

# Report

Report to:	<b>Finance and Corporate Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>15 November 2017</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Mobile Men's Shed Project</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the mobile Men's Shed project
- ◆ request that a post of a 0.5 full time equivalent (FTE) Mobile Men's Shed Project Worker be added to the establishment for a fixed term of 3 years

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the post of a 0.5 full time equivalent (FTE) development worker be added to the establishment for a fixed term of 3 years.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. Seniors Together is a South Lanarkshire Council project which provides a collective voice for older people on issues which affect their lives. It enables older people to have an active retirement by facilitating the development of activities and opportunities to maintain and improve mental health and wellbeing in later life.
- 3.2. Seniors Together has been instrumental in supporting older men to develop static Men's Sheds in South Lanarkshire. Feedback from those taking part has identified that a mobile Shed, with the support of a development worker, would help to engage isolated older men in activities at locations where there is no Men's Shed and provide support to facilitate older men to set up sheds in their own communities.
- 3.3. The Men's Shed programme started in Australia and has been very successful in engaging older men in sharing and learning new skills while also meeting new friends.

## 4. Mobile Men's Shed

- 4.1. Seniors Together has recently been awarded funding by the Big Lottery Fund to set up and deliver a mobile Men's Shed which will promote the idea of Men's Sheds throughout the South Lanarkshire area, while also providing older isolated men with the opportunity to meet with their peers and engage in activities such as wood working, hobby crafts and computing. The Council has been awarded £117,000 to deliver the project over three years and some of the costs will cover the recruitment of a part-time development worker while £25,000 of the funding will be used to convert a former mobile library to a mobile Men's Shed.

- 4.2. The mobile Shed will be based for approximately eight weeks at a time in the grounds of leisure and community facilities so that those taking part in Shed activities can also engage with wider programmes which are available in these centres. It is anticipated that those men attending the mobile Shed may have been so isolated that they will not be aware of the wide ranging opportunities available locally. Some may even need support to attend. Older volunteers will be associated with the project and will provide support to more vulnerable older men. These volunteers initially will come from the current static Sheds.
- 4.3. A vehicle which was previously used as a mobile library has been identified for this purpose and will undergo a refurbishment by the Council's Fleet Services before it will be available. A total capital budget of £25,000 is being provided by the Big Lottery Fund for this work with a further £800 for some cosmetic work to the outside of the vehicle. The project is required to begin before 29 December 2017.
- 4.4. The funding provided by the Big Lottery Fund will be for three years and, through the support provided by the development officer, it is anticipated that local men will be involved in setting up at least two static Sheds as a result of the project. Those men who have engaged in the mobile Shed will become part of the South Lanarkshire Men's Shed Network. The Network will provide ongoing support and assistance in securing further funding and development opportunities to ensure the long term sustainability of existing Sheds and Sheds under development as well as supporting the continued growth of Sheds in South Lanarkshire localities.

## **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. The mobile Men's Shed funding includes provision to employ a part-time development worker for a fixed term of 3 years. The following table provides details of the addition to the establishment:-

Post	Current Number of Posts (FTE)	Proposed Number of Posts (FTE)	Grade	SCP Range	Hourly Rate	Annual Salary	Gross Cost (inc on costs)
Mobile Men's Shed Project Worker (Temporary)	0	0.5	Grade 3 Level 2	55-65	£14.60	£13,322	£17,358
					- £16.94	- £15,456	- £20,166

- 5.2. This post has been graded using the Job Evaluation scheme.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no additional financial implications for the Council as funding will be provided by the Big Lottery Fund amounting to £117,000 over a three year period.

## **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. There are no implications for sustainability or risk in terms of the information contained within this report.

## **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no equality impact assessment is required, however, the project is about ensuring equality of opportunity for older people and in some communities it has an intergenerational element.
- 8.2. Consultation has taken place with older men using surveys, focus groups and the current Men's Sheds in operation in South Lanarkshire. The South Lanarkshire Men's Shed Network and the Scottish Men's Sheds Association have also been involved in the overall consultation for this project.

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

3 November 2017

### **Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives**

- ◆ Value: Accountable, effective and efficient
- ◆ Objective: Improve services for older people

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Equal Opportunities Forum – 20 September 2017

### **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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