

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services

Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee: 3 May 2006

Subject: Environmental Capital Budget 2006-2007

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform the Committee of the proposed programme of access and environmental projects in 2006/2007 and to seek authority for the allocation of funds to undertake the projects listed.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Committee will be aware that the Council has produced the West Dunbartonshire Access Strategy (2001) and the Vale of Leven Access Action Plan (2002). The Clydebank to Bowling Access Action Plan was produced in 2004 and a Participatory Appraisal to inform Core Path Planning Priorities will soon be completed for the Dumbarton area. Work has also commenced on preparing a Nature Conservation Strategy for West Dunbartonshire.
- 2.2** In accordance with developing and implementing these strategies, a programme of capital projects is proposed. These works will ensure maximum benefit for the community, and it is expected that additional funding will be forthcoming from the Council's partners. A capital allocation of £100,000 has been agreed for environmental projects throughout West Dunbartonshire in the current financial year.
- 2.3** Additional funding is being sought from external sources particularly Scottish Natural Heritage, who currently support the work of the Council with regards to access, the West Dunbartonshire Ranger Service and West Dunbartonshire Greenspace.

3. Main Issues

3.1 Access & Environmental Improvements - £40,000

Projects, including those identified by the Vale of Leven and Clydebank to Bowling Access Action Plans and the Dumbarton Participatory Appraisal, will be developed and implemented maximising matched funding opportunities. The Council also has a statutory responsibility to prepare a Core Path Plan, and this will be taken forward this year. Environmental improvements enhance the appearance of West Dunbartonshire, and it is intended to continue with such projects together with a number of the Council's key partners.

3.2 Enviro Squad - £20,000

The Enviro Squad is a valuable training resource for local people and contributes to the enhancement of the environment of West Dunbartonshire through focused environmental improvement projects.

3.3 Greenspace & Environmental Education - £30,000

The West Dunbartonshire Greenspace Project continues to be successful in developing and implementing environmental improvement projects throughout West Dunbartonshire. It is proposed to continue to support the valuable work carried out by the project.

3.4 Woodland Management - £10,000

The Council's award winning Pappert Well Community Woodland continues to be developed and managed to provide an important resource for West Dunbartonshire. Management operations are also proposed for Auchentoshan Woodland and funding from the Forestry Commission for Woodland in and Around Towns is also being pursued.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1** Provision has been made for these projects within the approved General Services capital programme 2006/2007.

5. Personnel Issues

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1** The proposed programme of access and environmental improvements sets out the project priorities that will ensure maximum benefit for the community. It is also intended that external sources of funding will be secured further assisting this process of improvement and enhancement.

7. Recommendation

7.1 The Committee is invited to agree the proposed programme of capital projects through the following allocations:-

- **£40,000 for Access & Environmental Improvements;**
- **£20,000 for the Enviro Squad;**
- **£30,000 for Greenspace and Environmental Education; and**
- **£10,000 for Woodland Management.**

David McMillan

Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services

Date: 18 April 2006

Wards Affected : All

Background Papers: West Dunbartonshire Access Strategy
Vale of Leven Access Action Plan
Clydebank to Bowling Access Action Plan

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