
Lochgilphead and Tarbert Regeneration Fund

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Argyll and Bute Council 2016-17 Budget included an announcement of a £3 million Tarbert and Lochgilphead Area Regeneration Fund. The purpose of this fund is to promote the further regeneration and economic development of the Mid Argyll and North Kintyre area focusing on the communities of Lochgilphead, Tarbert and the areas immediately surrounding them. It is also intended that the fund form an integral part of the Argyll, Lomond and the Islands Rural Regeneration Initiative that will form a programme of activity focused on achieving economic growth through a rising population throughout Argyll and Bute.
- 1.2 The main objective of the Lochgilphead and Tarbert Regeneration Fund will be to promote the regeneration and/or economic development of the Mid Argyll area. The projects to be supported have yet to be formally identified however it is proposed that projects will be prioritised using the following criteria:
- Their ability to create jobs, grow the population and/or stimulate private sector activity that will deliver these results;
 - Extent to which they support the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) particularly in terms of the overall objective (Argyll and Bute's economic success is built on a growing population) as well as long-term outcomes 1, 2 and 3 (The economy is diverse and thriving; We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth; and education, skills and training maximises opportunities for all);
 - Whether the proposal is included within the Council's MAKI Economic Development Action Plan;
 - The amount of match funding from partners;
 - Demonstration of SMART economic and social outcomes for each community; and/or
 - Their contribution to overcoming barriers to economic growth and sustaining prosperous communities.
- 1.3 The Lochgilphead and Tarbert Regeneration Fund will focus on Tarbert, Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig with further consideration also being given to projects along the Crinan Canal and Kilmartin Glen where they will significantly benefit the wider area complementing projects that have already been identified.

- 1.4 The fund's progress will be monitored through MAKI Area Committee following approval of the detailed criteria by the Policy and Resources Committee. The Executive Director for Development and Infrastructure will report to the Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis on the operation and performance of the funds with the day to day management of the Fund being delivered by the EDST service. It is proposed that following consultation with the MAKI Area Committee that business cases can be developed for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 1.5 Members of the committee are asked to:
1. Agree the criteria set down in paragraph 4.3 of this report.
 2. Agree that the main focus of the Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund should be the main town of Lochgilphead & Ardrishaig, the key settlement of Tarbert and the areas immediately surrounding them.
 3. Note that the Executive Director for Development and Infrastructure will report to the Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis on the operation and performance of the fund.
 4. Agree that following consultation with the MAKI Area Committee that business cases can be developed for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee.

Lochgilphead and Tarbert Regeneration Fund

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Argyll and Bute Council 2016-17 Budget included an announcement of a £3 million area regeneration fund to be targeted at the Mid Argyll and North Kintyre area. The purpose of this fund is to promote the further regeneration and economic development of the Mid Argyll and North Kintyre area mainly focusing on the communities of Lochgilphead and Tarbert. It is also intended that the fund form an integral part of the Argyll, Lomond and the Islands Rural Regeneration Initiative (ALIRRI) that will form a programme of activity focused on achieving economic growth through a rising population throughout Argyll and Bute. This report provides an overview of the proposed criteria for distributing the funds.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members of the committee are asked to:

1. Agree the criteria set down in paragraph 4.3 of this report.
2. Agree that the main focus of the Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund should be the main town of Lochgilphead & Ardrishaig, the key settlement of Tarbert and the areas immediately surrounding them.
3. Note that the Executive Director for Development and Infrastructure will report to the Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis on the operation and performance of the fund.
4. Agree that following consultation with the MAKI Area Committee that business cases can be developed for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 The main objective of the Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund will be to promote the regeneration and/or economic development of the Mid Argyll and North Kintyre areas. The projects to be supported through the fund have yet to be formally determined however there are a number of ongoing community

engagement activities which will help to identify opportunities such as the community led Mid Argyll Initiative (MAI), the ongoing development of up to date community action plans for Lochgilphead and Tarbert and the forthcoming Crinan Canal Charrette (April 2016) which will produce priorities for enhancing what is an important economic and social asset for the Mid Argyll area. It is intended that in order to maximise the potential beneficial impact that a relatively small number of larger projects will be assisted by the fund.

- 4.2 The Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund will build on regeneration work now completed in Campbeltown through the Council's CHORD area regeneration programme and other associated economic initiatives such as the development of the Campbeltown Port and road Infrastructure together with current Council investments including the Campbeltown Cinema Project, Campbeltown Grammar School, Campbeltown CARS 2, Kilmartin Museum expansion plans and Inveraray CARS.

Criteria for distribution

- 4.3 It is proposed that a small number of larger projects will be prioritised using the following criteria:
- Their ability to create jobs, grow the population and/or stimulate private sector activity that will deliver these results;
 - Extent to which they support the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) particularly in terms of the overall objective (Argyll and Bute's economic success is built on a growing population) as well as long-term outcomes 1, 2 and 3 (The economy is diverse and thriving; We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth; and education, skills and training maximises opportunities for all);
 - Whether the proposal is included within the Council's MAKI Economic Development Action Plan;
 - The amount of match funding from partners;
 - Demonstration of SMART economic and social outcomes for each community; and/or
 - Their contribution to overcoming barriers to economic growth and sustaining prosperous communities.
- 4.4 SMART economic outcomes may include number of business start-ups, number of jobs created and/or retained, boost to Gross value added (GVA), shop front improvements, number of apprentices, number of business premises created or amount of serviced business land created.
- 4.5 Social outcomes may include improved perceptions of the area, number of long term unemployed back in work and number of key services and/or community facilities created or retained.
- 4.6 Projects are likely to come forward from Argyll and Bute Council but may also include partnership with other public sector partners as well as private or third sector organisations.

Eligible Settlements

- 4.7 The Main Town in the Mid Argyll area, as set out in the Local Development Plan, is Lochgilphead & Ardrishaig. Surrounding this main service centre are a number of smaller communities including the key settlements of Inveraray and Tarbert. The community of Inveraray is already the focus of a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and is benefiting from a planned extension to the settlement. The Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund will therefore focus on the communities of Tarbert, Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead with consideration also being given to projects which support existing initiatives on the key tourism locations of the Crinan Canal and Kilmartin Glen where they can be shown to benefit the wider area.

Governance

- 4.8 Following the Policy and Resources Committee approval of the detailed criteria identified for the fund, project proposals will be identified through the activities set out in paragraph 4.1 following consultation with the MAKI Area Committee. The Executive Director for Development and Infrastructure will report to the Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis on the operation and performance of the fund and Business Cases will be developed for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund is an important opportunity to support proposals which aim to improve the economic opportunities within the Mid Argyll area. By focusing the fund on a small number of projects which can make a meaningful improvement to the local area building on or adding to the existing Council investments that have either been delivered or are in the process of being delivered throughout the MAKI area for the benefit of local communities and visitors. This fund will form an integral part of the Argyll, Lomond and the Islands Rural Regeneration Initiative.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 **Policy** The proposed fund will offer the opportunity to support the objective and long term outcomes of the Single Outcome Agreement as well as the MAKI Economic Development Action Plan and Local Development Plan.
- 6.2 **Financial** An allocation of £3m was identified in the 2016/17 budget for regeneration and economic sustainability in the Mid Argyll area.
- 6.3 **Legal** None at this time.

- 6.4 **HR** Existing staff within the Economic Development and Strategic Transportation Service will administer the fund on behalf of the Council.
- 6.5 **Equalities** None at this time.
- 6.6 **Risk** If the principles of the fund are not agreed then the next stage of identifying appropriate projects cannot be progressed and the policy objectives may not be achieved.
- 6.7 **Customer Service** None at this time.

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, Pippa Milne
Policy Lead – Councillor A Morton
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For further information contact: Fergus Murray, fergus.murray@argyll-bute.gov.uk
01546604293