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**Making Places Helensburgh**

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on 'Making Places Helensburgh' further to the Business Day presentation of 14th February 2018.
- 1.2 Argyll and Bute Council successfully secured £15,000 in funding from the Scottish Government Making Places Initiative in November 2017 to deliver a town centre focused project to be held over summer 2018. Making Places Helensburgh is match funded from existing departmental budgets, and will be delivered by design professionals, Ice Cream Architecture.
- 1.3 Making Places Helensburgh has an economic regeneration focus, which aims to identify opportunities to improve the attractiveness of Helensburgh's town centre as a place to live, work, visit and invest through a series of engagement workshops, activities and events. The resulting body of work will inform policy making, through the Local Development Plan (LDP) review process.
- 1.4 This piece of work follows a paper approved by the Planning Protective Services and Licensing Committee (PPSL) on 24th June 2015, within which Helensburgh is identified as the third tranche of proposed place making exercises to support LDP Community Plans.
- 1.5 Work will be undertaken between May and September 2018, following which a report will be brought back to committee to report on progress.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee members:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report.

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**3. INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on 'Making Places Helensburgh' following an initial project overview, which was presented to members at Business Day on 14th February 2018.
- 3.2 Making Places Helensburgh has an economic regeneration focus and aims to identify opportunities to improve the attractiveness of Helensburgh as a place to live, work, visit and invest.
- 3.3 The project is funded through Scottish Government's Making Places Initiative, with £15,000 having been successfully secured in November 2017, and which is matched by existing council departmental budgets.
- 3.4 The project will be delivered by the appointed design consultant, Ice Cream Architecture.

**4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee members:

- 4.1 Note the content of this report.

**5. DETAIL**

- 5.1 This report follows a paper approved by Planning Protective Services and Licensing Committee (PPSL) on 24th June 2015 in which Helensburgh was identified for a community-led design process to inform the Local Development Plan (LDP) at a local level. Helensburgh is currently identified as a growth area within LDP2.
- 5.2 The Scottish Government Making Places Initiative represents a broadening of the former Charette Mainstreaming Programme and supports community involvement at all stages of the design process.

- 5.3 A charrette is an interactive design workshop, in which the public, local professionals and stakeholders work directly with a specialised design team to generate a specific community masterplan.
- 5.4 Making Places represents a broadening of this approach and aims to support the delivery of places that enable a high quality of life, help tackle inequalities and allow communities to flourish. This approach recognises that communities have different needs, have different levels of confidence, and may require support not just in developing a vision for their place, but also at stages prior and subsequent to this.
- 5.5 Making Places Helensburgh will consider the way the town centre looks, feels and functions. The project has an economic regeneration focus and aims to identify opportunities to improve the attractiveness of Helensburgh as a place to live, work, visit and invest.
- 5.6 The project also looks to improve community cohesion and build effective relationships that will encourage community integration. To this end, the engagement programme will not focus solely on those groups which have traditionally engaged in formal processes but will reach out to the wider community.
- 5.7 The engagement programme will aim to target the following groups:
- Existing community organisations
  - Those communities in Helensburgh experiencing deprivation (as identified in the SIMD)
  - Town centre users (extending to communities around H&L)
  - Helensburgh business community
  - Naval personnel and their families
- 5.8 It is recognised that various consultations have recently been undertaken in Helensburgh, such as the Place Standard study and Helensburgh Waterfront Consultation, amongst others. On review of the data, this will be treated as baseline information in order that the project can build upon and focus discussions towards reaching consensus on infrastructure development that has the potential to overcome barriers and unlock opportunities.
- 5.9 Ice Cream Architecture, a multi-disciplinary design consultant, has been commissioned to engage the community in active discussion at all levels through the facilitation of activities, workshops and events.
- 5.10 The project will also include collaborative working with colleagues in Community Development and the Royal Navy to improve the potential reach of engagement.
- 5.11 Feedback will be gathered and collated in report format, which will include a vision and guiding principles to inform future decision-making. A report will be brought back to Area Committee on conclusion of the work

- 5.12 The project will run over summer 2018 and conclude in September 2018. The project schedule can found in Appendix 1.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 Making Places Helensburgh is economic regeneration focussed and aims to identify opportunities to improve the attractiveness of Helensburgh as a place to live, work, visit and invest. The purpose of the process is to work closely with a widely represented community to determine a clear vision for the area, with deliverable outcomes that will serve to improve Helensburgh and support the outcomes of the Outcome Improvement Plan, the Economic Development Action Plan, the LDP and LDP Community Plans. This could also serve as a foundation for future projects and external funding applications.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. **Policy:** The delivery of this project supports the LDP and LDP Community Plans.
- 7.2. **Financial:** £15,000 to match fund SG funding from existing Council departmental budgets.
- 7.3. **Legal:** None
- 7.4. **HR:** Officers will co-ordinate project to be principally delivered by external consultants.
- 7.5. **Equalities:** None
- 7.6. **Risk:** None
- 7.7. **Customer Service:** None

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Project Schedule