

**WORKING WITH SURF: ROTHESAY AND DUNOON UPDATE**

---

**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. In October 2014, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) commissioned SURF to undertake a feasibility study into establishing whether there would be interest and value in pursuing an 'Alliance for Action' project for Rothesay. An 'Alliance for Action' is a collaborative and shared learning network of private, public and third sector individuals and organisations, which collectively seek to work together towards a common vision.
- 1.2. The idea was supported by Argyll and Bute Council together with the community and as such on completion of the feasibility study and over the last 9 months, SURF, fully funded by HIE, has supported the formation and progression of the Rothesay Alliance, including supporting the group in their successful bid for charrette funding from Scottish Government.
- 1.3. As the Rothesay Alliance has proved successful thus far, HIE have made funding available for a 6-month dedicated post to actively progress projects on behalf of the Alliance. The post holder will be expected to take forward the formal constitution of the group and establish and progress the Alliance's outcomes.
- 1.4. The Rothesay Alliance has reached a positive stage and as such this, alongside the creation of the dedicated post, has enabled SURF to expand their ambition to Cowal, with a view to establishing whether such a model may also prove suitable for Dunoon. Over the last 3 months, SURF have therefore been engaging with local people, agencies and community groups in Dunoon, feedback from which will inform an initial feasibility study.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Members note the content of this report.

**WORKING WITH SURF: ROTHESAY AND DUNOON UPDATE**

---

**3.0 INTRODUCTION**

In October 2014, Scotland's Independent Regeneration Forum (SURF) were engaged by HIE to produce a feasibility study to assess the potential for developing a sustainable 'Alliance for Action' regeneration initiative, which would be focused on the town of Rothesay. On conclusion of the initial report, and over the last 9 months, SURF, fully funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), has supported the group undertake substantial community consultation and also make a successful bid for Scottish Government funding under their charrette programme. This report seeks to update members on that progress, and to inform on the work that SURF is currently also undertaking in Dunoon.

**4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1. That Members note the content of this report.

**5.0 DETAIL**

5.1 This report seeks to provide information on the work of SURF and the 'Alliance for Actions' in Rothesay and Dunoon. An Alliance for Action seeks to engage with local individuals, agencies and groups to agree appropriate and sustainable priorities for a town, and has the potential 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 coordinated and holistic regeneration

- activity; and
- Draw out transferable learning towards more successful and sustainable policy and practice in community regeneration.

5.2 The Rothesay Alliance has now reached a positive point, having undertaken a substantial amount of consultation with the community and commissioned and actively participated in a charrette for the town. HIE are further supporting the group by funding a dedicated post over a 6-month period. The post holder will be required to assist with the formalisation of the group and its governance arrangements, possibly forming as a SCIO, and to establish and progress outcomes. The outcomes are likely to be directly linked to actions that arise from the charrette process.

5.3 This has enabled SURF to increase their scope of operation to include Dunoon, and as such SURF is currently in the process of engaging with a variety of individuals and groups. The feedback from this process will support a feasibility report and provide information as to whether such an approach might also prove useful for Dunoon.

5.4 Discussions thus far would suggest that there is appetite to look holistically at the town and that there is a need to agree and adopt a collective vision for Dunoon. Council officers have been part of these early discussions, and will take part in forthcoming consultation dialogue and events, the first of which is scheduled to be held in April 2016.

## 6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 The work of SURF, fully funded by HIE, has been an invaluable support for the further development of the Rothesay community and the progression of the Rothesay Alliance. The initial work being undertaken by SURF in Dunoon will support an initial feasibility report and provide information as to whether such an approach might also be appropriate for Dunoon going forward.

## 7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1	Policy	The work undertaken by SURF and the aims of the Alliance for Action support the SOA outcomes and Team Town approach.
7.2	Financial	None
7.3	Legal	None
7.4	HR	None, with the exception of officer time.
7.5	Equalities	None

7.6 Risk None

7.7 Customer Services None

**Pippa Milne, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure**

**Policy Lead, Councillor Aileen Morton**

7<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**For further information contact:** Lorna Pearce, THI Project Officer, 01700 501 374

## **APPENDICES**

None