

Rothesay Townscape Heritage – HLF Award

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request that Members accept Heritage Lottery Fund's grant offer of £1,888,500 to deliver a Townscape Heritage (TH) in Rothesay, which was made to the council on 20 June 2017.
- 1.3 The award will be used for the following approved purposes:
1. To deliver a programme of building repairs to under-used and vacant town centre properties as outlined in the second round application.
 2. To deliver a programme of learning, skills development and engagement to sustain project benefits and enable the local community to celebrate Bute's heritage, as outlined in the second round application.
- 1.4 Rothesay TH will be delivered over a 5-year period from 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2022, and will seek to deliver the following:
- 5 priority building repairs
 - Traditional window repairs
 - 8 shopfront restorations
 - Activities, skills and capacity building programme – heritage and maintenance
 - Activities, skills and capacity building programme – growing and supporting a creative industry
 - Wayfinding and connectivity improvements

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members agree to accept the Heritage Lottery Fund offer of grant based on the afore-mentioned approved purposes and delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign the permission to start letter once all the necessary pre conditions have been satisfied.

Rothesay Townscape Heritage – HLF Grant Award

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to request that Members accept Heritage Lottery Fund's grant offer of £1,888,500 to deliver a Townscape Heritage (TH) in Rothesay, which was made to the Council on 20 June 2017.
- 3.2 The award will be used for the following approved purposes:
1. To deliver a programme of building repairs to under-used and vacant town centre properties as outlined in the second round application
 2. To deliver a programme of learning, skills development and engagement to sustain project benefits and enable the local community to celebrate Bute's heritage, as outlined in the second round application.
- 3.3 This report also requests that Members delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign the permission to start letter, which will enable the project to commence and allow the drawdown of grant over a 5-year period until 30 September 2022.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Members accept the Heritage Lottery Fund offer of grant based on the aforementioned approved purposes and delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign the permission to start letter once all the necessary pre conditions have been satisfied.

5.0 DETAIL

- 5.1 At their meeting of 20 August 2015, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the council should submit a first round application to HLF to seek funding for a second phase of heritage-led regeneration in Rothesay, which would continue and build on the momentum of the successful Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI), which concluded on 31 March 2016. At the meeting, the committee also agreed to the need to identify council match funding of £200,000, which has since been confirmed at the Council's budget meeting of 23 February 2017. The council also agreed to submit a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) funding bid to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for £500,000 towards the Rothesay TH. This bid was successful and

was awarded to the council on 9 February 2017 as part of the Round 7 CARS awards but was predicated on a successful stage two TH approval from HLF.

5.2 Subsequent to a successful round one application to HLF, at their meeting of 21 April 2016, Council agreed to the HLF Terms of Grant and delegated authority to the Chief Executive to sign and agree the terms. These were subsequently accepted by the Chief Executive on submission of the council's stage two application on 2 March 2017.

5.2 Rothesay TH would be delivered over a 5-year period from 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2022, and would seek to deliver the following:

- 5 priority building repairs
- Window repairs
- 8 shopfront restorations
- Activities, skills and capacity building programme – heritage and maintenance
- Activities, skills and capacity building programme – growing and supporting a creative industry
- Wayfinding and connectivity improvements

5.3 The award from HLF will enable the recruitment of a dedicated officer to manage and deliver the project as well as dedicated admin finance officer support.

5.4 In addition to the above it is intended to continue work in collaboration with Bute Island Alliance, as a key delivery partner for projects that seek to grow and support the creative industry.

5.5 The HLF grant of £1,888,500, combined with £200,000 from Argyll and Bute Council, £500,000 from Historic Environment Scotland, £21,500 from Smarter Choices Smarter Places and £65,800 from LEADER creates a significant package of grant, which, alongside owner contributions that are anticipated to be in the region of £300,000, will create a £3M project. The project therefore has the potential to make a meaningful difference to Rothesay's Victoria and Montague Streets, enhancing the town's appeal as a better place to live, work, visit and invest.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 The significant award from HLF will allow the council to build on the success of Rothesay THI (June 2011 to April 2016) and to continue this momentum, whilst working closely with the community and key partners. Members are therefore invited to accept this award based on approved purposes, included within the letter from HLF dated 20 June 2017 which is appended to this report, and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign the permission to start letter in order that the project can commence as quickly as possible.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Policy Rothesay TH is consistent with SOA objectives which

seek to grow the population and make places more attractive for people to live, work, visit and invest. The project is also identified within the Bute and Cowal EDAP.

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| 7.2 | Financial | The Council's match funding requirement of £200,000 was committed by the Council on 23 February 2017. |
| 7.3 | Legal | The contract with HLF is as the offer of award, the approved purposes and second round application. |
| 7.4 | HR | Funding from HLF includes a contribution towards a dedicated TH Project Officer and a dedicated Admin/Finance Officer position. The posts will sit within Transformation Projects and Regeneration and be recruited for the 5-year duration of the project. |
| 7.5 | Equalities | No equal opportunities implications. |
| 7.6 | Risk | Project staff will seek to mitigate against risk by updating a risk register on a quarterly basis. |
| 7.7 | Customer Services | Working with local people |

Pippa Milne, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure

Councillor Aileen Morton, Policy Lead, Sustainable Economic Growth

30 June 2017

For further information contact:

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