

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET10 March 2022Report by Director of EnvironmentPLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2021/22**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the progress being made with the Placed Based Investment Programme (PBIP) and notify members of a change to the approved list of schemes for 2021/22.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- a) Note the progress made to date on the implementation of the programme to date; and
 - b) Note the decision to approve the substitution of the Place Based Green Hall Project with the project from Young Enterprise Scotland as outlined in the report.

BACKGROUND

3. A report was submitted to Cabinet on 25 November 2021 which informed members of the new Placed Based Investment Programme (PBIP) award from the Scottish Government and sought approval of 7 projects for 2021/22 which totalled £634,000.

REPORT

4. With regard to the grant of £635,000 for the financial year 2021/22 it is a Scottish Government requirement that any works contracts should be signed by 31 March 2022 at the latest.

5. The Placed Based Green Hall project, submitted by East Renfrewshire Culture & Leisure, was awarded £77,000 at the Cabinet meeting of 25 November 2021. The project would replace and renew existing stage lighting with LED units at Clarkston Halls; upgrade cabling and sound systems to minimise energy consumption and create Green Arts opportunity, and increased opportunity for place based arts initiatives in the heart of the community in Clarkston.

6. In further discussions with East Renfrewshire Culture & Leisure and Procurement colleagues, it is apparent that the project is unlikely to have work contracts signed by the end of March 2022. This would mean that there is a risk that the £77,000 funding would be lost and returned to the Scottish Government.

7. In order to mitigate this loss, the Council's Economic Development team have been in discussion with Young Enterprise Scotland who are seeking funding of £60,180.

8. This project is seeking capital funding to pay for 4 units that will provide business start-up space for young people in East Renfrewshire and would be located in the Young Enterprise Scotland premises at the Rouken Glen Park Training Centre. The project seeks to create a new business start-up space in the area which will provide young people with a place to develop business ideas, harness creativity and collaborate with like-minded people.

9. The project aligns with the Place Based Investment Programme criteria, the East Renfrewshire employability strategy and the Scottish Youth Guarantee Programme in terms of reducing unemployment for young people in ER.

10. There are no planning issues to be addressed which has been confirmed with Planning colleagues. Young Enterprise Scotland are in the position to have work contracts signed prior to the end of March 2022 deadline.

11. Young Enterprise Scotland have secured £35,000 from grant funding from the East Renfrewshire Energy Renewable Fund to pay for an additional 2 units and an activity corner breakout unit under Phase 2 of their proposals.

12. East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure will be invited to resubmit their Placed Based Green Hall proposal in 2022/23 for consideration for implementation in 2023/24. This would allow them to have sufficient time to carry out the necessary procurement exercise and have work contracts signed by the end of March 2023.

13. Those remaining projects approved by Cabinet on 25 November 2021 are making good progress and will be completed by the end of September 2022.

14. Normally any new proposals or proposals to amend the previously approved projects would be submitted to the Cabinet for approval. However, due to the short time remaining for contracts to be signed and the lack of an early Cabinet meeting to consider the proposal, the decision was taken by the Director of Environment in consultation with Councillors Buchanan and Bamforth who are supportive of the proposal to approve the substitution.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

15. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Project implementation will be funded through the Place-based Investment Programme.

16. The Council must comply with the conditions of the grant, as set out in Scottish Government guidelines.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

17. Consultation has taken place with a range of key stakeholders within the community.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

18. There are no equalities, IT or staffing implications associated with this report.

CONCLUSIONS

19. The PBIP programme provides an excellent opportunity to deliver further investment to key areas of East Renfrewshire and has been a catalyst for community and stakeholder engagement which will help provide direction for future investment and collaborative working.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20. It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- a) Note the progress made to date on the implementation of the programme to date; and
- b) Note the decision to approve the substitution of the Place Based Green Hall Project with the project from Young Enterprise Scotland as outlined in the report.

Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from: Michael McKernan, Economic Development Manager michael.mckernan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

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