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**To: Council**  
**On: 15 December 2016**

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**Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services**

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**Heading: Coats Memorial Church: Referral by the Paisley North Local Area Committee**

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## **1. Summary**

1.1. At its meeting on 10 November 2016, the Paisley North Local Area Committee considered a report titled "Coats Memorial Church: Update". That report recommended that the Local Area Committee approved the retention by the Trustees of the awarded grant of £13,000 for temporary repairs to the boiler and heating system to enable the building to remain in active use.

1.2. Following consideration of the report the Local Area Committee approved an amendment which included the following :-

"The committee will refer this issue to the next full Council meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 with a proposal that a full investigation is carried out on this application included the progress towards establishing a new community trust to own the building and options for funding the boiler replacement or repair, in part or in full, from the other council budgets such as the £1.85 million underspend from last year's council budget."

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## **2. Recommendation**

2.1 It is recommended that the Council:-

- i. considers the proposal put to it by the Paisley North Local Area Committee as described in this report.
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## **3. Background**

3.1 In May 2016, the Trustees of the Coats Memorial Church were awarded a multi-area LAC grant of £30,000 consisting of £13,000 from the Paisley North LAC, £15,000 from the Paisley South LAC and £2,000 from the Renfrew and Gallowhill LAC. The grant was awarded for repairs to the boiler which is part of the heating system for the church building.

- 3.2 Following the award of the grant, the Trustees appointed a suitably qualified specialist consultant to examine the boiler and recommend the most cost-effective solution. The outcome of the survey stated that due to the extensive works required to an old heating system of such a large scale, the cost of the works was estimated to be in the region of the £350,000 to £500,000 which was higher than expected and out with the reach of available funding.
- 3.3 As a result of the outcome of the survey, reports were submitted to each of the three Local Area Committees which had approved funding in May 2016 recommending that the grant funding be retained by the Trustees for temporary repairs to the boiler and heating system to enable the building to remain in active use.
- 3.4 The recommendation was approved by the Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee on 8 November 2016 and the Paisley South Local Area Committee on 15 November 2016.
- 3.5 However, at the Paisley North Local Area Committee on 10 November 2016 the following amendment to the recommendation in the report was submitted to the LAC and was approved.

“Amendment: replace recommendation 2.1 with the following:

2.1 It is recommended that the committee only transfers the awarded grant to the new community trust which we were informed about in the Paisley North LAC meeting of 12 May 2016, which was meant to be taking over the ownership of the building.

2.2 If the new community trust is not established the grant should be returned to the committee to be re-allocated to any suitable community groups seeking funding.

2.3 The committee will refer this issue to the next full council meeting on Thursday 15th December 2016 with a proposal that a full investigation is carried out on this application including the progress towards a new community trust to own the building and options for funding the boiler replacement or repair, in part or in full, from other council budgets such as the £1.85million underspend from last year’s council budget.”

- 3.6 In view of the decision of the Paisley North Local Area Committee, the Council is asked to consider the proposal set out in paragraph 3.5 above.
- 3.7 In terms of the future use and ownership of the building, initial discussions with the Princes Regeneration Trust and Scottish Redundant Churches Trust have not yet identified a definitive way forward and neither organisation has indicated an interest to take ownership. The Trustees of the church are in discussion with their legal advisor and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) to identify potential opportunities for the formation of a new organisation to take responsibility and ownership of the building. These discussions are ongoing.

## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The LAC contributions to the project are from approved budgets
  2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
  3. **Community Planning – Community Care, Health & Well-being** - the project will help promote health and well being by making the space safer and more accessible for community use.  
**Empowering our Communities:** this is a community led project
  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 as this is a project that will benefit the public in general with no exclusions likely
  8. **Health & Safety** – None
  9. **Procurement** – None
  10. **Risk** – None
  11. **Privacy Impact** - None
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## List of Background Papers

- (a) Report to Renfrew and Gallowhill LAC: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 'Coats Memorial Church: Update'
  - (b) Report to Paisley North LAC: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 'Coats Memorial Church: Update'
  - (c) Report to Paisley South LAC: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 'Coats Memorial Church: Update'
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