

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by Chief Officer - Regulatory & Regeneration

### Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee

15 September 2021

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**Subject: New Regeneration Officer Post (LUF) (Fixed Term)**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report seeks Members' approval for a new fixed term Regeneration Officer post to support projects as part of the Dumbarton Town Centre UK Levelling Up Funding programme.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1** It is recommended that Committee:
- approves the establishment and open recruitment of a fixed term Regeneration Officer Grade 8 post, until 2024, to be located within the Regeneration Team in the Economic Development Service, and subject to securing UK Levelling up funding.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1** On 10 June 2021, IRED approved the proposal to submit a Levelling Up Fund (LUF) application to UK Government for capital funding to deliver three key projects in Dumbarton: Glencairn House; Connecting Dumbarton and the acquisition, part-demolition and redevelopment of the Artizan Centre site. The terms of funding currently dictate that the projects must be delivered by end of the financial year 2023/24
- 3.2** Connecting Dumbarton, a project to improve active travel between the train station and town centre, is currently being developed by the Regeneration Team and the repurposing of Glencairn House is an Arts/Cultural & Libraries led project. The Artizan Centre project is a significant new project and there are limited project management resources either in the Regeneration Team or elsewhere in the Council in place to deliver it within the prescribed timescale.

#### **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** A budget for project management was included within the Levelling Up Fund application to cover costs for new staff and resources. The fixed term post is subject to securing the LUF and will be fully funded by it. Due to the lead-in times required for establishment of new posts and recruitment timescales, this provisional IRED approval is being sought prior to the LUF outcome at time of this committee paper's production.

**4.2** The report to IRED in June 2021 noted that, should the LUF application be successful, additional development resources will be required to deliver the project in the required timescale. Development costs will be capitalised and will be costed for the lifetime of the project and are included in the LUF application.

## **5. Options Appraisal**

**5.1** Consideration was given to outsourcing project management resources to a consultant. This might have been a more convenient route over a shorter delivery period but here was less confidence that a single consultancy could provide a consistent and reliable service over a period of up to three years.

**5.2** Consultation with other Services, including the Capital Investment Team, concluded that there were no current staff with the capacity to manage this additional and important scale of new work.

## **6. People Implications**

**6.1** A new Grade 8 Regeneration Officer post to be created for a fixed term in the Regeneration team within the Economic Development Service with no change to existing management arrangements, and subject to usual recruitment processes.

## **7. Financial & Procurement Implications**

**7.1** The post and any overhead costs associated with the position will be fully funded by the anticipated UK Levelling Up Funding.

## **8. Risk Analysis**

**8.1** The key risk analysed for this paper is in relation to appropriate resources available for the delivery of a £20m town centre levelling-Up funding project potential. The analysis determined that additional resource would be necessary to deliver the project and the budget required was identified in the funding application.

## **9. Equalities Impact Assessment**

**9.1** The post will be subject to the usual open recruitment process.

## **10. Environmental Sustainability**

**10.1** Not applicable to this report

## **11. Consultation**

**11.1** There was cross-Service collaboration on the Levelling Up Fund programme, from which the requirement of this post was identified. Consultation has also taken place with the HR Business Partner.

## **12. Strategic Assessment**

**12.1** The Council has agreed its five main strategic priorities for 2017 – 2022. The Levelling Up Fund programme Opportunity is consistent with the objectives of Developing a Strong local economy and improved employment opportunities by:

- Delivering a key regeneration objective with associated job creation and business development objectives;
- Supporting businesses to develop their workforce, products and services;
- Supporting communities to develop asset management opportunities.

**Chief Officer:** Peter Hessest  
**Service Areas:** Regulatory & Regeneration  
**Date:** 27 August 2021

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**Appendices:** None

**Background Papers:** Report on Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund to IRED 10 June 2021

**Wards Affected:** Dumbarton