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**Campbeltown CHORD  
Campbeltown Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) Round 6  
Match Funding Request**

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee to provide match funding of £500,000 for the Campbeltown Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) Round 6 application using funding remaining in the Campbeltown CHORD budget. If the application is successful it will lever in a further £500,000 from Historic Scotland. When building owners contributions and other funding is taken in to account it is anticipated that the total project fund will amount to £1.5m.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014, the Council agreed that a CARS bid should be submitted for Campbeltown to Historic Scotland's CARS Round 6 funding stream. It was also agreed that if match funding cannot be provided from existing budgets that a further report is presented to the appropriate committee before the Campbeltown CARS bid is submitted.

CARS provides financial assistance for Conservation Area based regeneration and conservation initiatives. The deadline for submissions is the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 and evidence of match funding is required. Officers are in the process of undertaking preparatory development works including the identification of priority buildings to be included, detailed surveys and costing of the repair works.

There is approximately £1M remaining in the Campbeltown CHORD budget. At a Campbeltown CHORD Workshop held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013, it was agreed that officers would develop a second CARS or lottery funded Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) for Campbeltown town centre. This fits with the original scope of the Campbeltown CHORD Outline Business Case, as follows:

- CNO1 Campbeltown THI – to generate improvements to Campbeltown's heritage and conservation sites, renewing and restoring historic buildings.

After consultation with Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund it was agreed that a second CARS bid was more appropriate than a second THI.

It is recommended that Members approve the match funding amount of £500,000 for the Campbeltown CARS Round 6 application using funding remaining in the Campbeltown CHORD budget.

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## **2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee to provide match funding of £500,000 for the Campbeltown Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) Round 6 application using funding remaining in the Campbeltown CHORD budget. If the application is successful it will lever in a further £500,000 from Historic Scotland. When building owners contributions and other funding is taken in to account it is anticipated that the total project fund will amount to £1.5m.
- 2.2 On the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014, the Council agreed that a CARS bid should be submitted for Campbeltown to Historic Scotland's CARS Round 6 funding stream. It was also agreed that if match funding cannot be provided from existing budgets that a further report is presented to the appropriate committee before the Campbeltown CARS bid is submitted.
- 2.3 CARS provides financial assistance for Conservation Area based regeneration and conservation initiatives. The deadline for submissions is the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 and evidence of match funding is required. Officers are in the process of undertaking preparatory development works including the identification of priority buildings to be included, detailed surveys and costing of the repair works.
- 2.4 There is approximately £1M remaining in the Campbeltown CHORD budget. At a Campbeltown CHORD Workshop held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013, it was agreed that officers would develop a second CARS or lottery funded Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) for Campbeltown town centre. This fits with the original scope of the Campbeltown CHORD Outline Business Case, as follows:
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After consultation with Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund it was agreed that a second CARS bid was more appropriate than a second THI.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members approve the match funding amount of £500,000 for the Campbeltown CARS Round 6 application using funding remaining in the Campbeltown CHORD budget.

## 4. DETAIL

- 4.1 The CARS programme was established in 2005 to provide financial assistance to area based regeneration and conservation area initiatives for the historic environment. Since 2005 there have been five CARS application rounds awarding a total of just under £27 million of Historic Scotland (HS) funding. The CARS Round 6 has a total budget of £10 million and is a five year programme and will run from 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2020.
- 4.2 The scheme is available to provide financial assistance for Conservation Area based regeneration and conservation initiatives undertaken by Local and National Park Authorities, community groups and other 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations experienced in delivering multi-funded projects. Assistance is through support to establish a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS). The deadline for submissions is 31 August 2014
- 4.4 The Campbeltown CARS began in 2007, and officially ended 31 March 2012. The Scheme was delivered on time and on budget and secured the following outcomes:
- 17 shopfronts refurbished
  - 140 original timber windows refurbished
  - 75 grants awarded amounting to **£650,000**
  - Taking other funders and owners contributions in to account over **£4m** has been spent on buildings since 2007 (this includes the CARS/THI overlap period)
  - Work to 50 buildings
  - Over 40 local contractors involved.

The Campbeltown Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) project has been in progress alongside the CARS since 2009, which has increased the benefit to the town during this overlap period as this has made available a greater amount of common fund to be reinvested in the built heritage of the town centre. There are only two key projects remaining to be delivered through the Townscape Heritage Initiative, Cross Street/Main Street and the Town Hall. All other funding has been drawn down and projects delivered. The remaining projects will be delivered by the end of 2015. However there is still a real need for further investment in the built fabric of the town as is demonstrated by the issues facing many of the private owners who are approaching both the THI officer and private sector housing colleagues.

- 4.5 There is approximately £1M remaining in the Campbeltown CHORD budget. At a Campbeltown CHORD Workshop held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013, it was agreed that officers would develop a second CARS or lottery funded Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) for Campbeltown town centre. This fits with the original scope of the Campbeltown CHORD Outline Business Case, as follows:
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After consultation with Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund it was agreed that a second CARS bid was more appropriate than a second THI.

- 4.6 It is considered that a CARS Bid for Campbeltown would be a strong fit with Historic Scotland's assessment criteria and there is a clear need based on the condition of the properties, the number of listed, buildings at risk and vacant properties.

## 5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 There is clear evidence, as outlined in 4.4, that there is benefit in securing funding for our towns / conservations areas via the CARS programme. However this requires a commitment of investment from the Council both as regards to financial (match funding) and staff resources. The CARS programme is a highly competitive bid and funding is not guaranteed. However, the CARS funding programme offers a real opportunity for further investment in the built fabric of Campbeltown town centre and brings with it the opportunity for wider economic regeneration.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

*6.1 Policy:* Through the Corporate Plan, Single Outcome Agreement, Development Plan, Community Plan and Economic Development Plan the Council recognises the importance of investment in its built heritage in order to secure the regeneration of its towns and economic benefit that will come from this.

*6.2 Financial:* There is approximately £1M remaining in the Campbeltown CHORD budget. It is proposed that £500,000 is used to match fund the Campbeltown CARS Round 6 bid.

6.3 Legal: None

6.4 HR: None

6.5 Equalities: N/A

6.6 Risk: If we do not take advantage of the funding available in regard to CARS, then the deterioration of the built fabric of many of our towns and the built heritage within them will have a significant impact in the attractiveness of our area for people who work, live and visit and will bring greater pressure on the Council to undertake emergency repairs.

Pippa Milne, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

For further information please contact:  
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