

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 8 JULY 2009

FOUR TOWNS ENQUIRY BY DESIGN

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the formal approval of Cabinet to authorise the Head of Planning and Economic Development to sign an negotiated contract with the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment (PFBE).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The PFBE is an internationally recognised educational charity that exists to improve the quality of people's lives by teaching and practicing timeless and ecological ways of planning, designing and building.
- 2.2 The PFBE has developed and pioneered a number of new design processes including the Enquiry by Design (EbD), a radical process for planning new places within existing communities.
- 2.3 The EbD is a week long collaborative process involving residents, community groups, local businesses and local authority representatives. It involves a careful study of an areas history, architectural and urban traditions. The PFBE works with communities through such intensive design workshop to prepare a vision and consensus for the improvement and regeneration of the area.
- 2.4 Building on the successful EbD event for the proposed 'Knockroon' development at Cumnock, a five day EbD event was held in Cumnock in April/May 2009 covering the 4 towns of Mauchline, Auchinleck, Cumnock and New Cumnock. Draft detailed regeneration plans were drawn up through a series of workshop and consultation sessions. The initial findings and recommendations were presented by the PFBE to the stakeholders and the wider public at the end of the week. The final reports are expected to be completed by the end of July 2009. This was the first time that the EbD approach was applied to more than one area and was, therefore, a pathfinder event.
- 2.5 The total cost of the Four Towns Enquiry by Design programme from initial scoping to production of the final reports for each town is £200,000. Cabinet approved a contribution of £20,000 towards the 4 Towns EbD event at the Review of Departmental Balances meeting held on 19th November 2008. A further £30,000 contribution was

identified from the Fairer Scotland, Restoring Communities budget allocated to the Department of Corporate Support, Planning and Economic Development Division by the Community Planning Partnership at their Special Board meeting held June 2008.

- 2.6 However, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts & Tendering (November 2007), Cabinet approval is required to enable the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to negotiate and sign the contract documents.

3. NEGOTIATED CONTRACT WITH THE PRINCES FOUNDATION FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- 3.1 As indicated in paragraph 2.4 above, the PFBE is the only organisation that can provide the Enquiry by Design process.

- 3.2 Authorisation is, therefore, sought from Cabinet to enable the contract to be negotiated and signed.

- 3.3 It should be noted that in addition to the week long EbD event the PFBE through the contract will provide a series of master plan options, strategic diagrams and eye level perspectives for each of the towns to communicate how the four towns can be regenerated to form a holistic regional vision.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for the Council as a result of this report.

- 4.2 In addition to the Council's and Community Planning Partnership's contributions referred to in paragraph 2.5 above, the balance of the £200,000 funding required for the Enquiry by Design is to be met from contributions received by the PFBE from Scotia Development (a private housing developer), Cumnock and Doon Valley Minerals Trust and the Ayrshire LEADER Programme.

5. LEGAL/PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The contract will be awarded in terms of Paragraph 20(1) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts & Tendering. There are no direct personnel implications.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no policy implications as a result of the Enquiry by Design process.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Enquiry by Design event has and implementation of the outcomes will contribute towards meeting the aims and aspirations of the “Delivering Community Regeneration Action Plan”.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Risk Assessments have been carried out by PFBE prior to the commencement of the Enquiry by Design process. PFBE has appropriate insurance cover in place.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Cabinet is asked to:-

- (i) Authorise the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to negotiate a contract in compliance with Best Value principles with the Prince’s Foundation for the Built Environment in terms of Item 20(1) of the Council’s Standing Orders Relating to Contracts & Tendering;
- (ii) Authorise the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to award the contract to the Prince’s Foundation for the Built Environment on completion of the negotiation process.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/
Executive Director of Corporate Support

DD/SA

16 June 2009

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Community Planning Partnership Special Board Meeting – 10 June 2008, Agenda item 3 “Fairer Scotland Fund – Programme Review Process
2. Report to Cabinet – 19 November 2008, “Review of Departmental Balances”.

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