

---

**To: Leadership Board**

**On: 2 December 2020**

---

**Report by: Chief Executive**

---

**Heading: Great Place Scheme: Project Extension, Grant Award and Community Grant Scheme**

---

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Renfrewshire's Great Place Scheme project is funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and aims to strengthen the network of heritage organisations throughout Renfrewshire by providing focussed support, training and event funding. The project made good progress in 2019, engaging with over 70 local organisations from across Renfrewshire. The COVID-19 pandemic has however had a detrimental impact on these organisations resulting in a review of the Great Place Scheme and a request to NLHF for an extension of time and additional grant funding to deliver the project outcomes.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress of the Great Place Scheme, inform the Board of the request submitted to NLHF for additional grant funding of £50,000 and extension of the project to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, and approve a grant scheme for dispersing funding for community heritage activities.
- 

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- i. note the request for additional grant funding of £50,000 from National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Great Place Scheme and note the proposed extended project end date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, and
  - ii. approve the Great Place Scheme - Community Heritage Grant Scheme, set out in paragraph 4.2 for allocating funding to local organisations for community heritage activities.
-

### **3 Background**

- 3.1 In 2018/19 Renfrewshire Council was awarded a grant of £250,000 from NLHF to deliver the 'Great Place Scheme: Renfrewshire and Paisley, Delivering a Cultural Destination'. Funding of £50,000 was committed to the project from approved Council budgets for the Future Paisley Programme and funded the early stages of the project to March 2020. The approved completion date for the project is currently 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- 3.2 In 2019, a dedicated Project Officer was appointed and the Great Place Scheme engaged with over 70 local heritage organisations to identify the existing network of heritage in Renfrewshire and identify what support and training was required to strengthen that network with the aim of improving Renfrewshire as a cultural destination. An organisation development strategy was prepared for the provision of training and bespoke support to meet skill gaps and improve organisation financial sustainability. Through this engagement work, it became apparent that local organisations have ambitions to deliver a wide variety of events and activities within their communities. A grant scheme has therefore been developed to award funding to organisations for community heritage activities across Renfrewshire.

### **4. Project extension, additional NLHF grant award and Community Heritage Grant Scheme**

- 4.1 The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown has delayed the implementation of the Great Place Scheme organisation development strategy and has had an adverse impact on the network of local heritage organisations. This necessitated a review of the project which identified a need for an extension of time and consequential funding to enable the project outcomes to be delivered. A request has been submitted to NLHF for an extension of one year for the completion of the project by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and an additional grant of £50,000. No further funding is required from Council budgets. A response is awaited from NLHF, however positive discussions have taken place to date and a favourable outcome is expected.
- 4.2 Through engaging with Renfrewshire's local heritage organisations, information was gathered of the wide variety of heritage events and activities delivered by those organisations and demand was identified for funding to support this cultural activity. The provision of small grants is within the scope of the Great Place Scheme project and a Community Heritage Grant Scheme has been developed based on other Council initiatives such as the Greenspaces Fund, Culture Heritage and Events Fund and the TH.CARS2 Activity Plan. A budget of £35,000 is available within the Great Place Scheme with grants of up to £5,000 made available to organisations who have registered for the Great Place Scheme and successfully participated in training offered through the scheme.

## **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 On approval by NLHF, the additional grant funding will be accepted by the Head of Regeneration under delegated authority and the Great Place Scheme extended for one year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The temporary Project Officer post will be extended accordingly. The Great Place Scheme - Community Heritage Grant Scheme will be launched, applications called for from eligible local heritage organisations and funding allocated by officers within the budget amounts specified.
- 

## **Implications of the Report**

### **1. Financial**

The Council contribution of £50,000 to the Great Place Scheme was approved through the Future Paisley Programme budget. National Lottery Heritage Fund grants awarded to the Council are monitored in accordance with the terms and conditions of grant. The Council will liaise with NLHF to comply with drawdown requirements and financial reporting requirements. Small scale community heritage grants will be awarded and monitored through the Great Place Scheme in accordance with Council financial regulations.

### **2. HR and Organisational Development**

The temporary Project Officer post will be extended for one year to 31 March 2022.

### **3. Community Planning**

- Our Renfrewshire is thriving – The Great Place Scheme organisation development activities will ensure that heritage organisations in Renfrewshire are provided with the expertise and support they require to be sustainable and recover from the impact of COVID-19.
- Our Renfrewshire is well - The delivery of cultural and heritage activity through the Great Place Scheme has the potential to positively impact on the health and wellbeing of our communities. Implementing the project will assist Renfrewshire's volunteer-led heritage organisations to continue to deliver cultural activity in their respective communities.
- Reshaping our place, our economy and our future - The Great Place Scheme will support community organisations that wish to lead cultural activities and events for visitors and Renfrewshire residents. Increased footfall offers potential benefits to traders, assisting the economy of our town centres.

### **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 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 Great Place Scheme 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**

- (a) Report to Leadership Board: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 'Cultural Regeneration in Johnstone and Renfrew towns and Renfrewshire villages'
- (b) Report to Leadership Board: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 'Cultural Regeneration – Legacy Programme Update'

---

**Author:** Alasdair Morrison, Head of Regeneration (Tel: 0141 618 4664)