regeneration and Paisley's City of Culture bid.

MAKLAB

- 3.13 MAKLAB is a social enterprise, founded in 2012, delivering a network of creative spaces across Scotland with access to specialist equipment and technologies. They deliver teaching workshops, community outreach programmes, professional development and accredited learning for a wide demographic. MAKLAB expressed an interest in locating in Paisley Town Centre and Council officers have been in dialogue in terms of helping them to achieve this goal. MAKLAB are viewed as being highly complementary to the textiles and "makers spaces" objectives of the Town Centre Heritage Strategy.
- 3.14 MAKLAB proposes to lease a vacant shop unit in the centre of Paisley as a base to use design and physical making to develop skills and enterprise. Working alongside Invest in Renfrewshire and InCube, their programmes will reach a wide audience across education, employability, skills development and social inclusion.
- 3.15 The intention is that a service level agreement will be completed with Invest in Renfrewshire and additionally MAKLAB will deliver a wide range of commercial workshops and training during evenings and weekends, bringing groups of people to their premises and contributing to the town centre economy.

City Deal

- 3.16 Work continues in parallel on the three large scale infrastructure projects that make up the Renfrewshire City Deal. All have been approved through the City Deal Cabinet to progress to more detailed business cases during 2016 and significant amounts of masterplanning and technical assessment is currently underway. One of the first elements to progress will be a masterplan for the Airport Investment Area immediately east of the airport which will see plans developed for a 100 acre employment site with new roads and a new road bridge linking the development site to Renfrew across the White Cart river.