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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**Helensburgh & Lomond Area  
Committee**

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SERVICES**

**11 October 2016**

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**HELENSBURGH SHOPFRONT ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE - UPDATE**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.0 The purpose of this report is to: update Members on progress with the Helensburgh Shopfront Enhancement Initiative following the successful completion of the Round 1 Grant Awards; to provide an update on progress with the Round 2 grant applications process; and to seek approval to progress applications subject to the applicants providing clarification on their planning status or in the supplying of additional quotes. Paper also provides an update on expenditure to date

1.1 It is recommended that Members:

- Note the contents of the paper;
- Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services to approve the current, 14 Round 2 applications, subject to the applicants satisfying the application documentation requirements and providing confirmation of their proposals planning status. Subsequently to extend Round 2 to make use of any remaining balance of s75 funds.

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**2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to: update Members on progress with the Helensburgh Shopfront Enhancement Initiative following the successful completion of the Round 1 Grant Awards; to provide an update on progress with the Round 2 grant applications process; and to seek approval to progress applications subject to the applicants providing clarification on their planning status or in the supplying of additional quotes. Paper also provides an update on expenditure to date

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members:

- Note the contents of the paper;
- Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services to approve the current, 14 Round 2 applications, subject to the applicants satisfying the application documentation requirements and providing confirmation of their proposals planning status. Subsequently to extend Round 2 to make use of any remaining balance of s75 funds.

**4. DETAIL**

- 4.1 On the 14 October 2014, the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee approved twenty Stage 2 (Round 1) Applications for funding from the Helensburgh Shopfront Enhancement Initiative funded from the Section 75 (S75) contributions of the Waitrose development.
- 4.2 Of these 21 Stage 2 (Round 1) Grant Awards, 17 have fully completed works to their shopfronts, and all have now submitted grant claims, which have been processed and paid. The remainder, Helensburgh Cycles, Catherine's Coffee Shop, The Clock Tower and Visit Helensburgh, decided not to progress with works and subsequently their grant awards were withdrawn.

4.3 As outlined in **Table 1** below there remains approximately £71k of uncommitted S75 funding for the Helensburgh Shopfront Enhancement Initiative at the end of Round 1

4.4 **Table 1:**

<b>Summary Table</b>	
Round 1 - Stage 2 Grant Applications (17)	<b>£63,881.14</b>
Design fees (Round 1)	£11,000.00
Design fees (Round 2)	£2,250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£77,131.14</b>
Grant funds available	£140,000.00
<b>Balance remaining in the S75 fund</b>	<b>£62,868.86</b>

4.5 Given the positive impact that the shopfront enhancements are having on the townscape a decision paper was brought to the 9<sup>th</sup> February, Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee, where elected members agreed to reopen the Initiative to new applications (Round 2). This additional Round was for a limited period between 1 March and 30 June with the Stage 1 and Stage 2 processes combined.

4.6 Fourteen applications for round 2 grant awards were received by the deadline of the 30 June 2016. Out of these 14 applications some 8 have the potential to command the maximum level of grant of £5,000. Of the remainder, 5 have not provided three comparison quotes so they, in theory, fail at this stage. However we would recommend that officers continue to work with these applicants with a view to them providing all of the necessary documentation etc., subject to which Grant Awards can be approved. The first review of the Round 2 submissions suggests around **£48,607.00** of grant support could be offered if all (14) progress to the next level of assessment. This would still leave **£14,261.86** of the S75 Monies remaining See **Appendix 1 – Status of Round 2 Applications**

## 5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The delivery of the Round 1, Helensburgh Shopfront Enhancement Initiative has made a positive contribution to the vitality of Helensburgh Town Centre which continues to benefit from the newly enhanced public realm works that have delivered a much improved townscape. It is important to continue to encourage further investment by local businesses in the town centre and their respective premises through this initiative. This report therefore seeks the members' approval to progress Round 2 Grant Awards. Officers will provide a further update upon completion of the current Round 2 application assessment, including recommendations with respect to how any remaining S75 funds might be spent.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Policy**

The delivery of this project fits with the Council's Corporate Plan, Single Outcome Agreement, Economic Development Action Plan and approved Local Development Plan key actions and policy for safe guarding our built heritage and town centre regeneration.

### **6.2 Financial**

Grants funded through the S75 monies allocation to enhance shopfronts in the town centre

### **6.3 Legal**

Any issues will be dealt with through the Conditions of Grant Contract

### **6.4 HR**

The Helensburgh Regeneration Project Manager will have overall responsibility for managing the Shopfronts Enhancement Initiative supported by external consultants as required

### **6.5 Equalities**

None

### **6.6 Risk**

Financial – the S75 grant is not fully utilised; Quality – the work undertaken is not of acceptable standard. The Conditions of Grant will mitigate against risk, the financial risk is negligible given the time frame for allocating funds

### **6.7 Customer Service**

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

**Policy Lead: Ellen Morton**

27 September 2016

**For further information contact:** Andrew Collins, Regeneration Project Manager,  
Phone number: 01436 657633

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Status of Round 2 Applications

Appendix 2 – Plan showing completed Round 1 and applications for Round 2