

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services

Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee: 3 May 2006

Subject: Animating the Canal Projects 2006-2008

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of the proposed programme of Animating the Canal projects, and to seek approval to accept the most economically advantageous tenders received for all contracts with estimated values over £60,000.

2. Background

- 2.1** A report was submitted to the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee on 1 March 2006 by the Director of Development and Environmental Services informing of the preparation of the Animating the Canal Report and the granting of £1million funding from the Cities Growth Fund 2006-2008. After discussion, it was agreed to continue consideration of the matter to the next meeting of the Committee, pending the preparation of a further report giving details on the nature and scope of how this money could be spent.
- 2.2** The Animating the Canal partners have identified potential priority projects utilising the Cities Growth Fund finance, a contribution of £400,000 from Clydebank Rebuilt and other funding sources.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** In order to achieve optimum expenditure on the capital funded projects from these sources prior to 31 March 2008, it is critical to ensure that related contracts are awarded timeously. As these works would cover a number of individual sites within the town centre or on the canal, those parties tendering for the works would be required to submit an acceptable methodology and phasing for the works, to ensure the minimum possible disruption to pedestrians, businesses and car park users.
- 3.2** The projects which so far have been identified for development using, in part the CGF finance, and their approximate budgets are set out below. However, the Committee should note that the projects are at an early stage of development, and a number of them include a range of complex issues and all will require to comply with the terms of the CGF conditions of grant.

Clydebank Town Centre - £840,000

This includes public realm improvements, and facilities to increase the use of the canal.

Sylvania Way Bridge Canopy - £200,000

This would include the replacement of the bridge canopy, upgrading its design so it is more in keeping with the refurbished Clyde Shopping Centre and creates an iconic feature which readily identifies the heart of Clydebank town centre.

Towpath Improvements: Clydebank Town Centre to Whitecrook - £200,000

This would include resurfacing the towpath and other possible improvements such as additional footpath links from adjacent residential areas and a link to the Whitecrook Regeneration centre. These improvements would include infrastructure for moorings, access to boats and access to areas of public open space.

Community Involvement - £100,000

This could include education, recreation and consultation programmes, activities and events such as a schools programme, community events and creative installations. These could foster community involvement in the canal to ensure it is seen as a valuable asset and it achieves its potential to become an economic driver in West Dunbartonshire.

Access and Signage - £60,000

A study of all existing and potential access routes to and from the canal towpath for the provision of directional and interpretational signage will be carried out. This would enable the canal towpath to be used more by the community as an off-road route and link to the rejuvenated Clydebank town centre area.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1** Early site starts for these projects would ensure maximum investment in the project area prior to 31 March 2008, utilising the £1 million from the Cities Growth Fund, the £400,000 contribution from Clydebank Rebuilt, and other relevant funding sources.
- 4.2** It is likely that certain projects will be led by different partners. At this stage for the purposes of ensuring timely and optimum expenditure, delegated authority is sought to appoint contractors for the works outlined in 3.2 above.

5. Personnel Issues

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues.

6. Conclusions

6.1 The Animating the Canal Report identified a series of projects that will enhance and improve the appearance of the canal and increase its use. The project priorities listed in paragraph 3.2 outline the projects being developed which will contribute to the regeneration of the canal and Clydebank Town Centre.

7. Recommendations

7.1 The Committee is invited to:-

- (a) endorse the programme of projects detailed in paragraph 3.2 above;**
- (b) delegate authority to the Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services in consultation with the relevant Service Spokesperson and the Head of Legal and Administrative Services to appoint contractors for these works; and**
- (c) agree that a further report be submitted confirming the contracts awarded for these projects as detailed in paragraph 3.2 above.**

David McMillan

Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services

Date: 19 April 2006

Wards Affected : Wards 1-5 and 11.

Background Papers : Report to Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee of 1st March 2006 entitled, "Animating the Canal Project and City Growth fund 2006-08".
Animating the Canal Final Report September 2005 and Action Plan: City Design Co-operative on behalf of Clydebank Rebuilt, Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire, British Waterways Scotland and West Dunbartonshire Council; September 2005

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