REGENERATION CAPITAL GRANT FUND AWARDS

Purpose of Report:
To update members on progress of projects that have received ‘Regeneration Capital Grant Fund’ awards.

Recommendations:
The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and asked to:
1. Approve the acceptance of these funding awards - this is required before council can make payment to external bodies.
2. Note the progress made to date on the various projects.

Ward No(s):
Citywide: ✓
Local member(s) advised: Yes No ✓
consulted: Yes No ✓

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1. **BACKGROUND**

1.1 The Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) is a Scottish Government budget. It will help fund four council-led regeneration projects as outlined below. Council is required to formally accept this funding before any payment can be made to external partners.

1.2 RCGF has an annual budget of £25m and aims to provide financial support to projects that will help to deliver large-scale improvements to deprived areas. It focuses on projects that engage and involve local communities and those that can demonstrate the ability to deliver sustainable regeneration. Projects can be developed by community organisations, but are submitted by local authorities or certain other public bodies.

1.3 The Fund operates under a bidding process, with Glasgow in open competition with local authorities (and certain other public bodies) across Scotland. There is no set financial allocation for Glasgow or prescribed number of project to be approved. The bidding process operates in two stages, with an open call for submissions in the spring prior the year of award, and projects shortlisted for stage 2 consideration making a more detailed submission during the summer.

1.4 A key requirement of the Fund is that any allocation should be spent in the appropriate financial year and underspend can not be carried forward.

1.5 Further details are published on the Scottish Government website at: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/BuiltEnvironment/regeneration/investment/capitalgrants/rcgf](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/BuiltEnvironment/regeneration/investment/capitalgrants/rcgf)

2. **PROGRESS TO DATE**

The Council is asked to note progress to date, and the awarding of RCGF funding, on the following projects:

2.1 **CALTON BARRAS ACTION PLAN (2014/15 AWARD; £1,400,580)**

A June 2014 Executive Committee Paper (26/6/14, item 12) updated members on progress and sought approval for spend on elements of the Calton Barras Action Plan. Item 4.1 of that paper noted that “A successful bid has been made to the Scottish Government’s Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) resulting in a grant of £1,400,580.00. This grant will act as match funding for projects identified in the Calton Barras Action Plan for delivery during the financial year 2014/2015”.

Progress towards the aims of the Action Plan continue to be made, including the delivery of Barrowlands Park, and improvements to public realm, roads, shop fronts, and vacant and underused floorspace.
2.2 CADDER COMMUNITY CENTRE (2014/15 AWARD; £1,000,000)

This new centre will replace an existing outdated building, which is too small for many of its intended functions, and responds to needs expressed by local residents for a community hub and venue for local service delivery. It will incorporate an IT room, flexible hall, informal café space, and office and meeting room accommodation. In total it will provide 1,250m² of community space, office space, and new improved open space and play area.

It is anticipated that the Centre will create approximately 15 temporary construction jobs, and around 12 permanent jobs within the finalised development. Construction began in late 2014, with an 11 month build programme resulting in an October 2015 completion date.

Executive Committee at its meeting in April 2014 (17/4/14; item 6) approved the off market sale of the site of the new facility, from City Property to Cadder Housing Association, for a nominal £1.

2.3 BARMULLOCH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (2014/15 AWARD; £350,000)

Barmulloch Community Development Company (BCDC), with support from Glasgow City Council, is developing a community centre at Quarrywood Rood in Barmulloch. The centre will replace the current Tenants Hall, which was built in 1955; the new premises will include three halls (including an IT suite), two meeting rooms, a recording studio, soft play area, kitchen, and state of the art projection equipment.

The facility will provide a wide variety of benefits to BCDC’s 165 local members, as well as the community in general. A range of uses, including youth employment projects, activity classes, brownies and scouts, and English learning classes have been provisionally timetabled. The halls can also be hired for christenings, birthdays and weddings.

The Centre has created around 10 temporary construction jobs, and is expected to support approximately 36 permanent jobs between BCDC and partners who will use the development.

2.4 WESTMUIR STREET SCHOOL (2015/16 PROPOSED AWARD; £1,800,000)

Westmuir Street School is a landmark ‘B’ Listed Building located on the main shopping street in Parkhead. It has been vacant for an extended period and is included within the Buildings At Risk Register for Scotland. The project will involve works to repair the historic building and transforming the vacant space into a local enterprise centre with a mix of community and office space. The re-development will address the lack of modern office accommodation within Parkhead- attracting business back to the town centre and increasing footfall on the high street.
The project will involve the transfer of ownership of the building from the Council to Glasgow Building Preservation Trust who will oversee the restoration project. Committee will be presented with details of this proposed transfer once the RCGF offer of grant is formally received from Scottish Government - this is expected in April/May 2015. Parkhead Housing Association will acquire the property upon completion of the works and will take on the legal and financial responsibility for the maintenance of the building and its operation as an enterprise centre. Upon completion the building will become a focal point for the Associations ‘wider role’ regeneration activity.

RCGF funding represents a major boost to the project which had already secured £2.2m through the Parkhead Cross Townscape Heritage Initiative, a five year regeneration programme funded by the Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland. The project is also supported by Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, and Parkhead Housing Association, who will ultimately own the building. The project is expected to deliver a wide variety of regeneration outcomes, including 50 construction jobs, business premises capable of accommodating up to 100 jobs, and 1,740m² of new business space.

2.5 ADDITIONAL RCGF AWARDS FOR GLASGOW

Clyde Gateway URC is also eligible to bid for RCGF funding, and has been successful with two bids within Glasgow:

2014/15: £461,882 for Glasgow Women’s Library in Landressy Street, Bridgeton.
2015/16: proposed award of £671,000 for an integrated family support centre at ‘Church House’ at St Francis in the East, London Road.

GCC continues to work with colleagues at Clyde Gateway to assist in the delivery of these two projects.

3. DELIVERY AND FINANCIAL MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 DELIVERY

The Calton Barras Action Plan sets out a delivery mechanism to include the creation of a representative body to implement the Action Plan; to deliver changes at local level and to access funding not available to the Council. A working group, comprising local members, community representatives and other stakeholders has been formalised as Action Barras Calton (ABC). However, until formally constituted as a Charitable Organisation and Development Trust, delivery will continue through existing Council structures.

Both the Cadder and Barmulloch community facilities are being delivered by established local agencies, with support from DRS and other appropriate council services and agencies.
Westmuir Street School will be delivered through partners including Parkhead Housing Association, Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, and the City Council, principally DRS Heritage and Design.

3.2 FINANCIAL MONITORING

Grant claims are submitted by external partners and scrutinised by officers within DRS. Approved claims are then submitted to Scottish Government to allow funding to be drawn down.

4. FUTURE ROUNDS OF REGENERATION CAPITAL GRANT FUND AND DISCUSSIONS WITH SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

4.1 Scottish Government has indicated that the RCGF will run again for awards in 2016/17. A formal announcement is expected in spring 2015, and is likely to follow similar procedures to previous years, i.e. first stage submissions to be made in May, with shortlisted projects making detailed second stage submissions in late summer.

4.2 A number of initial approaches have already been made to DRS regarding potential applications. DRS will make a call for submissions to relevant organisations, including registered social landlords, once Scottish Government publishes appropriate details. In addition, several unsuccessful bids from 2014 are likely to be revised and resubmitted.

4.3 DRS officers continue to make the case to Scottish Government regarding funding allocations of this nature, particularly as the RCGF aims to “provide financial support to projects that will help to deliver large-scale improvements to deprived areas”.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: The total value of the four projects (not including Clyde Gateway) identified in this report is £15,157,000, of which £4,550,580 will be funded from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund.

Legal: N/A

Personnel: Staff input required to assist in the delivery of the programme has been accounted for within existing resources.

Procurement: N/A
Council Strategic Plan: The projects address the following:

Priority One: Economic Growth: “a broad based and more integrated economy with diverse business opportunities, including social enterprises”, and “better skills for Glaswegians to create a more confident and competitive workforce in the city”.
Priority two: A World Class City: “deliver local services and neighbourhoods informed by our residents’ views”.
Priority three: a sustainable city: “jobs and investment in the city”.

Equality Impacts: No but see below.

EQIA carried out: N/A

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental: Calton Barras Action Plan is delivering significant improvements to the physical environment of the area; Westmuir Street School will deliver similar benefits.

Social: All four projects will provide social benefits to areas in the city in need of such investment. The Cadder and Barmulloch projects in particular will delivery significant social and community benefits.

Economic: The four projects identified in this report (i.e. not including the two Clyde Gateway projects) will create a substantial number of temporary construction and permanent operating employment opportunities, as well as several apprenticeships. The Calton Barras Action Plan sets out a five year programme of actions to kick start regeneration of the area. Westmuir Street School will provide a major economic/business hub for Parkhead Cross.

6. Recommendations:

1. Approve the acceptance of these funding awards - this is required before council can make payment to external bodies;
2. Note the progress made to date on the various projects.

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