

**ARDRISHAIG REGENERATION MASTERPLAN; CONTINUED
FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SECURE IMPLEMENTATION**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report seeks to inform members of the unsuccessful outcome of an application for funding from the EU Interreg Programme and subsequently request the continued support of the MAKI Area Committee to submit a fresh application for grant funding to assist with the implementation of the Ardrishaig Regeneration Masterplan.
- 1.2** The Executive Committee of September 2009 agreed a recommendation from the MAKI Area Committee to support a request for £48,000 from the Capital Receipts Budget over a 3 year financial period to assist in the Ardrishaig Regeneration Masterplan.
- 1.3** However, it was noted that by virtue of little capital sales receipts, the MAKI Area Committee had insufficient funds to meet this request. Nonetheless, the Director of Finance, with approval of the Executive committee, agreed that the Council would continue to provide the £48,000 match funding in the event of a successful application.
- 1.4** As a consequence of the unsuccessful bid for grant funding, Council officers are continuing to work with partners British Waterways Scotland (BWS) and the Ardrishaig Community Council to submit a refreshed application to alternative funding providers. The refreshed application will include proposals and costings.
- 1.5** Council officers require the continued financial commitment of the Council to allow the further development of plans. BWS have confirmed that they will continue to match the Council in the provision of match funding.
- 1.6 Recommendations**
- 1.7** That members note the content of this report and support in principle the proposal to retain the match funding from the Council to assist with the implementation of the Ardrishaig Regeneration Masterplan.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Ardrishaig Regeneration Masterplan and Action Plan

2.2 The masterplan and associated action plan was approved by the Executive Committee in October 2008 as Supplementary Planning Guidance in line with the recommendations of the MAKI Area Committee in August 2008.

2.3 The masterplan and associated action plan emerged from a high priority 'Area for Action' within the Council's adopted Local Plan 2009 for environmental improvements to the waterfront.

2.4 Key Stakeholders

2.5 British Waterways Scotland (BWS) and the Ardrishaig Community Council are the other key stakeholders in the development of this project. BWS, along with the Council own the majority of land within the project site with exception to the Ardrishaig Boat Club which is privately owned.

2.6 EU Funding Bid

2.7 In September 2009, the MAKI Area Committee supported a request for funding of £48,000 from the Capital Receipts budget over a 3 year financial period 2010 – 2013 to assist in the implementation of the Ardrishaig Regeneration Masterplan.

2.8 Also in September 2009, the Executive Committee agreed to authorise the recommendation from the MAKI Committee in the recognition that the MAKI Area Committee had insufficient funds available to meet the request but understood that sufficient funds were in contemplation and that the Council would assist in any shortfall.

2.9 Conjoined with an equal funding contribution from BWS, this provided a match fund of £96,000 as part of a tripartite application with partners from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The project, called 'Towns and Villages on our Inland Waterways' was submitted to the Special European Union's Programme Body (SEUPB) in October 2009. The SEUPB is based in Belfast.

2.10 In May 2011, Stuart Green verbally reported to the MAKI Business Committee that the SEUPB had approved the project in principle subject to further background checks. Unfortunately the Council has formally been advised since, that although the project has now received final consent, specific elements, including those relating to Ardrishaig and Toome in Northern Ireland were removed.

2.11 Despite this setback, Council officers, BWS and the Community Council remain committed to the delivery of this project as detailed in the Masterplan and continue to collaborate in further developing the project and securing funding for implementation.

2.12 Council officers now require the continued financial commitment of the Council to allow the further development of plans. BWS have confirmed that they will continue to match the Council in the provision of match funding.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Despite the setback of the recent unsuccessful funding application, the continued partnership working of BWS and the Ardrishaig Community Council and other stakeholders is testament to the strength of this project which has strong policy support. The Ardrishaig Regeneration Masterplan requires the continued support of the Council to progress towards implementation

4. IMPLICATIONS

Policy: Progression of the objectives in the Argyll and Bute Local Plan 2009. Ardrishaig is designated as a Priority 1 Area for Action.

Within the Economic Development Action Plan is an outcome to assist in the spread of economic development developments to our smaller communities.

Complies with the aims and objectives of the Argyll and Bute Council Corporate Plan 2010 – 2013 and beyond in terms of waterfront and town centre regeneration.

Financial: Financial commitment from the Council in principal for the Ardrishaig Regeneration Masterplan.

Personnel: Officer time.

Equal Opportunity: None

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None