

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 January 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	East Kilbride Taskforce – Update and Financial Support
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ inform and provide an update on the activities of the East Kilbride Taskforce
- ◆ seek approval to provide financial support to the Taskforce, along with partner organisations, to employ a project development manager to deliver the Taskforce's objectives

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the progress made by the East Kilbride Taskforce in restructuring and defining its future role and strategy be noted; and
- (2) that the provision of financial support to the Taskforce, along with partner organisations, to employ a project development manager to deliver the Taskforce's objectives be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1 The East Kilbride Taskforce was established in the autumn of 2012 in response to declining manufacturing employment levels in East Kilbride, as a result of a number of high profile closures, starting with Freescale in 2008 through to Rolls Royce's announcement in autumn 2012 that they would relocate their operations from the town by the end of 2015. The Council agreed to establish and lead an East Kilbride Taskforce with key partners and stakeholders to ensure that the town continued to play an important and pivotal role in the South Lanarkshire and the West of Scotland economies. Following an initial period of establishing the group and preparing the strategy and action plan, the Executive Committee of 4 December 2013 gave approval to the Council's formal involvement in the group and the delivery of the objectives set out in the action plan.
- 3.2 The Taskforce includes elected representatives from South Lanarkshire Council, MSPs and MPs, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, South Lanarkshire College, Business Gateway, The Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and the owners of East Kilbride Town Centre, East Kilbride Investments Limited and representation from the local business community.
- 3.3 The initial work programmes of the taskforce focused on gaining an evidential basis on the challenges facing the town while building links and exploring funding opportunities. This work programme includes:-

- East Kilbride Taskforce Action plan South Lanarkshire Council (2013)
- Socio-economic study by EKOS, Economic Consultants (2013)
- Commercial property reviews by Ryden (2014, 2015)
- Feasibility study on the potential for a centre of excellence for low carbon technologies by Ironside Farrar (2015)
- Business survey by Ryden (2016)
- Report on the future direction of Scottish Enterprise Technology Park (SETP)/Langlands by Ryden (2017)
- Property Market Update, Langlands by Ryden (2018)

3.4 The information provided by these studies has informed the direction and focus of the Taskforce's activities in terms of the projects under delivery and of funding bids. Due to the challenging nature of securing grant funding as a result of the high levels of competition versus relatively limited funds, the projects delivered under the remit of the Taskforce have generally been projects linked to established programmes of work supported by its members.

4. Current Proposal

4.1 In 2017, the Taskforce refreshed its activities and the following project themes were established:

- Low Carbon – exploring the range of potential low carbon projects considering both the challenges presented by existing properties and opportunities to move into new sectors and markets.
- Town Centre and Retail – focusing on a range of town centre development proposals and the challenges facing the retail sector
- HMRC – assessing the decision made by the UK Government to relocate the HMRC offices from East Kilbride to Glasgow and the impact on the town.
- East Kilbride Projects/Developments – assessing the opportunities related to the developments being delivered:
 - City Deal
 - Residential developments
 - Langlands
 - SETP
 - Burns Stewart
 - Redevelopment of the Rolls Royce site

4.4 Whilst the restructured project groupings have brought a more focused approach to the work of the Taskforce, there remains the underlying challenge around the delivery of the projects objectives and in particular the shortage of resources and funding. In this regard, one of the key resourcing issues has been the lack of a dedicated, officer to focus on the work of the Taskforce, rather than being part of an officers other duties whether they are employed by the Council, Scottish Enterprise or another public sector body.

4.5 In recognition of these issues the Taskforce commissioned Smart Consultants, through financial support from Scottish Enterprise, to bring forward proposals to address these issues. In summary, the outcome from this work recommended that the Taskforce becomes a fully constituted body which can: (a) apply for funding in its own right to deliver projects (b) own property and assets as appropriate and (c) employ staff as a dedicated resource to take forward the work of the Taskforce.

4.6 In recognising these recommendations, there was a consensus amongst the partners that, in the short term, there was a need to employ a Project Development Manager to provide the necessary dedicated resource for a fixed period of 2 years. The person specification for this officer and key tasks are set out in appendix 1. The projected budget for this is c. £80 k p.a. (£50-60k in salary and £20k development funds). In this respect, a number of partners have provided the following commitments:

- Lanarkshire Enterprises Services Limited - will be the employing organisation for the project development manager and provide necessary back office support.
- Scottish Enterprise - have agreed to provide £30,000 p.a.
- South Lanarkshire College - have agreed to provide £20,000 p.a. and an office base within the college

4.7 It is therefore proposed that the Council provides £30,000 p.a. support for a 2 year period. In addition to this approaches will be made by the Taskforce to Zero Waste Scotland and Scottish Power Electricity Network to seek funding support as projects are developed.

4.8 In terms of next steps and timescales, the priority is to complete the recruitment process of the Project Development Manager to allow the successful candidate to take forward the management of delivering the Taskforce's priorities. It is anticipated the Programme Manager should be in place by the end of March 2019 with the recruitment process being taken forward by appropriate members of the Taskforce. In parallel to the recruitment of the manager, legal advice will be taken on the most suitable company structure to achieve the aims of the Taskforce. This exercise is being led and paid for by Lanarkshire Enterprise Services Limited. The completion of these two initial pieces of work will allow the manager to put in place a suitable structure to maximise the effectiveness of the programme delivery. The involvement of the Council in any legal agreements of this type will be subject to a future report to Committee as appropriate.

5. Employee Implications

5.1 As the Project Development Manager will not be employed by the Council there are no direct employee implications in relation to this proposal. Nonetheless, Personnel Services has provided advice on the appropriate grading/salary for the post based on the person specification and this is reflected in the proposed salary range.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Funding has been identified in the current year's budget for Community and Enterprise Resources which will allow a contribution to be made to the Taskforce for a 2 year period. Any funding requirements beyond this will require to be considered within the revenue budget.

7. Other Implications

7.1 The risks associated with the Council not supporting this proposal are that the Taskforce will be unlikely to meet their aims and objectives and the Economy of East Kilbride will be less able to meet the challenges ahead. Were this to happen there will be increased demand on a number of Council services from a range of sectors of the economy.

7.2. There are no issues in terms of sustainability contained within this report.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1 This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

8.2 Consultation has been undertaken with the Partners as appropriate.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

31 December 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References

- Executive Committee 4 December 2014

List of Background Papers

- None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Programme Manager – Key tasks and person specification

Key tasks

This post will be expected to lead and coordinate wider specialist resources and be the main person project managing initial projects including:-

- Development of a time-lined Action Plan – based on a Strategic Plan
- Development of full business cases for initial projects
- Project management of priority developments
- Identification and applications for project investment/funding
- Identification and co-ordination of additional in-kind partner supports
- Identification and development of potential additional projects consistent with the Taskforce vision and objectives
- Establishment and secretariat support to the new governance structures
- Development of full performance framework
- Extensive engagement and promotion with stakeholders – including key local public sector agencies, Scottish and UK Governments, private sector companies, the local community, elected representatives etc
- Design and delivery of the initial promotional strategy

Person Specification

The key competencies and skills required for the Project Manager include:-

- A strong track record of 'end to end' leadership and management of infrastructure/capital projects
- Experience of successfully accessing funding/investment for capital projects
- Experience of partnership working in the public and private sectors
- Stakeholder engagement skills – working at various levels across the public and private sectors
- Knowledge of the low carbon sector and relevant policies and strategies
- A good understanding of the Scottish Economic Development landscape and local and national policy and strategic priorities
- Relevant degree level qualification or equivalent experience
- Strong communication and negotiating skills.