

Greater Pollok Community Hub (Ward 3) – Funding contribution approved.

3 With reference to the minutes of 13th June 2019 (Print 2, page 164) approving funding of up to £275,000 from the Community Asset Fund to be allocated to the Westwood Business Centre for the North East, Partick Burgh Hall for the North West and Brockburn Road for the South Community Hubs, Councillor McLean, City Convener for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Public Realm, presented a report regarding a proposed further financial contribution for the creation of the community hub in Greater Pollok (Ward 3), advising

- (1) that since obtaining funding from the Space for Growth Programme, the South West Arts and Music Project (SWAMP), an organisation which operated a Community Learning Hub, including a pantry had continued to grow and had ambitions to expand the services it provided in the area;
- (2) that as part of the expansion of its services SWAMP had embarked on another phase of capital investment in their building which included the construction of a community cafe and SWAMP had originally expected the project to be delivered within a budget of between £900,000 to £1,100,000 however, as a result of increased construction costs within the market due to issues associated with COVID-19, Brexit, construction materials cost volatility and skilled labour shortages, the works had now been assessed to cost £1.5m;
- (3) of the funding secured to date for the project, however when the anticipated out-turn costs had been compared against the funding secured, there was a funding gap of £572,000 and there was also an additional VAT liability of up to £300,000 and as a result, although the project was at an advanced stage of construction, it was in danger of not being completed;
- (4) that SWAMP had requested additional funding of up to £900,000 from the Council to close the current funding gap and provide an additional modest sum of money for contingency purposes; and
- (5) that it was proposed that funding of up to £900,000 be made available from the Community Hubs Fund to enable the project to be delivered as originally anticipated with a condition that any VAT recovery from the project would be refunded to the Council.

After consideration, the committee approved £900,000 of funding from the Community Hub Fund to SWAMP as a contribution towards the capital improvement works for the Greater Pollok community hub on Brockburn Road.