

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Finance and Resources
<b>DATE</b>	29 March 2023
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Heritage & Place Programme - Development Phase
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	COM/23/100
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Gale Beattie
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	David Dunne
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Sian Loftus
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1, 3.2, 3,4

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks delegated authority (subject to receiving grant offers) to accept grant offers from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and/or Historic Environment Scotland for the development phase of a Heritage & Place Programme.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Committee:-

- 2.1 Delegate authority to Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to accept development phase grant offers from Historic Environment Scotland and/or the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with Aberdeen City Council (ACC) match funding of £86,350 from CCMP budget;
- 2.2 Approve a Heritage & Place Programme development phase of up to 12-months, in line with Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund processes, as appropriate, including appointment of a fixed-term Development Officer post; and
- 2.3 Approve submission of second round Heritage & Place Programme grant applications to Historic Environment Scotland and/or the National Lottery Heritage Fund, for the 5-year delivery phase.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Following extensive public consultation and stakeholder engagement the City Council unanimously approved the 25yr City Centre Masterplan (CCMP) in 2015, setting out a long-term coordinated plan for the revitalisation of Aberdeen city centre. This document included the Union Street CARS (2017-2023).
- 3.2 The Union Street Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) is due to conclude in 2023. A total of £2,668,077 has been committed in building repair

and shopfront grants under the scheme, with final grant spend expected to be just over £2.8M. With owner contributions of just under £1M the total investment in the historic fabric of Union Street under the CARS will have been some £3.8M. Alongside this, there has been investment in traditional skills training, education and awareness.

- 3.3 Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has launched a replacement funding programme for CARS, the Heritage & Place Programme (H&PP). HES encourage applicants to apply to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to part match-fund applications to their own H&PP. The application is a two-part process. A pass on the first-round application leads into the 12 month development phase, which concludes with a second-round (final) application. A successful second round application would lead into the delivery phase (five years).
- 3.4 As part of the masterplan review process “The Future of Aberdeen City Centre and the Beach” public engagement exercise (June-July 2021) the public were asked what they considered priorities for the city centre. From the 7,697 responses the number one concern was the condition of buildings on Union Street.
- 3.5 The proposed Heritage & Place Programme covers Union Street east (from Bridge Street) to Castlegate, including Justice Street and the pends to the immediate north of Castlegate. A map of the proposed area is given in Appendix 1. The proposed Heritage and Place scheme area also sits within the City Regional Economic Strategy priorities.
- 3.6 Following Union Street CARS Board approval on 13 June 2022 Expressions of Interest were submitted to both the HES Heritage & Place Programme and to the National Lottery Heritage Fund Grants for Heritage Program. The outcome of the Expressions of Interest were invitations to submit first round applications.
- 3.7 Following Union Street CARS Board approval on 14 September 2022, the CARS team submitted first round applications to HES and NLHF for a Heritage & Place Programme. Outcomes are expected in March 2023.
- 3.8 The overall proposed ACC Heritage & Place Programme scheme is estimated at £5,709,614. The development phase costs are estimated at £174,950, with 25% of this applied for from both HES and NLHF, per the proposed breakdown below:

ACC contribution	£86,350
HES grant	£43,175
NLHF grant	£43,175
Other Income (non-cash/volunteer time/FCR)	£2,250
<b>Total Development phase costs</b>	<b>£174,950</b>

- 3.9 Outcomes of the first-round applications are expected mid-March 2023.

- 3.10 The development phase includes a programme of pilot activities, which will help to inform the development of a Community Heritage Activities Plan. Pilot activities including workshops with schools and young people.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Should the first-round grant applications be successful the development phase would commence April 2023 and run for 11 months. This would enable second-round submissions at the end of February 2024.
- 4.2 The cost of the development phase would be met by ACC, NLHF and HES as set out above in section 3.8
- 4.3 The range of development phase activities and the programme can be reviewed in Appendix 3 to this report. Timetable will be subject to review prior to the development phase commencing. Minimal changes are expected.
- 4.4 The development phase would require input from ACC legal team, in reviewing conditions of development and delivery phase grant (which have at time of writing not been finalised/released by the funders) as well as other adhoc legal assistance.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 In accepting development phase grant ACC would only be committing to the development phase. As such, there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report, beyond an undertaking to deliver the activities identified in Appendix 3, against the budget outlined in Appendix 2.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 A Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) is not required.
- 6.2 A Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA) is not required as the proposed H&PP scheme area does not connect to any European sites.
- 6.3 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.
- 6.4 There are indirect implications, in so far as the development phase will develop the plans for a delivery phase, and that delivery phase would incorporate opportunities: to retrofit historic buildings to make them more resilient to climate change and more thermally efficient; advocate and support the use of local materials and traditional skills, informed by materials and skills audits; reduce carbon emissions through investing in the historic building stock; support active travel through the continued use of existing buildings in the city centre; as well as propose greenspace projects and activities to increase biodiversity.

## 7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H)  *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes/No</b>
<b>Compliance</b>	By not seeking funding for works to historic buildings on Union Street there will be a risk of potential Non-Compliance with Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997.	Applying for and hopefully delivering the H&PP the Council is fulfilling its obligation to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the City Centre Conservation Area	M	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Operational</b>	If this funding is not applied for staff will not be able to carry out their duties to manage the historic built environment to the highest possible standard.	By developing a programme of repair and restoration work, staff will be enabled to be proactive in managing our historic environment.	M	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Financial</b>	There is a risk that a potentially significant funding opportunity to regenerate a key element of the City Centre will be missed if a bid is not submitted.  If ACC completes the development phase and the second-round	Should development phase funding be offered, ensure it is accepted and a successful development phase is delivered, leading to final round grant applications.  The development phase budget shares the financial risk	H  M	<b>Yes</b>  <b>Yes</b>

	(final) grant applications for the delivery phase are not successful then the resources expended on the development phase will not have realised a direct return.	between ACC and the funders. Development phase plan proposes a robust delivery model of experienced staff and specialist consultants, to ensure strong second-round grant applications.		
<b>Reputational</b>	If the Council does not apply for Heritage and Place Programme funding from Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund then it could be seen to be failing to care for and value Aberdeen's historic built environment	Make sure the development phase funding is accepted and final application is submitted.	M	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	The city centre historic built environment will suffer as the projects this funding will facilitate are unlikely to happen without grant aid and/or would not be to the high standard required for historic buildings	Make sure the development phase funding is accepted and final application is submitted.	M	<b>Yes</b>
	If this funding is not applied for then there is an increased chance that some buildings will fall	Make sure the development phase funding is accepted and final application is submitted.	M	<b>Yes</b>

	<p>into a state of disrepair and eventually be demolished. This would result in the loss of buildings that cannot be rebuilt to the same architectural standard and the embodied energy in these buildings would be lost.</p>		
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## 8. OUTCOMES

<u><a href="#">COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023</a></u>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<p><b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b></p> <p><u><a href="#">Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</a></u></p>	<p>The application for funding from the Heritage and Place Programme will contribute to a sensitive management of Aberdeen's the listed buildings and the wider historic built environment as historic buildings can increase the city centre footfall.</p>
<u><a href="#">Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</a></u>	
<p>Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>The report seeks approval for funding which will contribute to implementation of a consistent approach in sensitive management of Aberdeen's historic built environment whilst taking into consideration Aberdeen's distinct sense of place which helps strengthen the identity of Aberdeen for economic investment (LOIP Stretch Outcome 3).</p>
<p>Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>Part of the development and delivery phase funding being applied for through the Heritage and Place Programme will be used for public engagement as well as activities that promote Aberdeen's unique historic built environment. This inclusive approach of public engagement gives the opportunity for interested parties to learn and take ownership Aberdeen's history and built heritage (LOIP Stretch Outcome 8).</p>
<p>Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>The Heritage and Place Programme delivery phase funding will help conserve Aberdeen's historic built environment which will help ensure that historic buildings in the city centre are able to be used for many years to come. This will allow people to live in</p>

	the city centre and travel sustainably (e.g. bike, bus etc.). (LOIP Stretch Outcome 14)
<b>Regional and City Strategies</b>	The Heritage and Place Programme delivery phase funding will help conserve Aberdeen's historic built environment which supports policy D4- Historic Environment of Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2017 and Policy D6- Historic Environment of Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2020 in protecting, preserving and enhancing the historic environment in line with national and local policies.

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Other</b>	Not required

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 N/A

## 11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Heritage & Place Programme proposed boundary map

Appendix 2 Development phase cost breakdown

Appendix 3 Development phase activities and programme

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Name</b>	Sian Loftus
<b>Title</b>	Project Officer (Union Street CARS)
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:SiLoftus@aberdeencity.gov.uk">SiLoftus@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>
<b>Tel</b>	01224 523958