ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

COUNCIL

20 April 2017

CARS Contract Acceptance – Rothesay and Dunoon

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Members to approve the Historic Environment Scotland Offer of Grant in relation to two Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) grant awards of £1,002,348 in respect of Dunoon, and £500,000 in respect of Rothesay, awarded to the council on 9th February 2017.
- 1.2 The CARS awards will be distributed to third parties by way of grant in order to support property owners make comprehensive repairs to their buildings and shopfronts.
- 1.3 The Dunoon CARS project would commence on Council acceptance of the contract, however, the Rothesay CARS award is predicated on a successful Townscape Heritage (TH) award from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). If successful, the Rothesay CARS award would therefore form part of a wider funding package. A submission in this respect was made to HLF on 2nd March 2017, for £1,888,500.
- 1.4 This report requests that Members delegate authority to the Chief Executive of the council to sign the contracts with Historic Environment Scotland.
- 1.5 In relation to Dunoon, acceptance of the grant offer and relevant conditions will enable drawdown of funds, and allow Dunoon CARS to commence.
- 1.6 By signing the Rothesay contract, Council is agreeing to the condition that the project will form part of a wider TH project, and therefore to the requirement for a successful award from HLF before the project can commence.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That Council agrees to the Historic Environment Scotland Offers of Grant and delegates authority to the Chief Executive to sign and agree the terms with HES in respect to two CARS awards for, Dunoon and Rothesay.

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to request that Members approve the Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Offers of Grant, following two successful Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) bids for £1,002,348 and £500,000 in relation to Dunoon and Rothesay respectively.
- 3.2 The funds are to be used to administer a CARS project in the town centre of each town over a five-year period. This report therefore requests that Members formally accept these grant awards, agree to the associated terms and conditions, and agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign the contracts on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council.
- 3.3 Once signed, the grant conditions will have been accepted and the Dunoon CARS project will be able to commence. The project would run from April 2017 until April 2022.
- 3.4 By signing the Rothesay CARS Offer of Grant, Council is agreeing to this project forming part of a wider heritage-led regeneration project, and is therefore predicated on a successful award from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). A decision in this respect is anticipated in summer 2017. If successful, the Rothesay CARS/TH would run from autumn 2017 until 2022.

4.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 That Council agrees to the Historic Environment Scotland Offers of Grant and delegates authority to the Chief Executive to sign and agree the terms with HES in respect to two CARS awards for, Dunoon and Rothesay.

5.0 DETAIL

5.1 At the Council meeting of 30 June 2016, members agreed to two submissions to HES for CARS funding in respect to Dunoon and Rothesay. It was also agreed that a financial commitment from the council of £0.5M be made in order to support the Dunoon CARS project over a five-year delivery period, between April 2017 and April 2022.

- 5.2 Once the contract has been signed, this will enable the recruitment of a dedicated officer to manage and deliver Dunoon CARS. The project will seek to offer grant to owners of shops and tenements to support the visual enhancement of Argyll Street, whilst protecting the buildings for the long-term.
- 5.3 At the Council meeting of 23 February 2017, members agreed that a financial commitment from the council of £0.2M be made to support the proposed Rothesay Townscape Heritage (TH) project over a five-year delivery period, between 2017 and 2022 should a Second Round bid to HLF prove successful.
- 5.4 An application in this respect was made to HLF on 2nd March 2017. The application requested £1,888,500 from HLF. The Rothesay CARS award would form part of this wider project, and as such is subject to a successful HLF decision. It is anticipated that a decision will be made in the latter half of June 2017. Thereafter, a paper will be brought to Council to request acceptance of HLF's Terms of Grant should the application prove successful. If successful, Rothesay CARS/TH would run from autumn 2017 to spring 2022.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 These awards will increase the regeneration potential of Dunoon and Rothesay, and will build on, and add value to, the regeneration initiatives to have affected both towns in recent years. Council is therefore invited to agree to the terms and conditions of these grant awards, and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign the contracts on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1	Policy	These heritage-led regeneration projects are consistent with SOA objectives, which seek to grow the population, and make places more attractive for people to live, work, invest and visit. The projects are also identified within the Bute and Cowal EDAP.
7.2	Financial	The Policy and Resources Committee agreed to the need to identify £200,000 over the proposed five-year delivery period for Rothesay TH, which, subject to a successful second round bid, is likely to commence within the latter half of the 2017/2018 financial year. This amount was agreed to be added to the council's budget on 23 February 2017. In addition, Council agreed to a £0.5M contribution toward Dunoon CARS on 30 June 2016. Leader funding has also been secured to support both projects, with £10,200 having been awarded in respect to Dunoon CARS and £65,800 having been awarded in respect to Rothesay CARS/TH.
7.3	Legal	As per the Offer of Grant

7.4	HR	Funding from HES includes a contribution towards a dedicated Dunoon CARS Project Officer. This post will sit within Projects and Regeneration and will be recruited to manage and deliver the five-year project.
7.5	Equalities	No equal opportunities implications.
7.6	Risk	As Rothesay CARS is predicated on a successful TH application to HLF, there is a risk that this project may not commence should the TH bid prove unsuccessful.
7.7	Customer Services	Working with local people

Pippa Milne, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Councillor Aileen Morton Policy Lead, Sustainable Economic Growth

10 March 2017

For further information contact:

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