

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development Services (Housing & Regeneration Services)**

**Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee: 7 November 2007**

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**Subject: Alexandria Town Centre Project 2007/2008 Update**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To seek the approval of the Committee for the key capital project for 2007/2008 in Alexandria Town Centre, that has been agreed in consultation with the Alexandria Regeneration Forum.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** A report to the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee of 5 September 2007 reported on allocations for key projects in Alexandria town centre for 2007-2008. This followed the community and stakeholder consultation events of the Alexandria Town Centre Masterplan, and a meeting of the Alexandria Regeneration Forum as a consultative group. Having considered the recommendation for improvements in the town centre, the Committee agreed that that officers be authorised to liaise with the Regeneration Forum in terms of expenditure
- 2.2** The Alexandria Regeneration Forum subsequently met on 11 October 2007 where further information was provided on projects and further discussions were held regarding their views on a preferred key project for Alexandria town centre in 2007/2008, to be considered in recommendations to Committee.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** Having regard to commitments made by the Committee at the meetings of 13 June 2007 and 5 September 2007, there is presently a balance of £132,000 available for investment in projects within Alexandria.

- 3.2** With regard to the selected project from the Council's General Services Capital Plan 2007/2008, the Alexandria Regeneration Forum discussed the projects reported to the HE&ED Committee of 5 September 2007 at a recent meeting. The projects listed for consideration were: car parking improvements; the removal of a spiral overpass spanning the gyratory system; and a further phase of shop front improvements. Of these three projects, car parking improvements were specifically mentioned in the results from the public consultation for the master plan. Shopfront improvements, as favoured by the Forum, have already been successful in benefiting 19 independent businesses in Alexandria town centre. However, following discussion, it was agreed amongst the Forum that the most appropriate project they favoured to be taken forward was that of shop front improvements.
- 3.3** Should the Committee agree to the Forum's suggestion, work would require to be undertaken at the earliest opportunity, to identify a list of shop fronts suitable for improvement and which satisfy the requirements for mandate agreement.
- 4. Personnel Issues**
- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.
- 5. Financial Implications**
- 5.1** Funds of £132,000 remain available for commitment to projects within Alexandria and the recommendation is made as to how these funds should be invested.
- 6. Risk Analysis**
- 6.1** There is a risk that shop owners may not wish to participate in the programme, though some preliminary consultation has taken place with likely interested parties.
- 7. Conclusions**
- 7.1** The Alexandria Regeneration Forum has nominated shop front improvements as the town centre project for the 2007/2008, to be implemented using funds available in the Council's General Services Capital Plan.

## **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 It is recommended that the remaining balance of funds of £132,000 available in the Council's General Services Capital Plan 2007/08, for investment in projects in Alexandria, be invested in shop front improvements and that the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Housing and Regeneration Services) be instructed to enter into appropriate agreements with shop keepers to progress this project and to make the appropriate arrangements for its implementation.**

**Irving Hodgson**

**Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental  
and Economic Development Services (Housing & Regeneration Services)**

**Date 16 October 2007**

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**Appendices :** Nil

**Background Papers :** Report to HE&ED Committee dated 5 September 2007  
Report to Community Safety & Environmental Services  
Committee of 13 June 2007

**Wards Affected :** 1 and 2