



## Management Board Meeting

### Development and Improvement Groups (DIGs): Highlights and Issues Report

FOR INFORMATION ONLY	X
FOR DECISION	

Name of DIG	Flourishing Delivery and Improvement Group (DIG).
Date of report	17/10/2023
Name and email of lead contact	Peter Barry

1	Highlights of activity and progress since last meeting
<p><b>Regeneration</b></p> <p><b>Dumbarton</b></p> <p>Levelling Up Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glencairn House works out to tender for construction, deadline mid-November.</li> <li>• Connecting Dumbarton contract underway since May with a 5 month programme.</li> <li>• Design Team progressing the development of the Artizan Redevelopment Masterplan.</li> <li>• Public Consultation concluded on 9 October 2023. Two public consultation events took place on 24<sup>th</sup> August and 28<sup>th</sup> September, and Elected Members Briefing (part of the pre-application framework) took place on 9 October.</li> <li>• A Report will be submitted to Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Development Committee on 1 November.</li> <li>• Demolition of units to rear expected to commence in November.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alexandria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration of Smollett Fountain underway. Traffic management less intrusive than at first stage works.</li> <li>• Discussions on a potential Business Improvement District ongoing, Officers are supporting the traders in completing the Application for seedcorn funding.</li> </ul>	

- Shared Prosperity Funded shopfront improvement grants applications being received however progress is slower than anticipated. The businesses struggle with providing the required evidence.

## **Clydebank**

### **Queens Quay District Heating Network**

- Legal and commercial discussions regarding the West College Scotland connection ongoing
- Following the preparation of a new business plan for the network, Golden Jubilee Hospital has secured funding to make the adaptations necessary in the hospital and hotel estate; Council has applied for funding towards network infrastructure costs
- First phase of works to connect a further 46 Clydebank Housing Association flats on Dumbarton Road underway

### **Town Centre**

- Planning application for the Clydebank Canal-side Activities Centre progressing.
- £20M UK Government funding announced for Clydebank Town Centre

## **Exxon**

- Planning application expected to go to Committee in November
- Council officers continue to seek additional funding from City Region to contribute towards the costs of the project.
- Contractual information being produced for presentation to Council so that the project can start on site early 2024.
- Stage 1 application for Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Fund for greenspace and footpaths on the site was successful; Stage 2 application will be submitted in November.

## **Scottish Marine Technology Park**

- Council continuing to work with the Malin Group to support the relocation of their business to Carless and to help with the identification of additional funding for land remediation
- Planning application delayed due to negotiations with SEPA on flooding issues
- Work complete on the flood mitigation project, and Malin Group have appointed a designer for the Quayside, both of which are being funded by Clyde Mission and the Council, the latter being subject to a further development agreement.

## **Business Support**

- There has been a lot of interest and applications are now being received for the business grants funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This includes a Recovery & Growth grant, Early Stage Growth grant, Working

Towards Net Zero grant & Enhancing West Dunbartonshire's Tourism Events & Attractions grant.

- A Food & Drink Challenge Fund is being developed in partnership with the Working4Business group which will provide a competitive grant of up to £5,000 to food and drink manufacturers and producers that can evidence potential growth projects which will create local jobs.
- Discussions are continuing with Glasgow City Region and other local authorities regarding the business consultation process for the new Glasgow City Region Investment Zones.
- Working in partnership with Glasgow City Region and Strathclyde University to provide businesses with green business advice through the development of carbon baseline assessments. This support will be funded through UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The start date for referrals is now expected to be late October due to a delay in finalising the grant agreement with Strathclyde University.
- The action plan for the Economic Development Strategy 2022-2027 is currently being finalised and will go for approval to IRED Committee meeting on 1 November 2023.

### **City Region/Scottish Government/UK Levelling Up**

- Glasgow City Region will be one of two Investment Zones in Scotland and as a result will benefit from a package of funding and tax relief measures estimated to be worth £80M over 5 years. The details of the offer will be co-produced by City Region and Member Authorities, Scottish Government and UK Govt (DHLUC). Ideas and outline bids for sectors and sites that may benefit from the Investment Zone is being considered by each Member Authority of the City Region.

### **Employability/Learning/Income Maximisation**

- Working4U is responsible for delivering services that help people to address the barriers that prevent them from considering work as an option; improve their skill sets and secure employment. This rests on input from employability (*Work*), community learning (*Learn*) and debt/benefit support (*Money*) services.
- In 22/2023 Working4U provided *work, learning and money* support for over 9,000 people. Of those:
  - 373 people were supported through apprenticeships and in work progression;
  - 1,469 to enter education or training;
  - 756 people were supported to gain a qualification;
  - 420 people were supported (against a target of 400) secured employment.
- Community learning and development services contributed to this success by providing access to community-based learning that focussed on the most marginalised people/families in our community. This included support for:
  - Adult/Youth Literacies;
  - Community-based vocational courses;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Digital Learning;</li> <li>○ ESOL; and</li> <li>○ Family Learning.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Working4U debt and benefit support services assisted residents to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Manage £1.88m of debt;</li> <li>○ Secure £8.12m of benefit entitlements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Collectively these services are addressing poverty and disadvantage by supporting people to increase income through work and benefit entitlement, reduce their cost of living and address barriers to work and learning opportunities.</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Council is the lead agency for the management and delivering services. Grants have been distributed to private and Third sector organisations to support the No One Left Behind and UK Shared Prosperity aims.</li> <li>• Since April we have established the processes for the use of No One left Behind funds (Scottish approach to the delivery of employability services) and UK Shared Prosperity Funds.</li> <li>• UK Shared prosperity provides funding that prioritises activity around <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community and Place (Community Team – addressing perceptions of crime and community empowerment);</li> <li>○ Supporting Local Business (grants to develop and grow business and innovation);</li> <li>○ People and Skills (employability support);</li> <li>○ Multiply (developing basic skills in maths among residents and workforce).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the forthcoming period we will continue to work with partners through the Local Employability Strategic group, Adult Learning Partnership and Information and Advice partnership to co-ordinate activities that will support people to maximise income, reduce costs and overcome barriers to opportunity.</li> </ul>
--	---

2	Outline of any issues/risks and how these are being managed
	<p><b>Regeneration</b></p> <p>Inflation and rising costs are a challenge in project delivery. We are looking at adjusting scope to make projects affordable, or seeking additional funding where possible.</p> <p>Tight timescales associated with external funding pose a challenge to project delivery. We are seeking support from external consultants where appropriate, and work collaboratively with other teams to identify solutions.</p> <p><b>Business Support</b></p> <p>A delay in finalising the Extend Plus grant agreement with Strathclyde University has led to a delay in referring businesses for carbon baseline assessments. The</p>

team have compiled a waiting list for businesses and will start making referrals as soon as we have confirmation of a start date.

### **Employability**

The risks for the employability service centres on the ability to secure reliable external training providers capable of delivering services in the local area. We are managing this by providing each grant recipient with a key contact and providing them with the opportunity to identify delivery challenges at an early stage.

## **3 | Outline of the main outputs expected before next meeting**

### **Regeneration**

- Alexandria, Smollet Fountain renovation – project completed
- Clydebank, Activity Centre – planning permission anticipated. Delivery contract progressed and timescales confirmed.
- Dumbarton, Artizan – demolition contract underway
- Dumbarton, Artizan – IRED Report submitted and approved, design development works progressed
- Exxon Full Business Case approved by City Region in readiness for contract signed by November, following planning permission
- SMTP – application anticipated to be submitted by Malin Group

### **Business Support**

- Start making business referrals to Strathclyde University to receive carbon baseline assessments which is aimed to be available from October 2023.
- Continuing to promote the new business support programmes within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Finalise the application process and eligibility criteria for the Food and Drink Challenge Fund
- Finalise and receive committee approval for the Economic Development Strategy 2022-2027 Action Plan

### **Employability**

- Working4U has continued to manage grant support services and deliver *Work, Learn, Money* activities and from April to September we have assisted 4,425 people: Of these we have
  - Assisted 300 people through apprenticeships and in-work progression;
  - Supported 565 into education and training;
  - 365 have gained a qualification;
  - 198 have secured employment.

- In addition we have:
  - Assisted people to secure £4.18m of additional benefits; and
  - Manage £627,181 of debt.
- As such, we have achieved the targets to date for these activities (September) and are on-track to achieve our targets for the year.

4 | What are your requirements of partners in the Community Planning Management Board to achieve the outcomes of the DIG?

### **Placemaking**

Good placemaking will continue to underpin the regeneration, development and improvement work in the town centres as we aim to align funding and resources, with Council, DIG partners and external funding, to achieve our ambitions.

### **Business Support**

The on-going commitment and support from the community partners will help to maximise the impacts of the business support activity being developed and implemented through the Flourishing DIG. This will assist with reinforcing our efforts to develop a strong local economy that will provide access to opportunity for all in West Dunbartonshire.

### **Employability**

We will continue to deliver the NOLB, Parental Employability support programmes and UK Shared prosperity activity. We will continue to work in partnership through the Adult Learning Partnership and local employability partnership. We ask the partners to continue with their contribution to the local employability group by attending or sending representation where appropriate to the strategic group; the creative design group (service providers) and the frontline community of interest. These groups are making a positive contribution to identifying and addressing challenges in West Dunbartonshire.

5 | Please outline any good news story you wish to share

### **Employability**

A group of adult learners from West Dunbartonshire have been recognised nationally for their work to raise the profile of adult learning opportunities in the area.

The West Dunbartonshire Learners' Voice (WDLV) group won an award at the Adult Learners' Week Awards which celebrated achievements in community based adult learning.

The group – made up of learners and volunteers attending courses run by the Council's Working4U Adult Learning and Literacies team – were praised for their resilience and commitment to promoting the voice of learners through their weekly meetings.



The Working4U Jobs Fair on Tuesday 3rd October 10am-12pm at Clydebanks Town hall was attended by 209 local residents looking for support with their employability skills and access to learning opportunities. Attendees had the opportunity to speak to 25 employers who had live vacancies as well as W4U Employability staff and partners to find out about jobs, training, qualifications and how to register for support. The event was considered to be a success and future events are planned for the forthcoming period.

### **Regeneration**

Clydebanks has just been announced as a beneficiary of £20M of UK Government's next tranche of Levelling Up Fund for "overlooked" towns, which is welcome news. Further guidance is awaited from UK Government, but the indication is that the predominantly capital funding will be available over a 10 year period and can be used to support a range of town centre measures. In 2021 the Council approved a Development Framework for Clydebanks Town Centre which will be a helpful guide for decisions about investment.