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## HELENSBURGH CHORD PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS – PROGRESS UPDATE

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### 1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines progress to date in the delivery of the Helensburgh CHORD town centre Public Realm Improvement works.
- 1.2 There are essential four main phases to the works:
- Phase 1 A and B West Clyde St/Colquhoun St South and West Bay Esplanade  
Phase 2 Colquhoun Square, Sinclair Street Car Park and West Princes St  
Phase 3 A and B Colquhoun St North and East Princes St  
Phase 4 Sinclair St
- 1.3 Phase 1 A; Public Conveniences and Sinclair St Car Park re-opened.  
Phase 2 on site.
- 1.4 CHORD Project Team and Contractor currently reviewing programme for phases 3 and 4.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Area Committee note the progress report.
- 2.2 That the Area Committee instruct the Helensburgh CHORD Project Manager to bring a further progress report to the Helensburgh and Lomond August Area Committee.

### 3.0 DETAIL

#### 3.1 **Background**

The Helensburgh Town Centre Public Realm Improvement works include road narrowing and widening of adjoining pavements in natural materials; resurfacing of the carriageway; installation of new street furniture; soft landscape works; enhanced lighting; creation of a gathering/event space in Colquhoun Square; upgrading the West Bay Esplanade; introducing public art to reflect the heritage and culture of the town; refurbishing the Public Conveniences on the esplanade and upgrading Sinclair St car park. The aim is to enhance both the local and wider communities' perceptions of the town as a good place to live, work and play and to raise Helensburgh's reputation as an attractive day visitor destination.

- 3.2 Works to Phase 1 A; Public Conveniences and Sinclair St car park are complete, albeit there are snagging issues to be addressed across all areas.

#### 3.3 **Phase 2 Colquhoun Square and West Princes St - On Site.**

*South side of Square:* All paving complete and grouted, apart from ramp area at the post office and patching work around services. Turfing, planting and installation of seats underway, cycle stand and bins installed, lighting columns erected, trees planted. Contractor is forecasting completing the south side of the square by early June 2014.

*North side of Square:* Kerbing to central areas has begun and grading of square to correct levels ongoing, trees planted. Contractor is forecasting completing works mid/late July 2014.

#### 3.4 **Phase 1b West Bay Esplanade - On Site.**

Granite seating in place, grading to formation level for concrete area continuing, concrete due to be laid over next couple of weeks. Creation of Soft Play is underway, Re-claimed Caithness paving has started to be laid around the Henry Bell area. Ducting for lighting in place.

Contractor is forecasting completing Esplanade late June/early July 2014.

**3.5 Phases 3 and 4 Colquhoun Street North, East Princes St and Sinclair St**

The CHORD Project Team and the Contractor are currently reviewing the programme for phases 3 and 4. Details of the revised Programme will be uploaded to the CHORD web page and issued to stakeholders when available.

3.6 The cost for delivering the Helensburgh CHORD Public Realm works remains within budget.

3.7 At the Helensburgh & Lomond Special Area Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, Members approved a contribution of up to £17,925 from the CHORD budget to the Helensburgh and Lomond Chamber of Commerce to run summer events in the town centre between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

3.8 There are essentially some risks in delivering this type of project; Governance, under performance of contractor and design team and underground site conditions, uncharted services, levels of hard rock encountered etc. These are being monitored and discussed with the relevant parties to mitigate these risks.

**4.0 CONCLUSION**

Progress to date against original Programme is behind schedule. This is due to various factors, including poor ground conditions; desire to enhance original drainage design to help alleviate the impact of flooding during extreme weather conditions, which has been very successful. The CHORD Project Team is currently working with the Contractor to consider options for completing the works as quickly as possible, whilst maintaining a high level of quality, taking cognisance of Health and Safety, and minimising disruption to all users of the town centre.

The cost for delivering the Helensburgh CHORD Public Realm works remains within budget. In line with good practice a post project evaluation report will be undertaken on completion of the works.

POLICY	The delivery of this project fits with the Council's Corporate Plan, Single Outcome Agreement and approved Development Plan key actions and policy for safeguarding our built heritage and town centre regeneration. The economic outcomes from this project will contribute to the Council's Economic Development Action Plan at a strategic and area based level.
FINANCIAL	Covered in Highlight Report exempt item
RISKS	As outlined in 3.8 above.
PERSONNEL	Personnel commitment across relevant departments for duration of project
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES	No equal opportunities implications
LEGAL	Any issues will be dealt with through the Contract.

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