

To: Council

On: 29 September 2016

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Paisley Townscape Heritage/Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (TH/CARS2): Grant Awards

1. Summary

- 1.1 In support of the Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy, grant funding was secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for a second Paisley Townscape/Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (TH/CARS2). The Economy & Jobs Policy Board on 31 August 2016 approved the acceptance of the grant funding and subsequent signing of the HLF and HES Contracts of Grant. The TH/CARS2 project with an estimated total value of £4.5million will now be delivered over the approved five year period 2016-2021.
 - 1.2 This report seeks authority for a change to the Scheme of Delegation to enable the Head of Regeneration to approve and award third party grants within the TH/CARS2 project with a value up to £100,000 in respect of each grant.
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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council:-
 - i. Authorises the Head of Regeneration to approve and award or refuse third party grants within the TH/CARS2 project with a value up to £100,000 in respect of each grant. Grants above £100,000 will require Board approval.
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3. **Background**

- 3.1 As part of the Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy and following the successful delivery of the Paisley THI/CARS project which focussed on the Causeyside Street/Johnston Street area, this potential continues to be recognised by national external funding bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland with the approval of funding for the delivery of the TH/CARS2 project.
 - 3.2 The approved project focuses on the delivery of building repair, shopfront restoration, public realm improvements and an extensive programme of heritage education, training and events which will be complementary to the bid for UK City of Culture 2021.
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4. **Grant approval and refusal**

- 4.1 A significant proportion of the TH/CARS2 project involves third party grants awarded to property owners to deliver building restoration. In the previous THI/CARS project, large scale grants were approved by the funders and Council Boards. In some cases this resulted in additional time required for the approval process and delayed the delivery of the works on site. In order to operate a more effective and timeous turnaround of grant applications, resulting in development on the ground at earlier stages of the project, it is suggested that the approval and award of grants under £100,000, or refusal of applications not meeting the required conditions is delegated to the Head of Regeneration. Grants would be approved and awarded or refused in accordance with the approved conditions of funding and within the approved cost plan. Grants over this value will be the subject of Board approval.
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Implications of the Report

- 1. **Financial** – Funding for this project utilises approved Council budgets for the implementation of the Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy, approved by Council in February 2014 and February 2015. Grants awarded to the Council by HLF and Historic Environment Scotland supplement this budget and will be monitored in accordance with the terms and conditions of grant.
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
- 3. **Community Planning** –

Community Care, Health & Well-being - The delivery of actions within the Heritage Asset Strategy have the potential to positively impact on physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

Jobs and the Economy – The TH/CARS2 project will contribute to meeting the outcomes of the Community Plan to;

- Be one of the best locations in Scotland to invest, in terms of its people, businesses and local communities.
- Have a growing local economy creating employment for a well trained, qualified and motivated workforce where unemployment is reduced and employment opportunities are growing.
- Be the best connected local economy in Scotland, internationally, nationally and regionally.
- Have attractive environments and successful town centres created through successful area regeneration that contribute positively to local community and economic growth

Safer and Stronger - Implementing the TH/CARS2 project will assist Renfrewshire citizens to have a positive attitude to their community.

4. **Legal** - TH/CARS2 grants will be awarded within the terms of the relevant Council policies and in compliance with the funder's terms and conditions of grant. All grants awarded under delegated powers will also be subject to the Council's approved standard conditions and may, depending on the terms of the contracts of grant and the Council's own policies, require standard securities to be taken over the affected properties.

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. 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** – In compliance with the HLF and HES grants and in accordance with the Council's Project Management Framework, the TH/CARS2 project will actively monitor key risks, budgets and issues associated with project delivery.

11. **Privacy Impact - None**

List of Background Papers

- (a) Report to Economy & Jobs Policy Board 31st August 2016 'Paisley Townscape Heritage/Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (TH/CARS2): Grant acceptance'
 - (b) Report to Economy & Jobs Policy Board 18th March 2015 'Paisley Townscape Heritage and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (Phase 2)'
 - (b) Report to Economy & Jobs Policy Board: 19th November 2014 'Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy: Progress Report 2'
 - (c) Report to Economy & Jobs Policy Board: 3rd September 2014 'Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy: Submission of Funding Applications'
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