

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET25 January 2024Report by Director of EnvironmentLOCAL ACTION PLANS – REGENERATION**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to update members in relation to the progress of the development of new Local Action Plans (LAPs) and how they link into our placemaking approaches to local regeneration. The LAPs will inform priorities for future investment linked to placemaking and regeneration across East Renfrewshire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- (a) Note the progress made with the development of our LAPs; and
 - (b) Note that further reports will be submitted to Cabinet providing an update on the LAPs progress and those projects being identified for funding.

BACKGROUND

3. In response to the creation of several new UK and Scottish Government Funds to support place based regeneration, 8 new Local Action Plans are being developed. The development of the Plans will help identify potential options for future investment that will seek to make our town centres and neighbourhoods more vibrant, creative, enterprising and accessible. Taking a place based approach will assist the Council and partners understand localised issues, the interconnections and relationships across our town centres and neighbourhoods and will allow the coordination of action and investment to improve the quality of life for our communities.

4. There are 8 LAPs in development for the following areas: Barrhead, Busby, Clarkston (including Netherlee and Williamwood), Eaglesham, Giffnock, Neilston, Newton Mearns and Thornliebank. These are the identified town centres and neighbourhoods as detailed within the Local Development Plan.

5. Placemaking is the process of creating good quality places. It concerns the environment in which we live and the people that inhabit these spaces. Placemaking is dependent on a collaborative approach involving the design and development of places over time with people and communities central to the process. Successful placemaking creates places that people want to be in; whether to visit, to work, to live, to play or simply to enjoy.

6. Good placemaking is a collaborative process. It includes public and private sectors partners, the local community, local businesses, community councils and most importantly

local people including local children and young people. Our communities know best what works and what is important in a place and they are central to any placemaking project.

7. The Council is currently refreshing its Vision for the Future (VFTF) plan. This sits at the top of our strategic planning framework and provides a unifying framework that brings our plans and strategies together and prevents them pulling in different directions and working against each other. It helps us to make sure that we are making the greatest positive difference to our communities that we can over the longer term, while also setting out what's important to East Renfrewshire in term of our challenges, assets (in the broadest sense) and strategic opportunities. An ambitious Vision for the Future gives us a framework for thinking about capital investment, land use, transport, communities, and a lens to think about year-to-year revenue spend. Local Action Plans will be shaped by the overall Vision and will help deliver positive changes for the residents of East Renfrewshire. Collaborating with partners and communities with the view of offering more vibrant, creative, enterprising and accessible neighbourhoods will be a fundamental part of us realising that vision.

REPORT

8. From May to November 2022 a series of public consultations were launched to help inform the development of the LAPs. The consultations generated over 6,000 contributions across the eight places.

9. The LAPs will enable local stakeholders to participate in shaping improvements to their town centres and neighbourhoods by working together with East Renfrewshire Council to support and inform the development of transformational regeneration projects in accordance with the strategic and policy approach set out in Local Development Plan (LDP) 2.

10. The LAPs will help identify and develop short, medium and long term actions and ambitions that could be delivered when funding opportunities arise. Examples of investments are likely to include: upgrading town centre public realm and green spaces; making better use of land and existing buildings; shop front improvement schemes; improved digital connectivity and developing active travel opportunities

11. A dedicated LAP will be produced for each of the 8 identified areas which will identify the collective vision for the area and develop options for future investment that will seek to make our town centres and neighbourhoods more vibrant, creative, enterprising and accessible. LAPs may be subject to change or reprioritisation as new local issues or funding opportunities arise. Cabinet will be asked to approve future funding requests linked to these proposals.

Next Steps

12. The first draft of the LAPs has identified a series of priority options from stakeholders for each of the areas. The Economic Development team will then carry out a verification process which will include:

- Seek the views of Council colleagues to determine the affordability, deliverability, eligibility and viability of options;
- Engage with stakeholders with the initial options to help prioritise and develop a list of deliverable actions;
- Meet with elected members at a ward level to provide an overview of initial findings and next steps;

- Develop a LAP for each area which will also look at potential sources of funding and short, medium and long-term delivery timescales and
- Seek Cabinet approval for finalised LAPs.

Governance Arrangements

13. It is proposed that each area will have a Project Board group with appropriate representation to support the delivery of the LAPs. The groups would meet twice a year and would be coordinated by the Council's Economic Development team.

Future Funding Opportunities

14. The Scottish and UK Governments have various capital regeneration funding opportunities for town centres and neighbourhoods across Scotland. We want to make sure that our communities are able to take advantage of these upcoming opportunities and the agreement of the LAPs will support this.

15. A key requirement for these funds is for projects to demonstrate clear community and stakeholder involvement. Projects are expected to ensure that delivery is focused on the needs of local people, communities are involved in designing and delivering the services and people are empowered to improve their area and maximise local assets.

Fit With Local, Regional and National Policies

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)

16. The Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF) is a long-term plan (up to 2045) for Scotland that sets out where development and infrastructure is needed. It sets out a national spatial strategy which guides decisions on future development across Scotland, and aims to deliver net zero sustainable, liveable, productive and distinctive places. NPF4 is central to the implementation of the Scottish Government's vision for the future of planning in Scotland.

Local Development Plans (LDP)

17. The LDP sets out a long-term strategy to guide the distribution and timing of future development and to plan for the sustainable growth of East Renfrewshire. The LDP aims to create thriving, attractive and sustainable places and neighbourhoods.

Climate Change

18. Scotland has a target to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2045. The transition towards net-zero will impact many aspects of how our places are used and how people move around and access local services. Achieving net-zero will also provide opportunities to create sustainable jobs and grow a sustainable economy whilst improving the environmental conditions in the area. Supporting communities to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to our changing climate will involve changing our buildings and our transport, energy and water systems. New investments in local infrastructure, which can be supported by LAPs, will be a crucial part of how the Council provides practical support to communities to adapt to climate change.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

19. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Delivery of LAP projects and actions will be the subject of future funding applications.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

20. Consultations have taken place with a range of key internal and external stakeholders in the development and governance of these LAPs.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

21. There are no equalities, subsidy control, IT or staffing implications associated with this report.

CONCLUSIONS

22. The development of the LAPs will help identify and develop options for future investment that will seek to make our town centres and neighbourhoods more vibrant, creative, enterprising and accessible and will complement and add value to national, regional and local policy agendas including a place-based approach to local regeneration which will link strongly to the overarching Vision for the Future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- (a) Note the progress made with the development of our Local Action Plans and intended next steps; and
- (b) Note that further reports will be submitted to Cabinet providing an update on the Local Action Plans progress and those projects being identified for funding.

Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from Gillian McCarney Head of Place, 0141 577 3116, Gillian.McCarney@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

January 2024