



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Report by Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council and  
City Convener for Inclusive Economic Growth

Contact: Kevin Rush

Ext 74613

Item 1

24th February 2022

## UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

**Purpose of Report:** to review progress made in connection with the delivery of the UK Community Renewal Fund in Glasgow and to seek authorisation, under conditions, for the council to advance part of the grant awarded to the successful projects in advance of these monies being received by the Council from the UK Government.

### Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) Notes the progress made with the implementation of the UK Community Renewal Fund in Glasgow; and
- (b) Agrees the arrangements for the Council to make interim payments to the successful projects prior to the second and final tranche of grant being received by the Council from the UK Government.

Ward No(s):

Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No  consulted: Yes  No

#### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Any Ordnance Survey mapping included within this Report is provided by Glasgow City Council under licence from the Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its public function to make available Council-held public domain information. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey Copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping/map data for their own use. The OS web site can be found at <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk> "

If accessing this Report via the Internet, please note that any mapping is for illustrative purposes only and is not true to any marked scale

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021, the Committee agreed to forward a package of 6 projects for consideration by the UK Government under the UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF).
- 1.2 The fund was intended to be a one year (2021/22) initiative and act as a pilot for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which was due to come into operation in 2022/23.
- 1.3 It was originally anticipated that the results of application process would be known from late July 2021 onwards but in the event it was not until 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 that the UK Government announced the successful bids.
- 1.4 Two of the six projects put forward by the Council were successful and these are detailed below:

<b>PROJECT SPONSOR</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>CRF Bid</b>
Remade Network	Building a Repair Economy in Glasgow	£550,000
Clydeside Initiative for Arts (SWG3)	GRID – Creating a Cultural Place and a Net Zero Innovation District	£480,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£1,030,000</b>

- 1.5 In recognition of the delay in announcing awards, the UK Government put back the end date for activity from 31<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- 1.6 The UK Government issued a formal grant offer to the Council on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in respect of these projects and this was duly signed off and returned on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

## 2 IMPLEMENTATION OF UKCRF IN GLASGOW

- 2.1 Since the announcement of the awards the Council has worked intensively with the 2 projects, focusing on the production of a revised financial and delivery plan to take into account the new timeframe to deliver the projects. It is important to note that all activities must be concluded by 30<sup>th</sup> June which presents a significant operational challenge to successful projects.
- 2.2 In addition the Council has prepared funding agreements with the 2 projects to reflect the conditions of grant set out in the grant funding agreement between the UK Government and the Council.

- 2.3 In terms of payments that council received an initial payment of £643,750 (62.5% of the total award) on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022. This will be forwarded to the projects on completion of the legal agreements.
- 2.4 In terms of the second and final payment from the UK Government this will be triggered by a claim that the Council will have to submit by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. This will be based on the actual eligible expenditure incurred by the projects. No timescale has been given for the turnaround time within the UK Government to process and pay this claim.
- 2.5 This has understandably given rise to concerns from the projects as to cash flow. Both projects are relatively small organisations (Remade is a social enterprise and Clydeside Initiative for Arts is a registered charity).
- 2.6 In order to address this situation it is suggested that the Council make interim payments to the projects subject to the following conditions.
- a) No additional payments will be made until the initial 62.5% advance has been fully utilised;
  - b) The basis of any interim payments will be on eligible expenditure incurred that can be robustly evidenced by the projects;
  - c) No expenditure in respect of activity taking place after 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 will be eligible for an interim payment; and
  - d) Under no circumstances will the total of any interim payments exceed the second tranche of grant to be received from the UK Government.
- 2.7 Both projects will be subject to monthly monitoring visits by the Council to ensure that the projects are delivering to plan and that the systems set up to ensure compliance with the conditions of grant are functioning effectively.

### **3 Policy and Resource Implications**

#### **Resource Implications:**

<i>Financial:</i>	Securing UK Government Funds assists the resourcing of the Council Strategic Plan.
<i>Legal:</i>	Supported projects must demonstrate that they conform to relevant UK and Scottish legislation, including the UK Framework on subsidy control.
<i>Personnel:</i>	Existing staff resources will have to be identified to support the process of monitoring any bids approved by the UK Government.
<i>Procurement:</i>	Projects supported through these funds will need to evidence compliance with relevant procurement legislation.

**Council Strategic Plan:** A THRIVING ECONOMY

- A resilient, growing and diverse city economy where businesses thrive;
- The city and its citizens benefit from inclusive economic growth;
- More Glaswegians are in work or training;
- Glasgow is rated highly for its business innovation and digital skills.

#### PRIORITIES

- No 1 – the delivery of the Glasgow Economic Strategy for 2016-23
- No 6 – Support small businesses and encourage business diversity;

#### A SUSTAINABLE AND LOW CARBON CITY

- We have a low carbon footprint as a council and as a city.

#### PRIORITIES

- No 67 - Become a carbon neutral city by 2037

### **Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22*

Yes, specifically outcome 1 (An increased proportion of people with protected characteristics are supported to enter employment or training)

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

Positive impact -in making final decisions on the portfolio of approved projects the UK Government will give due regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty. All applicants have been advised to consider equalities impacts in formulating their bids and lead authorities are required to consider the equalities impacts of their decisions on proposals under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address*

Yes, the stated objectives of the fund are to contribute towards the UK Government's "Levelling Up" agenda

*socio economic disadvantage.*

**Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

The Remade project is essentially about the recycling and reuse of materials while the Clydeside Initiative for Arts includes the installation of a renewable heating and cooling system.

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*

Both projects have targets to reduce CO2 emissions.

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?*

Projects supported under the fund are expected to demonstrate alignment with the UK Government's Net Zero goals.

**Privacy and Data Protection impacts:**

None

**4 Recommendations**

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) Notes the progress made with the implementation of the UK Community Renewal Fund in Glasgow; and
- (b) Agrees the arrangements for the Council to make interim payments to the successful projects prior to the second and final tranche of grant being received by the Council from the UK Government