
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Following the change in the UK Government the Levelling Up Partnership process is being revised to reflect UK Government priorities. The term Levelling Up will no longer be used but there has been no indication from the new UK Government that this previously committed funding will be withdrawn. In the interim period council officers have been reaching out to other Scottish Councils who received Partnership funding such as Dundee City Council. It was notable that the capital amounts awarded were under the £5m mark and that elements of revenue funding could also be awarded to support business innovation, or business growth, for example. It should be noted that keeping individual project asks under the £5m capital threshold eases the path through Treasury approval. It was also notable that projects were led by different bodies other than the council and that whilst provisional lists of projects had been agreed with two other councils this was all still subject to a full business case agreement carried out by the UK Government.
- 3.2 Looking at the original long list of projects previously approved by the council for consideration by the UK Government, it is considered prudent to reengage with the UK Government with a revised list of possible asks. This has been informed by discussions with other councils and looking at the new UK
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European Marine Science park at Dunbeg working with HIE who are the project sponsors.

- **Dunoon Regeneration** is also being pursued looking at various options to prioritise investment. The level of funding required here as previously identified exceeds the capital limits applied to this particular funding opportunity however the council remains open to further dialogue with both Governments.
- **Campbeltown Pier expansion** remains a possible commercial opportunity for the council however it remains at an early stage of development and it is linked to private sector feasibility studies linked to renewables and the whisky industry that are ongoing.
- **Islay and Jura** we have modified the ask via a competitive funding request to Scottish Government as part of the Islands Infrastructure fund to cover feasibility work in connection with the replacement ferry given delivery timescales associated with this potential project. In terms of the possible roads investment on Islay linked to industry growth this remains a council aspiration linked to possible policy interventions from the UK Government harvesting an element of income generated on the island.

It should also be noted that any project ideas submitted by the council to the UK Government have no guarantee of being selected and are all subject to detailed business case development by the UK Government with council inputs as appropriate. Other projects may also emerge at the discretion of the UK Government and public consultation if this remains a

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The original UK Levelling Up Partnership process was proceeding as previously reported to council in April until the UK General Election was called and subsequently held on the 4th of July. The term Levelling Up has now been dropped by the new UK Government with an increased emphasis on Local Government, boosting economic growth across the UK and accelerating the delivery of new housing.

4.2 In the interim period council officers have been speaking to other Scottish Councils in receipt of Levelling Up Partnership funding and examining the new UK Government economic priorities as demonstrated in their manifesto and Kings Speech. This has informed an adapted list of possible projects for consideration by Members to form a basis of discussion with the new UK Government. That said the council w(cil)/F1 12 Tf0 0 1 274.99 332.33 Tm0 g0 G 0.0449 Tc

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