

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development**

**Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee: 3 June 2009**

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**Subject: Dalmuir Park Heritage Lottery Fund Regeneration Project**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the progress of the Council's Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application in relation to the Dalmuir Park Regeneration Project. This information was requested by Members at the Council Meeting held on 25 March 2009.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** In 2005 the Council was successful in receiving a grant award of £47,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to commence the Dalmuir Park Regeneration Project. The grant was primarily for the commissioning of specialist consultants to develop a Conservation Management Plan for Dalmuir Park.
- 2.2** As part of the development of the Conservation Management Plan works to the value of £1.135m were identified and it was agreed that an approach would be made to the Heritage Lottery for funding.
- 2.3** Verbal indications were that HLF would most likely only be in a position to consider funding any project to the value of approximately 40% of overall costs.
- 2.4** A report outlining the project costs and likely share to the Council was submitted to the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee in April 2007 and it was agreed that the sum of £635,000 would be committed in the 2008/09 Capital Programme.
- 2.5** In 2008 an application for £500,000 was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund however the Council was advised that it was unlikely that the application would be successful due to pressures of funding and the large number of grant applicants.
- 2.6** The HLF recommended that the Council's application be re-worked and submitted to a new funding stream called "Parks for People" which was more appropriate for this type of regeneration project and for which details would be available early in 2009.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** The Grounds Maintenance Section is currently preparing a stage one Heritage Lottery Fund Application for submission to the Parks for People funding stream by the deadline of 31 August 2009. The application is seeking £500,000 from HLF to supplement the Council funding of £635,000.
- 3.2** The project outline seeks to enhance and revitalise the park to encourage existing visitors to make better use of their park, attract new visitors and create a lasting catalyst for the regeneration socially and economically within the area.
- 3.3** In line with HLF funding requirements various forms of public consultation is being carried out to encourage community involvement in the development of the project. It is anticipated however that the proposed works will include: -
- Upgrading and standardising the different styles of fence and gates.
  - Renovation of duck pond.
  - Upgrading existing and providing additional, recreation facilities.
  - Restoration of Bandstand and Illuminations.
  - Repairs to the upper weir and sluice gates.
  - Flood prevention works to Duntocher burn.
  - Provision of soft and hard landscaping.
  - Development of a nature conservation strategy.
  - Interpretation and signage.
- 3.4** Assessment of funding applications is undertaken by Heritage Lottery in a four month period following application deadline therefore the Council should receive notification of the outcome of our submission early in 2010.
- 3.5** It is unlikely given the date that the Council will receive any decision of grant award that any of the £650k allocated to this project will be spent in 2009-2010.

It would be prudent to slip the £650k into 2010/11 plan as committed and await the outcome of the HLF decision.

### **4. Personnel Issues**

- 4.1** A ten-year Management and Maintenance plan has been developed in accordance with the terms of HLF grant conditions.
- 4.2** The Council will contribute to the Management and Maintenance plan in kind, via the provision of a dedicated maintenance team. This is essential to ensure the sustainability of the overall project.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** The total cost of the project is estimated at £1.135m. The project requires both Capital funding of £635,000 and HLF grant funding of £500,000 to proceed successfully.
- 5.2** The success in securing project-planning costs of £47,700 in 2005 does not guarantee that the Council will be successful in attracting the remaining £500,000 of Heritage Lottery Funding required to undertake the project. It is however indicative that HLF are supportive of the broad aims of the project and considered it worthy of pursuing further.
- 5.3** It is unlikely that even if the Council is successful in its grant application to HLF any of the £650k would be spent during 2009/10.

## **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1** There is a risk of dissatisfaction within the local community if the project does not go ahead should we not receive a positive response to our grant application, given the level of public consultations already carried out and funds invested in developing the stage one application.

## **7. Conclusions and Officers' Recommendations**

- 7.1** A 10 year Conservation Management Plan has been developed for Dalmuir Park via £47,700 funding provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 7.2** A Stage One application for funding of £500,000 is being prepared and will be submitted to the Parks for People funding strand of HLF prior to the deadline of 31 August 2009. If successful, this funding combined with the Council's contribution of £635,000 would enable the regeneration of Dalmuir Park to be undertaken.
- 7.3** Council will receive notification from HLF on the outcome of their funding application early in 2010.
- 7.4** The Committee is asked to agree to:
  - (i) note that no expenditure on this project will be incurred in 2009/10 and that future expenditure is likely to be required in 2010/11 subject to a successful HLF bid.

(ii) refer consideration of alternative use of the £635,000 identified in the capital plan to a future meeting of the Council.

**Elaine Melrose**  
**Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development**

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**Person to Contact:** Ronald M Dinnie - Head of Land and Environment,  
Garshake Road, Dumbarton, telephone: 01389 737601,  
e-mail: [ronald.dinnie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:ronald.dinnie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

Lynda McLaughlin - Manager of Commercial Operations,  
Elm Road, Dumbarton, telephone: 01389 772097, e-mail:  
[lynda.mclaughlin@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:lynda.mclaughlin@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

**Appendices:** None

**Background Papers:** None

**Ward Affected** All