

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 31 AUGUST 2011

‘MAKE IT KILMARNOCK’ INITIATIVE – 2011/12 EXPENDITURE

Report by Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet’s approval for expenditure within the Make it Kilmarnock (MiK) budget for 2011/12, specifically relating to the extension of a negotiated contract with an independent consultant, for the provision of specialist support to the Make it Kilmarnock project.
- 1.2 The request for approval is in terms of the relevant provisions of the Council’s Standing Orders Relating to Contacts.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The MiK initiative was set up to address the economic challenges from the proposed closure of the Diageo Plant in Kilmarnock. The Council has previously allocated £100,000 per annum for three years from 2010/11 to support the ongoing work of MiK.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 To support the work of the project, and provide specialist support in specific areas, the Council has sought to bring in additional external expertise. The Team presently comprises one full-time secondee (from Scottish Enterprise) and part-time support from an independent consultant.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 8 October 2009, Council approved the engagement of Stephen Chorley, an independent Consultant to provide specialist support in terms of the Council’s Standing Orders relating to contracts para 20(1) (‘authority to extend or negotiate an award’) for a maximum of 6 months. At a subsequent meeting on 18th August 2010, Cabinet agreed to extend this contract for a further 12 months. It is now proposed to extend this appointment for a further 12 months, on the basis of a maximum average of 1 day per week at a rate of £500 per day. The total cost will not exceed £20,000.
- 3.3 During the last year, the focus of Mr Chorley’s work has been to assist the Council access external funding to deliver MiK projects. The most significant output from this was securing £2m of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) monies to support the development of infrastructure at Moorfield North Industrial Park. The main focus of Mr Chorley’s work during the next year will relate to securing further external funding (EU and Tax Incremental

Financing (TIF) to support the implementation of further infrastructure projects.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The total cost of the proposals outlined would be up to, but not exceeding, £20,000, which would be met from the existing Make it Kilmarnock budget.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In terms of paragraph 20(1) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts, Cabinet approval is required both in respect of the negotiation of contractual terms and of the organisations with whom the contracts are to be negotiated. These proposals are accordingly submitted to Cabinet in accordance with these provisions.

6 COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Make it Kilmarnock scheme is an integral part of the Delivering Community Regeneration Action Plan which forms part of the East Ayrshire Community Plan 2011-2015.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) agree that Stephen Chorley be appointed to provide services relating to the support to the Make it Kilmarnock work for a twelve month period from 01 September 2011 in accordance with paragraph 20(1) of the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts; and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of this report

Fiona Lees
Chief Executive

18 August 2011

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS – Nil