

EAST AYRSHIRE**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD: 16 DECEMBER 2010****MAKE IT KILMARNOCK 2010/11 FUNDING****Report by the Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council****1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To update the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board on progress relating to Make it Kilmarnock (MiK) projects supported by the CPP Board during 2010/11.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Make it Kilmarnock initiative is designed to develop and implement a co-ordinated range of projects, with the overall objective of supporting sustainable economic growth in Kilmarnock. With relatively high unemployment, and the scheduled closure of the Diageo plant in 2012, the economic challenges are significant. However, experience has shown that a clear co-ordinated Plan, supported by public and private sector organisations, can make a demonstrable impact.
- 2.2 The CPP Board in June 2010, approved funding of £100k towards the development of three early action projects within the Plan, each of which are designed to support the implementation of larger main projects, which will support sustainable economic growth in the town. The three projects were:
- Production of an Integrated Urban Development Plan for Kilmarnock;
 - Undertaking Phase 1 of a 'Retail Rocks' project within Kilmarnock; and
 - Development of a model for a 'Young Enterprise Centre' within Kilmarnock.
- 2.3 Progress on each of these three projects is outlined below.

3. INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 3.1 The successful implementation of the MiK initiative will be dependent on the ability to secure sufficient levels of public and private sector resources. Against a background of tightening of public sector finances, the ability of the MiK team to make the best use of available funding and exhaust all potential avenues is important. To support future funding bids, there is a requirement for the Council to produce an Integrated Urban Development Plan, which presents a co-ordinated programme encompassing all regeneration activity within the Town, including the Diageo site. The production of the Plan is also a requirement in support of the Kilmarnock College application to the Scottish Funding Council for their proposed new campus. The Plan will replace the existing Kilmarnock Town Centre Strategy.
- 3.2 A tendering exercise was undertaken to appoint a firm of Urban Design specialists to support the Council in development of the new Plan. Kevin Murray Associates, a Glasgow based consultancy, was appointed in October 2010, and the final draft Plan will be produced by early March 2011. The total cost of the project is £70k, of which £40k was allocated by the CPP Board, and the remainder of the cost being met by Diageo.

3.3 The initial stages of the exercise have included a series of workshops in Kilmarnock, involving young people, businesses, community groups, Council departments and other key stakeholders, to get a cross section of ideas on developing the town centre. This will form the basis of a number of options for the future planning of the town, which will be presented back to the initial workshop participants during January / February 2011.

4. RETAIL ROCKS

4.1 The Retail Rocks project is an innovative new public/private sector partnership model designed to revitalise town centres. The competition based programme will provide an opportunity to revitalise vacant retail units in Kilmarnock transforming them into vibrant retail businesses. Phase 1 of the project, which was awarded £25k of CPP Board funding, involves a detailed analysis of the retail sector in the town, and the identification of possible vacant units which could be used in Phase 2 of the project. The report, summarising the output from Phase 1, will be available by 10 December 2011.

4.2 Phase 2 of the project involves the purchase / leasing and fit-out of a number of vacant retail properties within Kilmarnock Town Centre, and the running of a competition to support local people who wish to set up retail businesses within the town. Dependant on the outputs of Phase 1, and securing appropriate funding, it is proposed to begin Phase 2 of the project early in 2011/12.

5. YOUNG ENTERPRISE CENTRE

5.1 The project will explore the potential for the development of a Young Enterprise Centre in Kilmarnock town centre, which would be a focus for the expansion of enterprise and leadership programmes based around arts, technology and environmental projects. Funding is required to develop a detailed business case for the Centre, with the involvement of a range of partners, including local colleges and national level institutions such as universities.

5.2 The Business Plan is in preparation, and potential premises on Bank Street have been identified as a location for Centre. Discussions with the Secondary Schools in Kilmarnock are ongoing with a view to the Centre replicating a pilot project during 2009 where produce manufactured by school pupils were sold in a retail shop in the town.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Community Planning Partnership Board is requested to:

- i) note the progress in respect of the three Make it Kilmarnock projects supported during 2010/11.

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Chief Executive
East Ayrshire Council
1 December 2010