

**HELENSBURGH MAKING PLACES REPORT**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Members to endorse the final draft of the Helensburgh Making Places report before it is shared with the community.
- 1.2 Making Places is a Scottish Government funded initiative which seeks to better understand a place through the views of its community. Making Places Helensburgh was joint funded between Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Government and comprised a series of engagement activities and events, undertaken by icecream Architecture and Willie Miller Urban Design over the second half of 2018. Feedback has been compiled within a report that incorporates the following areas of priority: Waterfront; Built Environment; Indoor Flexible Space; Parking and Traffic; Community Participation; Getting Active; Green Space; Housing; Business Hub; Waste and Recycling, and; Promoting the Offer.
- 1.3 The consultant produced report has been designed for anyone wishing to develop a project within Helensburgh town centre to utilise. It is expected that it will be especially useful as evidence in support of funding bids. Although the report highlights the main areas of focus to have come out of the consultation, these would still require detailed consideration and therefore these areas should be read as areas of opportunity rather than as actions. These are as follows:
- The Helensburgh Waterline, from Rhu to Craigendoran Station;
  - Looking After Our Buildings, and;
  - Sharing Knowledge and the Responsibility.
- 1.4 From a council perspective, as well as providing an evidence base, the report will also prove a useful resource to inform where best to target officer resource and will inform policy making, through the LDP review process.
- 1.5 Any factual corrections received as a result of sharing the report with the community will be inserted and a final desk top published document produced by August 2019, and to be brought back to Area Committee at this time.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Members of Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee:

Endorse the vision statements, themes and 3 areas of opportunity within the Making Places Helensburgh report, as highlighted in paragraphs 5.4 to 5.7 of this report.

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**3.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Members to endorse the final draft of the Helensburgh Making Places report before it is shared with the community.
- 3.2 Making Places is a Scottish Government initiative that seeks to better understand a place through the views of those who live and work there. Making Places Helensburgh was joint funded between Scottish Government and Argyll and Bute Council and which has resulted in a report, designed to be utilised by anyone within the community with the ambition to develop a project that aligns with the vision.
- 3.3 The report has been prepared by icecream Architecture and Willie Miller Urban Design and summarises the main findings from community engagement activity delivered over 2018. The report is a written version of the feedback presented to the community on 8 August 2018. Prior to finalising the report, it will be shared with the community over a 4-week period. Any reasonable updates or factual corrections received by end of May will be subsequently inserted, and the report desk top published into its final format by August 2019.
- 3.4 The final report will be available to all and is intended to prove useful as an evidence base for developing projects, for fundraising and for targeting resources. All areas within the report would require further detailed consideration and analysis if they were to be progressed and as such these should be read as areas of opportunity, rather than as actions. The body of work will also serve to inform policy making, through the LDP review process.

**4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 It is recommended that Members of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee:

Endorse the vision statements, themes and 3 areas of opportunity within the Helensburgh Making Places report, as highlighted in paragraphs 5.4 – 5.7 of this report.

## 5.0 DETAIL

- 5.1 This report follows a paper that went before Members of the H & L Area Committee on 21 June 2018 which outlines the rationale for a Place Making exercise in Helensburgh and also the detail of the Scottish Government initiative.
- 5.2 This piece of work is now concluded and as such Members are asked to endorse the vision, theme and opportunity results of the Making Places Helensburgh feedback, which have been summarised and compiled within a report format by consultants, and which are supported by more detailed data analysis which can be found within appendices to the main report. The report and main baseline analysis were produced by icecream Architecture and Willie Miller Urban Design. Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 are their perceptions of the views of the Helensburgh community and represent the written version of feedback presented to the community on 8 August 2018.
- 5.3 Through involving the community in a series of engagement activities and events for their views, Making Places Helensburgh presents a summary of how the town looks, feels and functions to those who live and work there. The engagement process was deliberately spread as wide as possible in an attempt to capture as true a reflection of the views of the community as possible. The engagement took the form of place standard survey, on-street consultation, visioning events and stakeholder events and saw responses from 458 people spread reasonably evenly across Helensburgh.
- 5.4 The engagement built upon previous place standard exercises, an analysis tool described in page 11 of Appendix 1, and created an ideas bank to reflect in more detail the survey responses. This feedback was grouped into the following 4 themes:
- Green Helensburgh
  - Learning Helensburgh
  - Welcoming and Connected Helensburgh
  - Enterprising Helensburgh
- 5.5 From the themes, areas of opportunity have emerged and those with highest levels of consensus are detailed in pages 25 to 34 of Appendix 1, and listed as follows:
- The Helensburgh Waterline, from Rhu to Craigendoran Station
  - Maximising Our Built Spaces
  - Sharing the Knowledge and Responsibility
- 5.6 The vision statements are highlighted on page 24 of Appendix 1, as follows:
- Helensburgh is a world-class and forward thinking waterfront town, a compelling attraction for visitors, investment and enterprise.
  - Helensburgh is welcoming, vibrant and with a strong sense of community.
  - Helensburgh is innovative and thriving.

- 5.7 We very much appreciate those who took the time to contribute to the making places process and to share their thoughts and ideas. If Members endorse this report, Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 will be shared with the community so that any factual corrections can be made.
- 5.8 It is intended for the final report to be available to all and for the community to make use of the report, as they see fit, as an evidence base for any future projects that they would like to develop in response to the highlighted areas of opportunity, and for the council to utilise the report to inform policy making through the LDP review process and future decision-making, and to support prioritisation of resources going forward.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 Through their endorsement of Appendix 1, members are endorsing the vision statements described in paragraph 5.6, the themes and main areas of opportunity described in paragraph 5.5.
- 6.2 The report has been designed to be accessible for anyone within the community to use when seeking to develop a future project that aligns with the vision. If ideas tie in with the report it should provide an effective evidence base from which to work. From a council perspective, it is therefore intended for the report to become a useful resource to inform decision-making and to support prioritisation of resources going forward.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Policy - This report follows a paper approved by PPSL on 24 June 2015 in which Helensburgh was identified for a community-led design process to inform the LDP at a local level. Helensburgh is currently identified as a growth area within LDP2.
- 7.2 Financial – None.
- 7.3 Legal - None.
- 7.4 HR - None.
- 7.5 Equalities / Fairer Scotland Duty - None
- 7.6 Risk - None.
- 7.7 Customer Service – The report will be shared with the community following endorsement from Area Committee Members.

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

**Policy Lead, Sustainable Economic Growth, Councillor Aileen Morton**

3 April 2019

**For further information contact:**

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## **APPENDICES**

1. Helensburgh Making Places Report, produced by icecream Architecture and Willie Miller Urban Design
2. Full Baseline and Top Priorities Baseline Report, produced by icecream Architecture and Willie Miller Urban Design