

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services)

Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee: 13 June 2007

Subject: Alexandria Town Centre Projects 2007-2008

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Committee on progress with projects within Alexandria town centre.
- 1.2 To seek retrospective approval for the allocation of additional funds for the preparation of a masterplan for Alexandria town centre.
- 1.3 To advise the Committee of the intended programme of Alexandria town centre projects for 2007/2008, to be confirmed following stakeholder consultation.

2. Background

- 2.1 A report to Council in February 2007 recommended bids for the Council's General Services Capital Plan 2007/2008, which was approved. This included a total allocation of £244,000 for Alexandria town centre, which includes committed and uncommitted sums.
- 2.2 The Committee will be aware that an Action Plan was prepared for Alexandria town centre entitled "Alexandria Heart of the Vale, Town Centre Action Plan", in May 2004. This is adopted guidance which identifies projects for implementation in the town centre.
- 2.3 A Regeneration Forum was established in Alexandria following the recommendation of a report to the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee in August 2006. Its role is to oversee the implementation of a masterplan for Alexandria. Since its formation the Regeneration Forum has attended and participated in a masterplan workshop which took place in February 2007.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 A report to the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee on 3 May 2006 included an indicative budget of £14,000 for a masterplan for the town centre. The Committee should note that following the preparation of a consultant's brief identifying expertise required it has been necessary to allocate a further £30,000 to this project from this year's capital allocation. A

multi-disciplinary team led by Glasgow based planning and urban design consultants Gillespies was appointed recently to do this work. The team's remit is to produce a masterplan by August 2007, to guide the sustainable regeneration of Alexandria town centre. This will involve consultation with local stakeholders.

- 3.2** In terms of other key projects, progress has been made with improvements of 19 shopfronts within the town centre and the completion of a Streetscape Design Guide and Transport Feasibility Study which will guide future physical projects.
- 3.3** For 2007/08 there are a number of ongoing projects for which there is committed slippage of £38,000, namely the shopfront improvement programme and the masterplan. Smaller allocations to the total sum of £65,000, have been made for projects, including the following indicative budgets:

Masterplan (Additional Contribution)	£30,000
Kippen Dairy Brief	£5,000
Update Newsletter	£5,000
Town Centre Health Check	£5,000
Contingency funds	£20,000

- 3.4** This leaves a sum of £141,000 available for a larger, key project, such as improvements to the Smollett Fountain, or improvements to a car park behind commercial properties fronting onto Main Street. However, it is considered that the stakeholder consultation process for the masterplan could provide information that could influence how key projects are prioritised this year. For this reason, it is recommended that a further report is made to the Committee, in August 2007, confirming projects.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** Provision has been made for these projects within the approved General Services Capital Programme.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There are no perceived risks.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The masterplanning exercise in Alexandria town centre offers an opportunity to gauge issues within the town centre which could influence priorities for projects. In this respect, a further report to the Committee will confirm spend following the outcome of this process.

8. Recommendation

8.1 The Committee is invited to:-

- **note the progress with projects in Alexandria town centre;**
- **agree the allocation of additional funds for the preparation of a masterplan for Alexandria town centres; and**
- **agree the indicative allocation of funds to the identified projects and that an allocation for further, key project(s) shall be reported to the Committee following stakeholder consultation events, as part of the masterplanning exercise.**

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Date: 21 May 2007

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Appendices: None.

Background Papers: Report to Council of 8 February 2007 entitled General Services Capital Plan 2007 / 2008.
Report to Committee of 2 August 2006 entitled Regeneration in Alexandria
Report to Committee of 3 May 2006 entitled Alexandria Town Centre Projects 2006 – 2007

Wards Affected: 1 & 2