

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture & Facilities

Rescheduled Special Meeting of the Cultural Committee: 18 February 2022

Subject: Denny Civic Theatre and Capital Fund Update**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The report provides an update on Cultural Capital Fund spend to date and seeks approval for allocation of budget to additional projects that have been identified.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- note the updates provided within this report; and
 - agree to progress the works outlined in 4.2 to 4.6.

3. Background

- 3.1 In March 2018 the Council agreed to create a £4m Cultural Capital Fund (Heritage Capital Fund) to invest in West Dunbartonshire's cultural and heritage infrastructure in order to unlock regeneration, increase tourism and raise the reputation of the area. The 2018/19 Budget Document pointed to the transformation of the waterfront at Clydebank and the perfect opportunity this created to undertake bold and exciting projects that revitalise Council assets and change the way people look at our area. Officers were asked to focus upon renewing the historic Town Hall making it a venue that residents can be proud of but other projects were also included within the spend of the Cultural Capital Fund.
- 3.2 The table below illustrated the projects and costs agreed to date from this fund:-

PROJECT	COSTS TO DATE (£)	(£)
Total Cultural Capital Fund		4,000,000
Alexandria Library museum, lift and new public-use room	330,000	
Town Hall external roof and stonework	252,000	
Investment Project	60,000	
Town Hall renovations	672,000	
Clydebank Library basement museum	575,000	
Bruce Street Baths upgrade	100,000	
Town Hall/Dalmuir gallery redesign feasibility	16,000	

Fine Art Acquisition Fund	100,000	
Asset Management Development costs to support the Cultural Capital Projects	75,350	
Dalmuir Gallery renovations	541,000	
Total Costs Agreed to Date		2,721,350
Remaining Funds		1,278,650

3.3 It was previously reported to Committee on 7 October 2021 that a sum of £500.00 in relation to Town Twinning was allocated from the Cultural Capital budget, however, this was erroneous as these funds were allocated from a revenue budget line.

3.4 It was also previously reported to Committee on 7 October 2021 that a sum of £950,000 in relation to Town Hall renovation works was estimated however given Committee's decision not to proceed with the originally proposed gallery redesign and instead to progress with a much reduced scope undertaken by internal resources within Building Services, this sum has been reduced to the figure reflected above (£672,000).

4. Main Issues

Denny Civic Theatre

4.1 Officers have identified a number of improvements to the Denny Civic Theatre in Dumbarton, to be carried out under Asset Management building upgrades budget line. These improvements include an upgrade of the current changing facilities within the theatre, redecoration and enhancing toilet provision for members of the public.

4.2 The Denny Civic Theatre is currently unable to function as a working theatre as there is no Audio/Visual equipment to support stage performances which is impacting on the ability of the venue to generate revenue. Initial discussions with Audio/Visual specialists indicate the cost to bring the facility up to a professional standard to enable performances to recommence is £175,000.

4.3 In addition there is an aspiration to enhance the building and maximise use as part of the overall regeneration of the town centre which places significant focus on culture. An additional allocation of £100,000 would enable surveys to be undertaken and designs developed with a view to enhancing accessibility and usage of the building for performances, functions and events.

4.4 Bruce Street Baths

Members have previously committed £100,000 to Bruce Street Baths in order to make the building wind and water tight. Painting works have taken place and currently in the region of £73,000 of this funding remains. A review has concluded that in order to maintain and preserve the building a new roof and heating system linking to the District Heating Network will be required. A further allocation of £200,000 would support works to be undertaken in

relation to the renewal of the roof and heating with the roofing element prioritised in the new financial year.

4.5 Dumbarton Library

The existing library at Strathleven Place is to be converted into a publically accessible collections store and archive as part of wider plans to create a new library and museum within Glencairn House in Dumbarton Town Centre. Funding has been committed to redevelop the current library building and designs are being prepared. An allocation of £100,000 would enable the purchase of an upgraded Collections Management System to improve collections accessibility and provide scope for match funding applications to be submitted to external organisations in support of increased engagement with collections and improved collections care and preservation.

4.6 Footballing Legacy

West Dunbartonshire has a significant footballing history and there is an opportunity to highlight the sporting legacy and culture which exists within the area. An allocation of up to £100,000 would enable projects to be developed which engage with the community to embrace and celebrate our rich heritage.

4.7 Should committee agree to all aspects above this would result in a total allocation of £675,000 from the Cultural Capital Fund.

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no people implications arising from this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 Should Committee agree to proceed with the recommendations contained in this report, an additional sum of £675,000 will be allocated from the Cultural Capital Fund, leaving a balance of £603,650. A separate report to committee today seeks to allocate £500,000 to support a project with Glasgow School of Art at Richmond Street in Clydebank. Should this also be approved, a balance of £103,650 would remain in the fund.

6.2 Any procurement activity required by this report will be done in line with financial regulations and relevant procurement legislation.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 New issues with the historic building may be uncovered in relation to the installation of District Heating, although this has been mitigated as far as possible through a number of building surveys which have been carried out. Officers have also allocated a contingency for this project to deal with unexpected costs.

7.2 The combined impact of Brexit and the Covid 19 pandemic may continue to impact on materials costs/availability of labour.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 An Equality Impact Screening did not indicate any action required in relation to any recommendations.

9. Consultation

9.1 This proposal to undertake improvement works at Clydebank Town Hall has been assessed by officers from West Dunbartonshire Leisure Trust, Asset Management, Legal Services, Finance, and Citizens, Culture and Facilities.

10. Strategic Assessment

The proposals within this report support the following strategic priorities:

- Efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents

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Date: 10 February 2022

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Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	Clydebank Town Hall Redevelopment Update. Report by Chief Officer CCF, January 2022 Clydebank Town Hall Redevelopment Update. Report by Chief Officer CCF, October 2021 Clydebank Town Hall Redevelopment Update. Report by Chief Officer CCF, August 2021; Clydebank Town Hall Revised Improvement Works. Report by Chief Officer CCF, January 2021; Redesign of Clydebank Town Hall Exhibition Galleries. Report by Chief Officer CCF, November 2020;

Business Case for Clydebank Town Hall Improvement Works;
Report by Chief Officer CCF, November 2019;
Business Case for Clydebank Town Hall Improvement Works. Report by Chief Officer CCF, April 2019;
Administration Budget 2018-19 to Council on 5 March 2018.

Wards Affected:

All