

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Corporate Services Committee: 28 June 2006

Subject : Paddle Steamer Waverley – Request for Funding

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Members of correspondence received requesting funding on behalf of the paddle steamer Waverley.

2. Background

- 2.1** Correspondence has been received from Henderson and Company on behalf of the organisations which own and operate the P.S. Waverley (Appendix A). The letter states that due to rising costs, the directors are now appealing to local authorities within the area for financial support to help ensure the future of the P.S. Waverley and the economic benefits gained from the local presence of the ship continue.
- 2.2** The P.S. Waverley has a number of ports along the Clyde for embarking and disembarking. These are listed on the correspondence within Appendix A. There is no port within West Dunbartonshire, although the Waverley does sail past the local river banks between Glasgow and Helensburgh.
- 2.3** From further correspondence received (Appendix B), it would appear that Inverclyde Council is proposing to call a meeting of authorities on the Clyde to discuss potential support for the P.S. Waverley.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Recently, there have been a number of costs borne by the P.S. Waverley which have escalated far beyond the rates of inflation. Examples given on the correspondence are fuel, which appears to have almost doubled in less than a year and insurance, which has trebled over a 5 year period.
- 3.2** It is felt by the organisations involved that increasing fares to fund the increase in necessary spend will have detrimental effects on individual users.
- 3.3** A donation of up to £10,000 is being sought towards the running costs, with a further request of this funding being made available on an annual basis.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Any grant funding agreed would be funded from local grants and would reduce the available funds for other local organisations.

6. Conclusions

6.1 A funding request for up to £10,000 towards the running costs of P.S. Waverley has been received by the Council.

7. Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that Members consider the request for financial assistance in 2006/2007 and the request for funding to be made available annually. Given that the ship does not call at any port in West Dunbartonshire, Members may feel that this application is of lower priority than organisations directly operating in the Council area.

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Background Papers: No background papers.

Wards Affected: No wards affected