

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Officer - Regulatory & Regeneration

Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee

15 September 2021

Subject: Clydebank Can on the Canal Activity Centre in Clydebank

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report seeks Members' approval to commence a procurement process for the new Activity Centre in Clydebank.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that Committee:
- notes the progress with the Clydebank Can on the Canal project, and
 - authorises the commencement of the procurement processes relating to construction of the Activity Centre in Clydebank.

3. Background

- 3.1** In 2020 West Dunbartonshire received £0.747m from Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) for expenditure on the Clydebank Can on the Canal. RCGF is a competitive, 2 stage fund to which Councils can apply every year. Successful projects must demonstrate physical, social and economic outcomes, and respond to community needs with priority given to disadvantaged communities.
- 3.2** Clydebank Can on the Canal will be a new Activity Centre situated Canal-side within Clydebank town centre. The project was developed in response to the recommendation from the Clydebank Charrettes to bring more activity into the town centre and make better use of the Canal.
- 3.3** The Centre will be run by a local community group Y Sort It and will focus on cycling activities for the local families and young people. The facilities will include bike workshop, bike hire, bike storage and washing facilities, changing rooms, activity room and a small kitchen for provision of snacks and drinks for participants.
- 3.4** The Council will financially contribute £0.200m to the build from the annually approved Local Economic Development capital budget.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The RCGF funding was sought after extensive consultations in 2019 with Clydebank community organisations, Scottish Canals, West Dunbartonshire

Leisure Trust and a range of other interested parties. The Activity Centre proposal was selected as a unique way of delivering fun community recreational activities that would not only promote health and wellbeing but also bring vibrancy to the Canal.

- 4.2** The Centre will not duplicate any existing local service or facility, either commercial or not-for-profit, but will instead add value to other improvements and projects such as the pedestrian and cycle ramp at Whitecrook which connects the rear of Centre 81 to the Canal.
- 4.3** Outline design for the Activity Centre project has been prepared by the Council's Consultancy Services in consultation with Y Sort It The next step is to appoint a Contractor on Design & Build basis who will develop the technical design and deliver the project on site.
- 4.4** The funding allocation from RCGF requires to be legally committed as soon as possible as the project has already been significantly delayed due to Covid-19.
- 4.5** The Activity Centre is planned to be completed and operational by September 2022, subject to securing the necessary Planning permission.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** Resources have already been identified within the Procurement Team. The project is being developed by the Regeneration Team with support from Consultancy Services.

6. Financial & Procurement Implications

- 6.1** The Council will receive £0.747m from RCGF and will financially contribute £0.200m to the build from the approved Local Economic Development capital budget.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** All projects are subject to a range of risks that may impact on them being delivered on time and on budget. Risk will be mitigated by procuring a contractor with proven track record and a previous experience of delivering similar projects.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 8.1** An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the Activities Centre and is attached on Appendix One.

9. Environmental Sustainability

9.1 It will be a priority to take a 'zero carbon' approach to the project and to reflect the aims of the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

10. Consultation

10.1 The project has originated from extensive stakeholder and community consultation.

11. Strategic Assessment

11.1 The Council has agreed its five main strategic priorities for 2017 – 2022. The Activity Centre project is consistent with the objectives of meaningful engagement with active, empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged. It also supports the objectives of developing a strong local economy and improved employment opportunities. This will be achieved by:

- Supporting regeneration of the town centre which will help increase footfall and stimulate economic growth;
- Creating a focal point of activity within the twin centre which responds to the needs of the residents;
- Creating opportunities for involvement of young citizens.

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Appendices: Appendix One – Equalities Impact Assessment Screening

Background Papers: Members Briefing Note - Clydebank Can on the Canal Award of RCGF, April 2020

Wards Affected: Clydebank Waterfront, Clydebank Central