

SURF in Rothesay –Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2014 Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) commissioned SURF, established in 1992 as the independent regeneration network for Scotland, to carry out a feasibility study into establishing whether there is interest and value in pursuing an 'Alliance for Action' project in Rothesay.

An 'Alliance for Action' is a collaborative and shared learning programme and SURF is presently co-ordinating these in Govan and East Kirkcaldy.

In both these communities SURF is working with relevant local and national partners to;

- Build local capacity, strengthen local resilience, increase practical outcomes and improve the well-being of local residents
- Link local knowledge, initiatives and assets with national networks, policies and resources in support of more co-ordinated and holistic regeneration activity
- Draw out transferable learning towards more successful and sustainable policy and practice in community regeneration

An Alliance for Action initiative in Rothesay would be based on a similar approach whereby local people and agencies are engaged to agree appropriate and sustainable regeneration priorities for the town.

Recommendation

That members note the contents of the report

SURF in Rothesay – Update

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Scotland's independent regeneration network (SURF) were engaged in October 2014 by HIE to produce a feasibility study to assess the potential for developing a sustainable 'Alliance for Action' regeneration initiative focussed on the town of Rothesay. SURF has been working with the community since their initial engagement and this report is to update members on progress.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members to note the content of the report

4.0 DETAILS

An 'Alliance for Action' is a collaborative and shared learning programme and SURF is presently co-ordinating these in Govan and East Kirkcaldy.

In both these communities SURF is working with relevant local and national partners to;

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An Alliance for Action initiative in Rothesay would be based on a similar approach whereby local people and agencies are engaged to agree appropriate and sustainable regeneration priorities for the town.

4.2 What has SURF done to date?

- They held a number of consultation meetings with local people, businesses and agencies to establish views on what people feel about their town and the types of regeneration activities that need to be taken forward

They held an open community meeting in March

- They have had dialogue with HIE and officers of the Council.

The discussions from these meetings identified the need to develop a collective vision for Rothesay with a view to identifying some key regeneration projects/activities that could be progressed to deliver the vision.

4.3 What will SURF do between now and August?

- SURF will continue to consult the local community including local schools and business people to establish their views on local regeneration
- Organise further open meetings in Rothesay to ensure the views of the wider community are taken on board
- Work with local people to form a community steering group of interested individuals, business owners and agencies whose main task will be to agree a collective vision for the town and to identify 3-4 key regeneration projects that will help to deliver the vision. HIE have expressed a willingness to be part of this group. The Council is currently engaging with SURF and HIE to determine their potential role and how this aligns with the Council's overall objectives.
- It is hoped that Brian MacDonald, the Chair of SURF, will attend the August Area Committee to update members of progress.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The project, which is being led by SURF, is at an early stage and. Its overall objective is to develop a sustainable 'Alliance for Action' regeneration which will be used to direct future regeneration activities.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 6.1 | Policy | The delivery of this project fits with the Council's Corporate Plan and Single Outcome Agreement. The potential economic outcomes from this project will contribute to the Council's Economic Development Action Plan at a strategic and area based level. |
| 6.2 | Financial | None at present. |

6.3	Legal	None
6.4	HR	None
6.5	Equalities	No equal opportunities implications.
6.6	Risk	None at present as work is only at feasibility stage.
6.7	Customer Services	Working with local people

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Policy Lead – Councillor

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