

INNOVATION, INCOME GENERATION AND GROWING THE ECONOMY

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council is currently engaged in its service choices process to identify savings and efficiencies due to budget constraints. At the same time the Council has an ambition, through the single outcome agreement (SOA), to grow the economy and population of Argyll and Bute.

This note sets out a proposal to capture ideas through staff and Services that can be appraised and evaluated to be taken forward as possible projects to deliver innovation, income generation, efficiencies and wider benefit to the communities of Argyll and Bute and growth in the economy and population.

1.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.3 Members note the report; and
- 1.4 Members agree to constitute an innovation development fund as outlined at paragraph 6 hereof.

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2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Council is currently engaged in its service choices process to identify savings and efficiencies due to budget constraints. At the same time the Council has an ambition, through the single outcome agreement (SOA), to grow the economy and population of Argyll and Bute.

This note sets out a proposal to capture ideas through staff and Services that can be appraised and evaluated to be taken forward as possible projects to deliver innovation, income generation, efficiencies and wider benefit to the communities of Argyll and Bute and growth in the economy and population.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members note the report; and
- 3.2 Members agree to constitute an innovation development fund as outlined as paragraph 6 hereof.

4. COSO

- 4.1 At the recent COSO event ideas were generated in relation to growing the economy. These ideas have been ingathered and evaluated. The proposal is that evaluation now be extended to ascertain whether these ideas can also be seen to generate innovation, income generation and/or efficiencies as well as growth in the economy and population.

There is currently an exercise underway to fully evaluate all the ideas generated, sifting those where there is potential for further development to deliver projects. The process of evaluation and application of criteria used to assess these will help to inform the further part to the process as outlined below.

5. SERVICE CHOICES

- 5.1 Stage 2 of the Service choices process is being reported to the P&R Committee on 8 October 2015. Following that meeting public consultation will take place in relation to possible options for future savings. The proposal in relation to the Service choices process is to develop a template for Services to generate ideas for income generation, efficiencies savings and opportunities for growing the population and economy. The returns made to date by Services will be evaluated to assess whether any such ideas have already been noted. If this is the case then Services will be asked to expand on these whilst providing further proposals or suggestions.

Once the template is completed and ingathered an evaluation process will take place utilising similar criteria to that used in the COSO evaluation to assess whether there are

feasible projects which may be taken forward for further development.

As part of this process it is intended that feasible projects will be referred back to the Service for further comment, discussion and input from the Service prior to further development.

6 TIMESCALE

- 6.1 The timescale for completion of these main strands of action is intended to take place in time to report matters to the SMT in early January 2016 so that these may be reported, if appropriate, to the Council budget meeting in February.

It is intended to;

1. Complete the COSO evaluation by the end of September and thereafter to feedback the feasible projects and comments to the relevant groups who had first developed them for further comment. This would also be fed back at the same time to the appropriate Head of Service for their comment on how this could be developed further. The proposal is that the projects that are considered to be feasible would complete a mini-business case using a streamlined template and would then be presented to an agreed panel of senior managers with external input currently proposed to be provided by Scotland Excel.
2. Complete the template for the Service choices process by the end of September so that once the current stage 2 process is reported to P&R on the 8th of October the process of seeking “innovative” ideas from the Services for further evaluation can commence after that date. Evaluation and progression of ideas will form part of the Services Choices process and/or can be considered for presentation in a format similar to that in 1 above.

The development of these strands is currently underway and further information on timescales to completion will be developed and reported.

7 INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT FUND

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Council constitute an innovation development fund to provide support to services in developing business cases in regard to innovative ideas that are considered to be feasible for development as projects to deliver innovation, income generation, efficiencies and wider benefit to the communities of Argyll and Bute and growth in the economy and population. It is proposed that the fund be constituted at a level of £100K to clearly demonstrate the Council’s support for the approach. This would be in line with the Council’s general approach to implementing the SOA and to seeking innovation and efficiencies.

8 IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Policy – This is in accordance with the Council’s general approach to implementing the SOA and to seeking innovation and efficiencies;
- 8.2 Financial – The creation of an innovation development fund will provide support to services in developing business cases where considered feasible;

8.3 Legal – None at present

8.4 HR – None at present;

8.5 Equalities – None at present;

8.6 Risk – Any projects that may emerge from the development of business cases may involve risks but also opportunities and risk management will be a key issue going forward;

8.7 Customer Service – None at present.

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1 September 2015