

## **ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL**

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COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2012
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	MUSIC (Mitigation in Urban Areas: Solutions for Innovative Cities) Project Update
REPORT NUMBER	EPI/12/219

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### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with a progress update on the MUSIC (Mitigation in Urban Areas: Solutions for Innovative Cities) Project and to solicit the active support of members in the Project.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Notes the positive progress of the MUSIC project to date;
2. Approves the attendance of a Councillor to represent the Council at the MUSIC Partnership meeting and Midterm Conference in Ghent, 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012;
3. Approve the selected Councillor to continue to participate as a 'Frontrunner' for the duration of the project (to April 2014); and
4. Instruct officers to report back to this Committee with progress on the MUSIC Project twice annually, following the reporting schedule set by the EU fund.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The MUSIC Project is part funded through the North West Europe Interreg IVB programme European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The project's 'Lead Beneficiary' (Lead Partner) is the City of Rotterdam (NL) and ACC is a 'Beneficiary' (Partner), alongside the cities of Ludwigsburg (Germany), Montreuil (France) and Ghent (Belgium). In addition, ACC is supported within the project by DRIFT (Dutch Research Institute for Transitions) and the Henri Tudor Institute, Luxembourg.

Responsibility for co-ordinating ACC's MUSIC Project finances lies with the Partnerships, Projects and Funding Team. ACC's Corporate Accounting Manager is authorised and designated by the European Commission to act as ACC's 'First Level Controller' – ACC's accountability rests with that officer.

**MUSIC Project – Budget** (Cost Centre: C27124)

Aberdeen's total budget: €645,151 (£516,120 – exchange rate dependent)

The Aberdeen element of the MUSIC Project consists of a 50% contribution from ERDF, with a 50% matching contribution from ACC. The ACC match funding has been agreed from within existing budgets, the majority of which consists of officer time allocated to manage and deliver the project.

**Finance update** (to date of last ERDF claim – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012):

Project spend to date: €163,667 (approx. £138,618 - exchange rate variable)

ERDF claimed to date: €81,834 (approx. £69,309 - exchange rate variable)

50% of the Project's overall final spend will be reclaimed from the ERDF.

#### **Partner meeting and Mid term Conference costs**

As Beneficiary, ACC is committed to the MUSIC partner meeting and midterm conference taking place in Ghent in late November 2012. Costs associated with this, including officer and Elected Member attendance, will be covered by the existing project budget.

Travel and accommodation arrangements are yet to be put in place for these events. They will include return flights and accommodation for 4 persons for 3 nights, estimated as: £3,500.

#### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

ACC will continue to benefit from the MUSIC Project through improved city wide engagement on the subject of Sustainability. ACC are being assisted in this 'Transition Management' process by a member of the DRIFT partnership, to trial a methodology which is increasingly recognised as a means of developing citywide low carbon strategies. In Sept 2012, EP&I Committee agreed to use the transition management process to develop a Smarter City strategy and action plan for Aberdeen.

The Transition Management approach engages key stakeholders (Frontrunners) to assist with Aberdeen's transition towards a low carbon economy, thereby helping to meet ACC's '*Public Bodies Climate Change Duties*' under the *Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009* and reduce the risks to Aberdeen associated with future climate change.

Our Geographical Information Systems data is directly benefiting from increased investment, as well as working in collaboration with the Henri Tudor Institute, a disciplinary expert body based in Luxembourg. It is the project's aim to make GIS technology and applications more user-friendly and a tool for public consultation on city issues, i.e. addressing fuel poverty.

Furthermore, photo voltaic (solar) panels have been installed on Loriston Primary School in Cove as a demonstration project to identify the benefits of making energy efficiency measures at the heart of a community. Installation of

these panels also help to reduce our energy use and our reliance on fossil fuels – thereby reducing annual energy costs and carbon emissions.

## **5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

### **5.1 MUSIC Project Background**

The MUSIC Project is a four year European project, running from April 2010 to June 2014.

The MUSIC-partnership is composed of five frontrunner-cities; Lead Partner Rotterdam, and Ghent, Ludwigsburg, Montreuil and Aberdeen, along with two renowned knowledge institutions, DRIFT on governance methodology and CRP Henri Tudor on Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

The aim of the MUSIC Project is to stimulate actions to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in urban areas by 50% by 2030 and thereby create solutions for innovative cities.

New techniques and measures to reach the EU-climate targets of 20% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in 2020 are increasingly available and implemented. However, to mainstream these techniques in urban policy and consider them as “business as usual”, techniques is not enough. A transition towards innovative thinking about urban planning is needed in which all stakeholders are involved.

Aberdeen’s contribution to the MUSIC Project is co-ordinated by a dedicated Project Manager based within the Environmental Policy team. The project is split into three distinct work packages, which are supported by officers with expertise in the relevant fields. Details of the Work Packages (WP) and supporting teams are outlined below:

### **5.2 WP1 – Transition Management**

#### **5.2.1 WP1 Outline**

The project’s principle objective is to mobilise stakeholders to take action towards CO<sub>2</sub> reduction through the development of a transnationally applicable Transition Management (TM) Strategy. TM is an innovative approach to changes in society, based on a multi-stakeholder learning process – searching for tangible small scale solutions to big problems. In MUSIC, these stakeholders will include local governments, hospitals, school boards, businesses, building owners and energy agencies.

Each partner in the MUSIC project is conducting a local consultation process using the TM methodology. This consists of hosting a series of ‘Arena’ meetings where the role of the project team is to facilitate discussions and observe TM is based on the assumption that transitions can never be completely controlled but can be steered - by influencing, adapting and monitoring – the frontrunner workshops will lead to a shared vision, action agenda and concrete actions on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

#### **Summary of the TM process**

1. Preparation & Exploration – form the TM team by identifying and approaching frontrunners
2. Problem structuring & Envisioning – the first arena meetings take place where the city's issues are considered and priorities for change identified. Develop a set of guiding principles and form a shared vision for the city's sustainable future
3. Backcasting, Pathways and Agenda Building – Identify the transitions that will need to be experienced via specific targeted actions
4. Experimenting and Implementing
5. Monitoring & Evaluation

ACC's MUSIC Project Manager delivers WP1, including Chairing the TM Arenas. Their work is actively supported by the Dutch Research Institute for Transitions (DRIFT), Rotterdam.

### **5.2.2 WP1 progress to date**

Five TM Arenas have been successfully completed with our Front Runners, including one introductory session, preparation and exploration of city sustainability issues and most recently, envisioning what kind of city our participants want to live in by their target year of 2030. The group have established a list of 'Guiding Principles'; themes that identify the main challenges that face the city, these are:

By 2030, we are living in a(n):

- Opportunity City
- Attractive City
- Learning City
- Energy Efficient & Resilient City
- Accessible City

### **5.2.3 WP1 next steps**

The next meetings of the group will consider 'Backcasting' – that is identifying the various stages of progress that will need to take place between now and 2030 before the sustainable future can be realised. This process is complimented by the building of 'Pathways' that identify who the responsibility for these tasks should lie with. This is then followed by a package of wider dissemination of the group's findings, a broad publicity campaign and expansion of the network.

## **5.3 WP2 – Geospatial Urban Energy and Support System**

### **5.3.1 WP2 Outline**

Integrating energy issues in urban planning will be progressed through the development of a Geospatial Urban Energy Information and Support System. This Geographical Information System (GIS) based demonstration platform will allow cities to form energy maps and create scenarios that will observe opportunities for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in urban planning. The system will facilitate transnational comparisons and strengthen joint strategies for the future of this technology.

ACC's MUSIC Project Manager co-ordinates delivery of WP2, with active support from our GIS Team and the Henri Tudor Public Research Centre, Luxembourg.

### **5.3.2 WP2 progress to date**

Working with the Henri Tudor Institute in Luxembourg, the GIS team has been using a system called iGuess to create energy maps of the project cities. In essence, these maps will show not only where energy projects are taking place, such as Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facilities, but it will identify the energy potential of the city based on solar exposures, thermal energy and wind power. This can be used as an engagement tool throughout the community to inform businesses and householders how to best harness the energy potential of their property.

### **5.3.3 WP2 next steps**

The three WPs of the project will start being combined in the upcoming TM Arenas. This will involve inviting the GIS coordinator to the arenas to demonstrate the technology and how it can be used to create visualisations of different scenarios and working with the school that has had PVs installed to undertake a similar process with their pupils about energy/sustainability issues.

In Aberdeen we aim to create a map showing spots of 'Energy Poverty' – where the housing stock is of insufficient quality and the heating demands outweigh the income of the household.

## **5.4 WP3 – Innovative Pilots**

### **5.4.1 WP3 Outline**

The MUSIC Project also allows for an innovative pilot test of the tools and strategies developed through the work explained above. In Aberdeen's case, this will consist of an energy efficiency measure being made (installation of photo-voltaic (PV) panels) at the centre of a local community (Loirston Primary) where stakeholder involvement can be witnessed and energy data gathered and stored on the GIS systems.

ACC's MUSIC Project Manager co-ordinates delivery of WP3, with active support from our Energy Management Team.

### **5.4.2 WP3 progress to date**

Loirston Primary School was identified as the community centre where the energy efficiency investment would be made. The site was selected on the basis of its solar exposure and building fabrication. The contracts for installation of the PVs was concluded in March 2012 and work got underway the following month. The PVs have now been installed.

### **5.4.3 WP3 next steps**

There will be an education package associated with the PV installation delivered through the school in order to engage with the pupils, their parents and the school itself – ACC will work with 'Our Generation' to deliver this.

## **5.5 MUSIC Project management**

### **5.5.1 Next steps**

Having submitted four progress reports to the North West Europe Programme's secretariat, the project has been commended for the activities conducted by the partnership.

The MUSIC Project is currently midterm and while much has been achieved, there remains a significant amount to deliver. Details of actions for the forthcoming period are outlined below:

Project meeting and Midterm Conference, Ghent, Belgium (details below);

Continue to recruit Front Runners to Transition Management process;

Coordinate publicity & promotion of project activities and findings;

2013 – Project meeting, Montreuil, France;

2013 – Monitoring and evaluating of MUSIC Project in Aberdeen

### **5.5.2 MUSIC Project meeting & Midterm Conference, Ghent, Belgium**

The event will take place over three days and will consist of the following:

#### *Days 1 & 2: 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November – Project partners meeting*

Project partners will present on the progress made within their projects and the plans they have for the ensuing six months. There will be focus groups to allow the GIS representatives to have technical discussions, whilst the remaining project members will consider common issues pertaining to the Transition Management process. There will also be time attributed to discussing project management and finance issues.

#### *Day 3: 21<sup>st</sup> November – Midterm Conference*

A free and open invite Conference where the cities will share their results, discuss their findings and consider the process that got them where they are today.

The Conference will focus on the following questions:

- How to create a common understanding of problems and potential for change?
- How to mobilise different types of actors in the city to work towards a sustainable future?
- How to get support from within your organisation for an innovative approach to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?
- How to use “hard” assessment tools to support “soft” participation processes?

## **6. IMPACT**

### **6.1 Corporate Impact:**

The MUSIC Project and associated recommendations in this report aim to assist with delivery of the following corporate commitments:

*Aberdeen City Council Vision Statement - Aberdeen: A Smarter City...*

- We will define the image of an international 21st century energy city, leading a new leaner, cleaner industrial revolution using the intensity of our social, business and community connections.
- At the centre of the vision lies the concept of 21st century sustainable living. This will require smarter connections both within Aberdeen and to the world beyond. We will take a European lead in adapting new transport and communication technologies to make this possible.

High-level priorities:

#### SMARTER GOVERNANCE (Participation)

- We will encourage and support citizens to participate in the development, design and decision making of services to promote civic pride, active citizenship and resilience.

#### SMARTER ENVIRONMENT (Natural Resources)

- We will design and construct all new infrastructure to be energy efficient by maximising the use of low carbon technology and materials. We will use recycled materials where appropriate.
- We will increase energy efficiency and introduce carbon reduction measures in our processes and our housing and non housing assets to reduce our carbon footprint, save money and to bring people out of fuel poverty.

#### SMARTER MOBILITY (Transport and ICT)

- We will provide and promote a sustainable transport system, including cycling, which reduces our carbon emissions.

#### *Community Plan & Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Local Outcomes:*

- The impact of council activities on the environment is minimised, including a target of being carbon neutral overall by 2020 and a commitment that all new council developments will be carbon neutral.
- Minimise the environmental impact of transport on our community and the wider world.

## **6.2 Public Impact:**

The MUSIC Project and the recommendations in this report relate to strategic research and discussions work at this stage, as opposed to implementing direct change. Therefore, an Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) has not been carried out at this stage. Any subsequent implementation work may be subject to an EHRIA, where appropriate.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Website: [www.themusicproject.eu/](http://www.themusicproject.eu/)

## **8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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