
**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL
COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
08 DECEMBER 2022**

**OUR MODERN WORKSPACE (OMW) PLACE DEMONSTRATOR FUNDING FOR
ROTHESAY**

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. The Scottish Government have sought applications from Local Authorities that have undertaken Place Based Reviews (PBR) and are in a position this financial year to implement the outcomes of the review.
- 2.2. A Place Based Review of Rothesay and Dunoon was undertaken in 2021 jointly funded by the Council, HSCP and NHS Highland and the outcomes and actions from that review have been used and act as a foundation for changes we are implementing through Our Modern Workspace (OMW).
- 2.3. A bid to this competitive fund was made by the OMW team in August 2022 and the Scottish Government have now verbally confirmed Argyll and Bute Council's application to implement the redesign proposals in Rothesay has been recommended for a grant award. This includes both the Victoria St Office and the Union St Office. The verbal confirmation is for the total capital costs for Rothesay to BT1 0 0 1 107.37 466.(l)35()91(co)-6(st)28(s)28(f)28(o)-6(r)21()Tm[7 Tmg5M

- 4.4. If the panel do commend the Rothesay project and this funding is made available it will only be able to be used for the delivery of the redesign of both Union St and Victoria St offices in Rothesay due to nature and objectives of the fund. Copies of the proposed floor plans are attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 4.5. This is an opportunity for Argyll and Bute Council to work with the Scottish Futures Trust and HubNorth Scotland to assist other Local Authorities that are at the very start of their office rationalisation and co-location programmes to understand the Place narrative around how they look to better utilise their assets.
- 4.6. The Scottish Government have requested that Argyll and Bute Council make a public commitment to:
- ensure the funds awarded are spent solely on this project
 - demonstrate the place context, in discussion with other key partners
 - note the additionality this funding can provide – what this funding can unlock in the context of the wider Place Narrative.
 - Confirm the project and Council commitment by 31 March 2023
- 4.7. There were a number of outcomes identified in the Place Based Review of Rothesay and Our Modern Workspace is the first of those to be implemented. It is hoped that this funding and subsequent acceleration of these outcomes will provide a catalyst to the other partners involved in the Place Based Review to look at implementation of further outcomes identified.
- 4.8. The Place Based Review has allowed the review of spaces with other key partners, one of those are the Scottish Courts Services – who currently have some occupation of Eaglesham House, Rothesay which will become largely surplus to requirements following the remodelling exercise as proposed.
- 4.9. The remodelling of both Union Street and Victoria Street offices will free up Eaglesham House for further development opportunities, the OMW team will work with other Council Services and wider key partners to utilise the building to best meet the needs of the Island.
- 4.10. Further opportunities to utilise the spaces within these buildings to support the communities on the island are welcome and fundamental to the OMW project.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This paper provides an overview of the funding application submitted to the Scottish Governments Place Demonstrator Fund.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy : SG funding requirement to have a public commitment to the project in the terms noted within the paper
- 6.2 Financial : This funding will provide significant investment in Rothesay
- 6.3 Legal : None

- 6.4 HR : Funding will support the implementation of the Hybrid and Flexible Working Policy
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
 - 6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics
 - 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty
 - 6.5.3 Islands
- 6.6 Climate Change : the works undertaken will take cognisance of net zero best practice
- 6.7 Risk: without this funding the implementation of the OMW programme in Rothesay would not be delivered until available budget was identified in the Capital Plan
- 6.8 Customer Service : the completion of the works in Victoria St will provide easier access to Public Services within a High Street location

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08 December 2022

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Financial Summary – Publically restricted due to commercial / contractual nature

Appendix 2 – Proposed Floor Plans for Union St and Victoria St Offices