

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services)

Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee: 4 April 2007

Subject: Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Stage 1 Application for Dalmuir Park

1. Purpose

1.1 This report provides the Committee with an update on progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund Application for Dalmuir Park.

2.0 Background

2.1 Following the successful Stage 2 HLF grant award and subsequent implementation of the works to restore Balloch Castle Country Park, a decision was taken to submit an application to HLF for improvement works to Dalmuir Park.

2.2 In December 2005 Turner & Townsend Project Management (TTPM) was appointed by West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) to manage and co-ordinate a Planning Grant application to HLF.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The objectives of the proposed work are to restore the park's cultural and historic features, make a positive contribution to a socially and economically deprived area, attract new visitors to the park and demonstrate a commitment to sustainable development.

3.2 This would be achieved by:

- a) restoring some of the original features including improvement work to the weir and sluice gates which would be supplemented by the provision of signage to educate the public on the principles behind water flow control.
- b) restoration of the drinking fountain.
- c) reinstatement of the illuminations and bandstand area.
- d) soft landscaping, cross-park paths.
- e) improvements to make the railway underpass from the park to Dalmuir Square less intimidating to the public.
- f) new gates and fencing consistent in style with early 1900s.

3.3 The initial Planning Grant Application was successful and HLF awarded the Council the sum of £47,500 to develop a Conservation / Management Plan for the park.

- 3.4** A design team was appointed to carry out research and compile the detailed Conservation-Management Plan as required to meet HLF's Planning Grant criteria. The Conservation-Management Plan was submitted to HLF in April 2006 thus fulfilling the terms and conditions of the Planning Grant referred to in section 3.3 above.
- 3.5** Thereafter TTPM was appointed by West Dunbartonshire Council in May 2006 to manage the next stage of the process: this being the preparation of a Stage 1 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application which would form part of the formal HLF two-stage application process for funding to implement the works.
- 3.6** It is estimated that the proposed works will cost approximately £1,036,000 including professional fees and a number of agencies have been approached with a request that they consider providing a funding contribution to the project. These include:
- West Dunbartonshire Greenspace
 - Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
 - Network Rail
 - Scottish Water
 - Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire
 - Community Scotland
 - Community Regeneration Fund
 - West Dunbartonshire Environmental Trust

Although the agencies approached responded positively in support of the proposed works, none were able to commit financial resources to the project due to financial pressures within their respective organisations.

- 3.7** Historically HLF has been in a position to fund up to a maximum of 75% of project costs of successful applications with partnership funding required for the balance of 25%. Indeed, the Council's successful application in 2002 for the conservation and restoration of Balloch Castle Country Park attracted a grant award of 71% from HLF.
- 3.8** Subsequently, due to funding pressures, HLF has greatly reduced the percentage awarded to successful applicants and has advised that, whilst the maximum level of grant remains at 75%, only projects of exceptional heritage and prestigious value would attract anything near that level.
- 3.9** HLF has advised that they are increasingly receiving funding applications for 35% or 40% of the project costs and these projects will be competing with Dalmuir Park for funding. During recent discussions, HLF representatives advised that the Dalmuir Park project would certainly not attract more than 50% of the project costs and the likelihood is that the level would be 40% or less.

As a result of this, the Council requires to identify financial resources in the region of £620,000 before submitting the Stage 1 application form to HLF.

4 Personnel Issues

- 4.1** None

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1** It is estimated that the works referred to in section 3.2 of this report will cost in the region of £1,036,000 including professional fees. Assuming 40% as the maximum level of HLF funding, the project would require additional funding of 60% of the project costs; this being in the region of £621,600.
- 5.2** The Council requires to consider how it would fund this balance of project costs before progressing the submission of the Stage 1 application to HLF

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** Progressing with submission of a Stage1 application to HLF prior to ensuring adequate match-funding is in place would prove to be an abortive use of time for both the Council and HLF and could result in a loss of credibility for the Council with HLF.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1** Given that no external funding from any agencies other than HLF appears to be forthcoming, it is likely that the Council would require to fund the majority of the £621,600 balance. At this time this project has not been included in the General Services Capital Plan 2007/08.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.2** **The Committee is asked to agree to defer the Stage 1 application to HLF until such times as the Council is in a position to identify adequate funding to facilitate completion of the project.**

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Date: 2 March 2007

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: 4