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MINUTES of MEETING of DUNOON CHORD PROJECT BOARD held in the CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICE, 22 HILL STREET, DUNOON on FRIDAY, 24 MAY 2013

Present: Councillor J R Walsh (Chair)

Councillor G Blair
Councillor M Breslin
Councillor B Marshall
Robert Pollock, Head of Economic Development – by VC
Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager
Helen Ford, CHORD Project Manger
David Torrance, Project Manager
Pat McCann, Culture and Libraries Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of the following:-

Sandra McLindon, Accountant

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Dunoon CHORD Project Board of 30th November 2012 were approved as a correct record.

4. DUNOON WATERFRONT - HIGHLIGHT/PROGRESS REPORT

The Board heard from the Project Manager on the Highlight/Progress Report advising that Parsons Brinckerhoff have been appointed as the Design Team. The CHORD Project Manager advised that there has been a series of milestones set up for the Design Team to progress through to enable the Council to monitor progress and spend, updates at each key stage will be brought back to the Board.

The Project Manager spoke on the submission made to the underspent ERDF funding, advising that the initial feedback was not positive. Councillor Walsh was disappointed that Members were not advised of the application to the fund at the beginning and the CHORD Project Manager advised that it had been a very short turn around of about a week. The Board discussed the ERDF funding and the prospect of small business start ups using the pier buildings. The Project Manager said a short term plan for safeguarding the pier was required and a report on this would be submitted to the Board.

Decision

The Board noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by the Project Manager dated 17th May 2013 - submitted)

5. DUNOON WATERFRONT - LIBRARY UPDATE REPORT

The Project Manager spoke on the background, process, recent feedback and forward actions in terms of the proposed library co-location with the Queen's Hall advising it will be a productive Dynamic Learning and Leisure Facility. Councillor Breslin asked how it would be a Learning Facility and asked the Project Manger to make early contact with Argyll College. The Head of Economic Development advised there have been discussions with Visit Scotland and Skills Development Scotland who are keen to be part of the Queen's Hall development, he advised that Skills Development Scotland have a particularly complex lease with H.I.E.

The Project Manager spoke on the public consultations on the proposed move of the Library and the balance of feedback. He explained Library Staff had concerns over parking and once they had a better understanding of the proposals and benefits he received positive feedback. The Area Librarian said there should have been earlier contact with staff because the public were asking questions that they could not answer. Councillor Blair asked that the information is put on the Council's website and suggested a survey be put along with it.

The Board discussed the parking issue and the need for disabled people to have easy access to the building and Councillor Walsh suggested having a one way system from the Gatehouse. The Board further discussed the entrance and the need for sheltering due to the Queen's Hall being very exposed in bad weather.

Decision

The Board agreed:-

1. The CHORD Project Manager and the Council's Library Manager will continue to work together to develop and maintain strong working relationships between the library team, Library users and the appointed design team through the next stages of design planning and consultation.
2. To continue consultation with local stakeholders, including school groups and those with younger families.
3. To consider the potential interactions and direct links with other services and facilities (soft play, café, Visit Scotland, Skills Development Scotland)
4. To improve communications of project progress and envisaged outcomes including library visualisations.
5. The design team will consider the parking and access issues highlighted and revert to the Project Board should potential changes be identified which are achievable within the current project budget.

(Reference: Report by the Executive Directors of Development and Infrastructure Services and Community Services dated 17th May 2013 – submitted)

The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

6. DUNOON WATERFRONT- BUILDING USERS, TENANTS AND OWNERS REPORT

Members heard from the Project Manager on the recent discussions, feedback and forward actions in terms of the proposed uses of the refurbished and extended Queen's Hall.

Members discussed the proposed tenants in the Queen's Hall and the possible linkages to partners regarding the soft play area.

Decision

Members noted the key point of the report and agreed a paper regarding potential options for the café space would come to the next Dunoon CHORD Project Board meeting. It was further agreed the communication plan would be updated and information put on the Council's website and a statement on progress would be given to the press.

(Reference: Report by the Head of Development and Strategic Transport dated 17th May 2013 - submitted)

