

Glasgow and Clyde Valley Cabinet

Report by Councillor Mark Macmillan, Leader of Renfrewshire Council

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Paisley's bid for UK City of Culture 2021

Purpose of Report:

To advise Leaders of Paisley's intention to bid for UK City of Culture 2021 and to seek full support of the Cabinet for the bid.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

1. Note the contents of the report;
2. Back Paisley's bid to become UK City of Culture 2021; and
3. Note that a further report will be brought back to Cabinet regarding the bid once the details and requirements of the submission are further developed.

1. Background.

- 1.1 Renfrewshire is embarking on its most ambitious regeneration programme for generations and the City Deal programme is a major element of that programme. Of equal importance at a local level is the regeneration of Paisley, the success of which is vital to the economic and social performance of all of Renfrewshire.
- 1.2 The Council approved the Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy in January 2014, which sets out a strategy for the town that seeks to exploit its wealth of heritage and cultural assets as a basis for regeneration. Developing a bid for Paisley to become the UK City of Culture 2021 is a key element of this strategy and the Council approved the development of this bid at its meeting on 25 June 2015.
- 1.3 It will be fully recognised by Clyde Valley Leaders that heritage driven regeneration strategies have transformed the economic performance of towns and cities throughout the UK. The Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy took account of the recent journey of towns like Derry-Londonderry, Dundee and Hull, all towns which faced similar challenges to Paisley, and which used the UK City of Culture programme as a positive lever for change. Culture also formed the basis for Glasgow's own early regeneration successes some 20-25 years ago, which the whole Clyde Valley has benefited from.
- 1.4 The Council intend that the UK City of Culture programme will act as a significant catalyst for cultural and economic regeneration and is drawing together a wide range of community, cultural, creative and business partners to develop a compelling case and vision for Paisley UK City of Culture 2021, for submission in the Spring of 2017.
- 1.5 The competition to be the UK City of Culture 2021 will be strong and it is vital that Paisley takes advantage of all assets available to it to develop a winning bid. The very strong and mutually supportive relationships that have been developed between the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Cabinet members is a unique asset which we would wish to capitalise on.
- 1.6 The development of a winning Paisley UK City of Culture 2021 bid would benefit from expertise within our partner councils and the year-long cultural programme would create opportunities and benefits for all of our populations. This report is therefore seeking the early backing and support of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Cabinet for Paisley's bid to become UK City of Culture 2021. In addition, once the development of the bid is fully underway, it is intended to bring back a further report if there are any further opportunities identified for a wider Clyde Valley role in the submission.

2. Recommendations.

It is recommended that the Cabinet:-

1. Note the contents of the report;
2. Back Paisley's bid to become UK City of Culture 2021; and
3. Note that a further report will be brought back to Cabinet regarding the bid once the details and requirements of the submission are further developed.