



**TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS & REGENERATION TEAM – LARGE SCALE  
PROJECT UPDATE REPORT**

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## **2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report sets out the current position of the large-scale projects, which are currently being delivered by the Transformational Projects and Regeneration Team.
- 2.2 Transformational Projects and Regeneration sits within the C Development and Economic Growth Service and works region-wide. The Team has a particular focus on place heritage regeneration, the creative industries, renewables and Islands and works closely with communities, third sector organisations, town centre heritage building owners and businesses to realise positive change.
- 2.3 The T work broadly includes the following areas:-

Drafting/submitting bids to secure external funding of various scale, such as the new Heritage and Place Programme previously referred





duration.

CARS priority building status has been removed from the property at 5-7 East Clyde Street due to owner complexities. A new priority building has been identified within the Conservation Area 65-67 Sinclair Street Helensburgh and owners details are being collated.

Two expressions of interest are being progressed for the smaller repair grant pot. Expressions of Interest received from the owners of 6 shopfronts are also being progressed. The CARS Officer will work with the property owners with the aim of developing these expressions of interest into formal applications.

A complementary scheme of skills development, in partnership with HES and Build Your Future (BYF), took place on 13<sup>th</sup> May at Hermitage Academy which was very well received by teachers and pupils. Further events are also being planned to engage and maximise community benefits.

#### Lochgilphead CARS (2020 Mar 2026) Project Status **GREEN**

Lochgilphead CARS is £1.6m partnership project with HES (£969,700) in its third year of delivery. An additional £200,000 has been secured from the latest allocation of Place Based Investment funding. The additional funds will help to deliver two more priority building projects, enhancing project outcomes.

Following some delays, the first priority building project is due to commence in August 2022. Development work is underway for the second priority building. Good progress is being made with the remaining two priority buildings.

The first Small Repair Grant has been awarded. Discussions continue with a number of other building owners.

From the 10-13<sup>th</sup> May 2022 we delivered the Argyll and Bute Traditional Building Skills roadshow to high schools across four towns, starting in Lochgilphead. Almost 200 pupils were given the opportunity to try their hand at skills ranging from roof slating to building surveying and thermal imaging.

Other training activities have involved us helping Argyll College students to manufacture play equipment for a local nursery and a Keeping Warm in Older Homes event for the public. Further activities are currently being developed.

#### Hermitage Park, Parks for People (2016 Dec 22) Project Status **GREEN**

The £3.7m Parks for People project is in its final year. The main project funders are NLHF (£2.3m) and Argyll and Bute Council (£380k), with the remainder coming from a range of other grant/in-kind funding. Capital delivery is now complete.

The focus continues to be on delivering the activity plan and finalising some smaller landscaping and planting projects. Green Flag Status was reconfirmed in July 2022 for the third consecutive year. The park will continue to be

assessed annually in order to retain this status of excellence, and also as a condition of funding.

As part of the agreed activity plan, work on creating a new volunteer bothy in the Demonstration Garden is now complete, and the Demonstration Garden itself is progressing. The









Tobermory Harbour Wall and Railings, Phase 2 - £100,000 from PBI (£100,000 from CE and a request of £250,000 from Islands Programme)

Members are considering a report at the August Policy and Resources Committee in regard to the allocation of the remainder of the £322,486 unallocated PBI funding for 2022/23.

#### 4.11 Scottish Government Islands Programme 2021/22 & 22/23

The Scottish Government wrote to Councils on 17 December 2021 advising of the distribution of the 2021-22 Islands Infrastructure Fund (IIF). Argyll and Bute C £740,000. The fund was for capital works



Fully fund Gift Card for 2022/2023 into 2023/2024 - £30,000;  
Marketing budget to promote the Gift Card.

The marketing allocation from the LACER funds will be used to encourage additional business registration across Argyll and Bute to maximise offer of the card for consumers. Officers are currently considering options for spend and anticipate marketing activity will be rolled out towards the end of the year.

The Argyll and Bute Gift Card can be purchased as follows: [Argyll & Bute Gift Card | Scotland Loves Local Gift Cards \(scotlandgiftslocal.com\)](https://scotlandgiftslocal.com)

- 4.13 Budget: The above project updates are predominantly in relation to the externally funded projects for which the team are responsible for firstly securing and then delivering as per grant requirements or overseeing the specific budget claiming and monitoring process where these relate to a third party project. A number of these include a proportion of council funding as well as TCF, PBI or CE funding. There is a set budget for each project and each is subject to specific outcomes and timelines, as agreed with respective funders. The externally funded elements of the project costs can only be claimed once proof of all necessary information has been provided to the respective funder. Each funder has a different criteria against which delivery is measured, and the council has entered into formal grant contracts with all funders involved.

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Place based investments are taking place across much of Argyll and Bute making significant improvements to the quality of life of local people and our communities. Much of the work is externally funded adding to the capital funding committed by the council to enable this investment to happen. The successful delivery of the projects require careful monitoring and close working with colleagues, partners and community stakeholders. The impact from the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK having left the EU sets a background that creates a challenging environment in which to work. Prices are currently exceptionally high, due mainly to supply chain issues, but also shortages in labour. The Team therefore adopts a pragmatic approach to delivering projects, ensuring that these are as meaningful as possible using the budget available however the environment in respect of project delivery is a very challenging one.
- 5.2 The projects contained within this report will result in assisting the economic recovery of Argyll and Bute, helping to sustain numerous small businesses, making the place more investor ready, improving our towns and villages as places to live and visit together with adding to the significant regeneration works that are being taken forward for Argyll and Bute, and seek to make an improved and lasting difference to the area.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

6.8 Customer Service None

**Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth**

**Policy Lead for Economy and Rural Growth: Councillor Robin Currie**

31<sup>st</sup> July 2022

**For further information - please contact**

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**Appendices:**

Appendix A List of Council and Third Party projects that the Team is either responsible for delivering directly or for managing the grants given by the council to a third party organisation.

