

SURF in Rothesay –Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As members will be aware 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 the work in Rothesay.

The purpose behind the Alliance is to work with local people and national agencies and 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
- To agree appropriate and sustainable regeneration vision and priorities for the town.

Recommendation

That members note the contents of the report and note that SURF are also reporting on progress through the Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group and the Community Planning Management Committee.

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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 and note that SURF have also been asked to report on progress through the Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group and the Community Planning Management Committee.

4.0 DETAILS

An 'Alliance for Action' is a collaborative and shared learning programme and SURF is presently co-ordinating the work in Rothesay.

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
- To agree appropriate and sustainable regeneration vision and priorities for the town

4.2 What has been achieved to date?

The Alliance, including community, business and public sector representatives, has met as a group on five separate occasions since its inception in Spring 2015, to

discuss and agree upon a way forward. The meetings have been well attended with a forward looking approach and are led by members of the community, with SURF providing a support/facilitative role. A clear early outcome of the Alliance for Action work has been the formation and development of a wide range of working relationships across the variety of organisations engaged with the Alliance to date. Work is ongoing to engage further organisations and individuals to widen the Alliance and ensure that everyone who wants to take part is able to.

Council officers and Councillors have participated in the Alliance, together with other public sector partners, and their input has been invaluable.

The proposed short to medium term activities being considered by the Alliance includes:

- A Charrette – Following early discussion with Scottish Government SURF will submit a proposal seeking charrette funding on behalf of the Alliance in the next few weeks
- The Community Council and the Isle of Bute Trust are currently looking at a joint proposal to the Scottish Town Centre Communities Capital Fund
- Using the outputs of the public meetings to develop a list of projects and to identify the means by which funds may be acquired to deliver these
- Developing processes by which young people might get more directly involved in decision making about their town through working with the school, the youth workers and Achievement Bute.
- Appointment of a part time officer, to be advertised in the next few weeks, to support/facilitate the delivery of the Alliance for Action work. HIE have provided the funding for the post which will be managed by SURF
- A second public event will be held on 1st October to progress with the work on the development of the vision.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The project, which is being led by SURF with funding from HIE, is progressing and the appointment of a part time officer will secure the continued develop and delivery of a sustainable 'Alliance for Action' regeneration vision which will be used to direct future regeneration activities. SURF, with funding from HIE, propose to commence a similar piece of work in Dunoon over the next few months.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

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

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| 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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