

**ROTHESAY TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE SCHEME – MARCH 2024 FINAL UPDATE**

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of the Rothesay Townscape Heritage (TH) scheme as the programme nears completion.
- 1.2. The 5 year programme, which started in September 2017, was due to complete in September 2022.

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**2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1. The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of the Rothesay Townscape Heritage (TH) scheme as the programme nears.
- 2.2. The 5 year programme which started in September 2017 was due to complete in September 2022. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent impact on the construction industry, completion was extended until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to allow for all of the regeneration projects to complete as planned. Further contractor and weather related delays now mean the programme will have a final completion date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to allow for all of these transformational projects to be completed as planned.
- 2.3. The Rothesay Townscape b4 84210 March 2024





the Harbour and Promenade area were developed to detailed design stage and which include potential for enhanced walking and cycling routes. This report has been shared with colleagues in Sustainable Transport who have now been able to secure external funding and have commissioned a contractor to develop options for improving walking/cycling facilities linking Rothesay Pavilion, Ferry Terminal and Albert Pier along the A844 Argyle Street / Victoria Street. Part of this will involve community consultation on the potential improvements.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. **Policy** - The Outcome Improvement Plan, Local Development Plan, Economic Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan support town centre regeneration and a diverse and thriving economy.
- 6.2. **Financial** - Argyll and Bute Council funding of £200,000 is committed. In addition, Rothesay TH is also made up of the following which do not include the owners contributions:

National Lottery Heritage Fund	£1,888,500
Historic Environment Scotland	£500,000
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	£70,249
LEADER	£65,800
Smarter Choices Smarter Places	£21,500

- 6.3. **Legal** - Grant contracts were provided to third parties.
- 6.4. **HR** - A dedicated project officer has been recruited for the duration of the project. Staff salaries are included within the project budget.
- 6.5. **Fairer Scotland Duty:**
- 6.5.1 *Fairer Scotland Duty* None.
- 6.5.2 *Equalities* None.
- 6.5.3 *Socio-economic Duty* None.
- 6.5.4 *Islands* This project benefits the town of Rothesay.
- 6.6. **Climate Change** - No direct implications. The importance of this subject is communicated to contractors to ensure that where possible climate adaption and mitigation is considered to help create a thriving, sustainable local economy and a healthier, happier place fostering lower carbon lifestyles.
- 6.7. **Risk** - That grant schemes are undersubscribed or that projects run over time or budget. These risks will be carefully monitored and mitigation measures introduced on a case by case basis. The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic also presents a risk to meeting project timelines and as such related Government guidance will continually be reviewed.
- 6.8. **Customer Service** - The council is responsible for administering Rothesay Townscape Heritage grants on behalf of National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland and for ensuring due diligence in the performance of its duties.

6.9. **The Rights of the Child** None arising directly from this report.

**Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth**

**Fergus Murray, Head of Development and Economic Growth**

**Councillor Liz McCabe, Policy Lead for Islands and Business Development**

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