

SURF work in Rothesay and Dunoon – Project Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Bute and Cowal Area Committee with an update on the Scotland's Urban Regeneration Forum (SURF) work in Rothesay and Dunoon. The report will be supported by a power point presentation, which will be given by Brian MacDonald of SURF and Paul Duffy, of Bute Island Alliance.
- 1.2 SURF was originally commissioned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) in October 2014. This commission involved undertaking feasibility study analysis to establish levels of interest, and value in pursuing an 'Alliance for Action' in Rothesay, and with the potential to also undertake this work for Dunoon.
- 1.3 In the last two years, SURF has supported the formation and progression of Bute Island Alliance (BIA), assisting the group to make a successful bid to the Scottish Government for charrette funding and supporting them to gain their formal incorporation status as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).
- 1.4 As their work in Rothesay has now concluded, SURF's focus has shifted to Dunoon. Having completed a feasibility study for Dunoon in August 2016, the idea of an 'Alliance for Action' has been generally supported by the Dunoon community, who SURF have subsequently supported in making a successful application to the Scottish Government for charrette funding. Dunoon Charrette is now due to be held in March/April 2017.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are invited to note the content of this report.

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Bute and Cowal Area Committee with an update on the SURF work in Rothesay and Dunoon and seeks to accompany and provide background information in support of the presentations, which will be given by Brian MacDonald of SURF and Paul Duffy, of Bute Island Alliance.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Members are invited to note the content of this report.

5.0 DETAIL

5.1 The ambitions of an 'Alliance for Action' are to build local capacity and strengthen local resilience, whilst linking local knowledge and looking at regeneration activity in a holistic, and well-connected, manner. The idea of progressing an 'Alliance' model has been adopted by both the Rothesay and Dunoon communities.

5.2 Bute Island Alliance (BIA) has significantly benefited from SURF's support, not only through securing charrette funding from Scottish Government, but through the successful delivery of the charrette and progression of the guiding principles that have emerged from the process. SURF also supported the group to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

5.3 BIA have since secured a facilitator to actively progress the ambitions of the organisation and the community, and are working in close collaboration with the development of a Townscape Heritage bid for Rothesay, which will be submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on 3rd March 2017. It is intended, should the bid to HLF prove successful, that BIA will continue to be an active partner working closely with the Council in the delivery of the project.

5.4 Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) commissioned SURF to look at the possibility of carrying out similar work in Dunoon in the early part of 2016. In order to establish whether there might be community interest in forming a Dunoon 'Alliance for Action', SURF prepared a feasibility study in August 2016, which was based on a number of consultation responses gathered throughout the summer

months. Further to this, a meeting was held in September 2016, in order to review the feasibility study and to gauge support for a Dunoon Alliance with the report's contributors. The idea of the formation of Dunoon Alliance was supported by all representatives at the meeting.

- 5.5 SURF subsequently supported the newly formed, Dunoon Alliance alongside Argyll and Bute Council to submit to the Scottish Government for charrette funding. This resulted in a successful application that saw Dunoon secure the largest award of £25,000 from the Scottish Government.
- 5.6 The Dunoon charrette will seek to fully engage with the community and stakeholder groups to identify actions and activities that might assist in the town's regeneration and economic growth potential. A range of consultation activity is proposed to be held in March/April 2017 and culminate in a Masterplan for the town centre. The charrette activity seeks to support the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement and the Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIP) when these come into effect in October 2017, the Bute and Cowal Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP) and Local Development Plan, together with associated community plans.

Next Steps

- 5.7 In December 2016 the Dunoon Alliance for Action met to formalise the procedure for the procurement of a team of specialist designers to facilitate the charrette. This included forming a Steering Group and a Panel to evaluate the Supplier proposals. It is anticipated that a design team will be commissioned early February 2017 and begin work on the project towards the end of February 2017.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Dunoon Alliance for Action is being supported by SURF, the aims and objectives of which will be informed and guided by the forthcoming Dunoon Charrette. SURF will continue to collaborate with Council Officers to support the group, with a view to enhancing the town's regeneration potential.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 7.1 | Policy | The delivery of this project fits with the Council's Corporate Plan, the Single Outcome Agreement and the Local Outcome Improvement Plans, when they come into effect in October 2017. The potential economic outcomes from this project will contribute to the Council's Economic Development Action Plan at a strategic and area based level. |
| 7.2 | Financial | None. The successful award of £25,000, alongside a small contribution from the existing departmental budget, will cover the charrette costs. |
| 7.3 | Legal | None |

7.4	HR	None
7.5	Equalities	No equal opportunities implications.
7.6	Risk	None at present.
7.7	Customer Services	Working with local people

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