
Report to Clackmannanshire Council

Date of Meeting: 13 October 2016

Subject: Clackmannan Regeneration Project

Report by: Head of Strategy & Customer Services

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Council on an award of £2 million for the regeneration of Clackmannan as part of the Scottish Government's Economic Development Fund.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council notes and endorses the Clackmannan Regeneration Project.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. Clackmannanshire Council was awarded £2 million in grant funding on 26 September 2016 as part of the Scottish Government's Local Economic Development Fund to assist with the regeneration of Clackmannan. The funding will play a key role in the Longannet Economic Recovery Plan (ERP). The Longannet ERP and Clackmannan Community Action Plan have acted as catalysts to develop a tailored strategic response to issues highlighted in each and to build upon the opportunities available in Clackmannan.
- 3.2. The closure of Longannet Power Station in March 2016 has had a major impact on local communities in the area. About one-third of the workforce lived in Clackmannanshire based postcode areas and a number of significant supply chain impacts are being experienced.
- 3.3. Responses to the loss of well paid jobs in the area, where lack of jobs as well as low income levels are already an issue, combined with impact on local services are important strands of the ERP, developed as part of the Longannet Task Force deliberations. The closure of Longannet is impacting local employment, and therefore, a key aim of this project is to minimise adverse impacts through developing opportunities for employment, enterprise and economic regeneration.
- 3.4. Given Clackmannan is around 3.5 miles from Kincardine/Longannet, it is here that impacts are likely to be hard felt. The Council has worked in partnership

with a number of agencies, including Fife Council, to develop and take forward responses that restore community confidence and create opportunities for regeneration in the Upper Forth Bridgehead area. In doing this the aim is to build upon the considerable infrastructure investment that has taken place in recent years, including the construction of the Clackmannanshire Bridge and the reopening of the Alloa to Stirling rail passenger service (with potential expansion through Clackmannan to Dunfermline).

- 3.5. The Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan 2015 (LDP) seeks to encourage local employment opportunities that will reduce the need to travel, and assist in the physical regeneration of the area by making use of lower amenity and vacant buildings for business and community where other uses may not be suitable. The LDP defines the extent of the Clackmannan town centre and allocates part of Main Street/North Street, Clackmannan as a 'brownfield' opportunity. The LDP describes the key planning considerations for the site in seeking to create sustainable communities.
- 3.6. The £2 million Local Economic Development funding, together with capital funds already approved by Council and, as outlined in the Strategy & Regeneration Update, the potential for the construction of at least 35 social housing units, represents a considerable response aimed at mitigating adverse impacts of the Longannet closure.
- 3.7. The Regeneration Project, which is consistent with the objectives in the Clackmannan Community Action Plan, has been developed in partnership with Clackmannan Development Trust and the Community Council. Specific objectives therefore are to:
 - sustain and create opportunities for employment and enterprise, particularly for small business activity and exploit the potential for any promotion of tourist based links to Fife e.g. the coastal path and cycle network, related connections in industrial archaeology, and the railway;
 - improve the physical appearance and connectivity of the town centre to make it more attractive for investment, tourism and job opportunities;
 - enhance the historic townscape and the setting of the Clackmannan Conservation Area and its surrounds through sensitive change including environmental enhancements and bringing sites back into economic use;
 - improve access to more integrated local community services;
 - improve educational attainment, positive destinations and community learning and empowerment;
 - foster improved well-being through a more positive sense of place and community engagement.

- 3.8. It is expected to be a three year project overall, however, the £2M from the Local Economic Development funding will be used to support a number of infrastructural elements during 2016/17, including Town Centre Renewal, SME development, community amenities and enterprise, parking and the mitigation of congestion issues.
- 3.9. Each of these elements will support the Scottish Government's Regeneration Strategy and, in particular, address outcomes aimed at creating and supporting economically, physically and socially sustainable communities (Annex A of *Achieving a Sustainable Future*).
- 3.10. It should be noted that it is a requirement of the award that funding is spent or legally committed on or before the 31 March 2017. A further report will be brought to Council before the end of 2016 providing additional detail on planned expenditure.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. The Clackmannan Regeneration Project is consistent with the Scottish Government's Regeneration Strategy, *Achieving a Sustainable Future*.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

- 5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes

- 5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

- 5.4. *Staffing – there are no direct staff implications.*

6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

- The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses
- Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive
- People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment
- Our communities are safer

- Vulnerable people and families are supported
- Substance misuse and its effects are reduced
- Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing
- The environment is protected and enhanced for all
- The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

NONE

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

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Approved by

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