

EAST AYRSHIRE

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD: 30 JUNE 2011

'MAKE IT KILMARNOCK' FUNDED PROJECTS - UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Report by the Lawrence Wyper, Make It Kilmarnock Co-ordinator

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board on progress in relation to projects funded during 2010/11 in support of the 'Make it Kilmarnock' initiative.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The 'Make it Kilmarnock' (MiK) initiative is designed to develop and implement a co-ordinated range of projects, with the overall objective of supporting sustainable economic growth in Kilmarnock.

- 2.2 The CPP Board, in June 2010, approved funding to support development work on three early action projects, each of which were designed to support the future implementation of larger main projects. The three projects are as follows:

- Kilmarnock Integrated Urban Development Plan (£40,000)
- Retail Rocks Phase 1 (£25,000)
- Young Enterprise Centre (£35,000)

- 2.3 The following sections outline progress on each project.

3. KILMARNOCK INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 3.1 The successful implementation of the MiK project is dependent on the ability to secure sufficient levels of public and private sector resources. In advance of any application for funding for regeneration projects, there is a requirement for the Council to produce an Integrated Urban Development Plan (IUDP), which presents a co-ordinated programme encompassing all regeneration activity within the town, including the Diageo site.

- 3.2 A competitive tendering exercise to appoint consultants to develop the IUDP was undertaken and Kevin Murray Associates were appointed. The total cost of the appointment was £70,000, with the balance (£30,000) being funded by Diageo. The draft Plan was completed in March 2011 and is currently the basis of public consultation, with the final Plan scheduled for consideration by the Council's Cabinet in August 2011.

- 3.3 The full CPP allocation of £40,000 has been spent.

4. RETAIL ROCKS

- 4.1 Retail Rocks is an innovative new public/private sector partnership model. It is designed to revitalise town centres and communities by taking vacant retail units in Kilmarnock and transforming them into vibrant retail businesses providing much needed and evidenced amenity and specialist retailing to develop a new customer

base for the town centre. It is a competition-based programme which will engage with the local community by providing an opportunity to open retail businesses in Kilmarnock.

- 4.2 The CPP funding allowed the commissioning of Phase 1 of the project, which is an analysis of the existing retail provision within Kilmarnock, identification of potential gaps in the range of services available and costed proposals for the development of specific vacant shops within the town centre.
- 4.3 The Phase 1 report has been finalised and a costed proposal for the implementation of the project (Phase 2) completed. This has been submitted to officials within Scottish Government seeking potential support; the pilot Retail Rocks project in Aberdeen was part funded through TCRF (Town Centre Regeneration Fund) support.
- 4.4 The total cost of this initiative was £24,000, leaving a balance of £1,000 which has been returned to the CPP Board for re-allocation.

5. YOUNG ENTERPRISE CENTRE

- 5.1 The project was designed to investigate the potential for development of a Young Enterprise Centre in the town centre, which would be a focus for expansion of enterprise and leadership programmes based around arts, technology and environment projects. It would provide incubator units for embryo businesses run by young people, a networking point for young people and a leadership training venue away from schools and other educational settings. The support from the CPP would allow initial work to progress on developing the detailed business case for the Centre.
- 5.2 Initial work was undertaken on the business case. However, the Council subsequently announced the development of a larger Business Enterprise Fund, which has similar aims but would be focused around the development of facilities within existing secondary schools rather than a separate stand-alone facility. Consequently, it was agreed not to progress with the Young Enterprise Centre project and focus support within the wider Business Enterprise Project.
- 5.3 None of the CPP allocation was committed or spent and the funding has therefore been returned to the CPP Board for re-allocation.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Community Planning Partnership Board is requested to:
 - i) note the content of the report.

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15 June 2011