

**LORN ARC TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCE PROGRAMME – RECONVENING OF
DUNBEG WORKING GROUP**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is a follow up to the request from Members at the Policy Resources Committee on 13 May that asked officers to look into re-establishing an officer-members working group to take forward proposals and bring a report back to the next Policy and Resources Committee with more detail on the composition and remit of the group.
- 1.2 It is recommended that Members:
- a. Agree to the reconvening of the Dunbeg Working Group and agree to the membership and remit as outlined within the report.
 - b. Note that an update report will be provided to Policy and Resources Committee every 6 months to advise on progress of the Lorn Arc TIF programme.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report is a follow up to the request from Members at the Policy Resources Committee on 13 May that asked officers to look into re-establishing an officer-members working group to take forward proposals and bring a report back to the next Policy and Resources Committee with more detail on the composition and remit of the group.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members:
- a. Agree to the reconvening of the Dunbeg Working Group and agree to the membership and remit as outlined within the report.
 - b. Note that an update report will be provided to Policy and Resources Committee every 6 months to advise on progress of the Lorn Arc TIF programme.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The Dunbeg Working Group previously met to discuss how to progress and bring forward the Dunbeg Corridor development agenda and included key stakeholders involved in delivering this development programme. The Group was seen as a valuable forum where stakeholders could highlight progress being made and discuss any issues and new opportunities.
- 4.2 The Lorn Arc Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) programme has recently been re-energised, with significant 'start-up' finance of £640k being approved by the Policy and Resources Committee to progress the development of a new roundabout at Halfway, which in turn will unlock a significant commercial development and potentially in the future additional new housing development within the Dunbeg Corridor. Given this re-energisation it is considered that the reconvening of the Dunbeg Working Group will represent a sensible measure, as it would enable key stakeholders to meet and discuss issues and also it would ensure that momentum is maintained in the delivery of the development agenda within the Dunbeg Corridor and other strategically important projects such as the development of Oban Airport Business Park, another project supported by the Lorn Arc TIF Programme.

Dunbeg Working Group Composition

4.3 The composition of the Dunbeg Corridor Working Group will be as follows :-

- The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee Chair and Councillor Andrew Vennard. Other elected members may attend but will not be considered as standing members.
- Council Officers from
 - Economic Development
 - Planning
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Roads and Infrastructure
 - Other Council Services as appropriate
- Transport Scotland
- Hi Trans
- Scottish Water
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- LINK Housing Association
- Oban/Dunbeg Community Council with one representative from each community council.

Dunbeg Working Group Arrangements

4.4 The meetings will:-

- Be held virtually at this present time and move to face to face if required as COVID restrictions allow.
- Be held at six monthly intervals, or more frequently if required.
- Be led and administered by the Development and Economic Growth Service including the production and distribution of minutes of meetings.
- Have a standard agenda / actions points, plus an update round-robin from attendees of progress / issues.

Dunbeg Working Group remit / role

4.5 The role / remit of the Dunbeg Working Group will be to :-

- Enable key stakeholders to meet and discuss issues.
- Update other key stakeholders on progress made.
- Ensure that momentum is maintained in the delivery of the development agenda within the Dunbeg Corridor.
- Discuss other strategically important projects such as the development of Oban Airport Business Park another key project supported by the Lorn Arc TIF Programme.

It should be noted that the Dunbeg Working Group is not a decision making body. Should any matters arise during the course of the Working Group which requires a formal decision by elected members a report will be submitted to the appropriate Committee of the Council.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Previously the Dunbeg Working Group was a valuable forum for the progression of the Dunbeg Corridor development agenda. As such, following the approval of start-up costs for Lorn Arc Project 3 – Halfway Roundabout, it is recommended that the Dunbeg Working Group be reconvened with the membership and remit as outlined within this report, and that an update report be provided to Policy and Resources Committee every 6 months to advise on progress of the Lorn Arc TIF programme.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy - none
- 6.2 Financial – none
- 6.3 Legal – none
- 6.4 HR - none
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
 - 6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics - none
 - 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - none
 - 6.5.3 Islands - none
- 6.6 Risk – none
- 6.7 Customer Service - none

**Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth
Kirsty Flanagan**

Policy Lead Cllr Robin Currie

25th June 2021

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