

EE61. Strategic Property Review – Draft Implementation Plan

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Acting Director of Development Services which provided an update on Strategic Property Review (SPR) and recommended further actions to finalise the Implementation Plan together with progressing projects and proposals to meet the Council's objectives as established through Council of the Future (CotF).

It was felt that the options for assets in the Learning and Community Estate required additional consideration and engagement with the community. Feedback from workshops highlighted the importance of a 'one Council' approach to engagement and on the development of options and opportunities brought from implementation of the Community Empowerment Act e.g. participatory budgeting, should be included in the considerations. To address this a key action for the implementation plan was that a new corporate Task Group was established with the objective of aligning key CotF projects to the use of property.

Capital investment would be required to deliver key projects and it was important that any alterations or improvement to the school estate also reflected the SPR ambition to improve community access. A progress report for this would be brought to a future meeting of the Education, Children and Young People's Executive.

A Community Choices (participatory budgeting) initiative would help build relationships with communities, enabling them to consider how money should be spent in their area. Council agreed to allocate £3m to capital projects over the next two years through Community Choices and it would be important to align this work with the proposals arising from the SPR.

The draft implementation plan also set out, at a locality level, a series of actions and implications for associated properties. Timescales for action would be defined through the process of consultation. The purpose of these actions was to develop options for consideration and subsequent development of detailed business cases.

The primary purpose of the office workstream was to review office and related functions, reduce front facing offices and increase colocation of services. This included development of the Locality Hubs and the potential to replace the HQ and create an Arts Centre in the town centre to assist regeneration. The approach to office space was being reviewed to reflect lessons learned and changes as a result of Covid 19. A report on progression of the Council HQ and arts centre project would be considered by Council in September.

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn, moved that the Emergency Executive agrees:-

- (1) the draft Implementation Plan as the basis for further community engagement, subject to amendment to the category of Kinneil House, and in doing so move Kinneil Museum from CAT in work stream 1 to

Workstream 2 and have Kinneil House and Museum under transformation;

- (2) the creation of a Task Group as set out in para 5.4 of the report to integrate and align proposals for the Council of the Future Learning and Community Estate with the Enabled Communities project;
- (3) to receive further reports on:-
 - (i) the implementation of measures arising from the work of the Task Group and its workstreams including community engagement, and
 - (ii) proposals for a corporate landlord approach to property asset management
- (4) that a final draft of the Property Strategy and Implementation Plan was brought to a future meeting of the Executive.

As an amendment, Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved the terms of the motion subject to an alteration to clause 4 to read:-

- (4) that a final draft of the Property Strategy and Implementation Plan was brought to a future meeting of the Council.

Councillor Alexander, with the consent of his seconder Councillor Meiklejohn, altered the motion to incorporate the terms of the amendment. The amendment accordingly fell.

Decision

The Emergency Executive agreed:-

- (1) the draft Implementation Plan as the basis for further community engagement, subject to amendment to the category of Kinneil House, and in doing so move Kinneil Museum from CAT in Workstream 1 to Workstream 2 and have Kinneil House and Museum under transformation;**
- (2) the creation of a Task Group as set out in para 5.4 of the report to integrate and align proposals for the Council of the Future Learning and Community Estate with the Enabled Communities project;**
- (3) to receive further reports on:-**
 - (i) the implementation of measures arising from the work of the Task Group and its workstreams including community engagement, and**
 - (ii) proposals for a corporate landlord approach to property asset management**
- (4) that a final draft of the Property Strategy and Implementation Plan was brought to a future meeting of the Council.**