

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

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

**Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee:
7 September 2011**

Subject: Dalmuir Park Heritage Lottery Fund Regeneration Project

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the progress of the Council's Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application in relation to the Dalmuir Park Regeneration project.

2. Background

2.1 West Dunbartonshire Council first applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund on 2 June 2005 seeking funding to develop a regeneration project for Dalmuir Park.

2.2 In December of 2005 the council was successful in receiving a development grant of £47,700. The grant was used to commission specialist consultants to develop a conservation management plan for Dalmuir Park.

2.3 A report outlining the project costs and likely funding required from the Council was submitted to the Community Safety and Environmental Services committee in April 2007. It was agreed that the sum of £635,000 would be committed to the project via the Capital Programme.

2.4 In August 2009 a Stage One-HLF application was submitted to the Parks for People funding stream. On 15 December 2009 the council was advised of the success of the Stage One application and granted £25,400 to develop the project to a Stage Two application.

2.5 A Stage Two application was developed and submitted in February 2011. The Council were advised of the success of their Stage Two application on 12 July 2011. The total project costs are £1,731,670, made up of £600,000 cash contribution from WDC, non-cash in kind contributions of £272,050 which is routine work carried out in the park and an HLF grant of £859,600.

3. Main Issues

3.1 In line with HLF funding requirements an extensive public consultation has been carried out over the last two years that has helped to form the basis of the overall project.

3.2 It is a legal requirement that the project will be delivered in line with the proposals set out in the Stage Two application. The project will be monitored against the following approved purposes which were the basis of the Stage Two application.

- To restore, conserve and enhance the heritage features of the park. This includes repairing the Edwardian fountain, rock garden and floral boat; restoring the character of the woodlands; developing planting; repairing weirs, piers and sluices at Duntocher burn and improving drainage; and conserving the park's rich social history.
- To improve physical access to the park by repairing and replacing existing boundary fences, gates and street furniture; resurfacing all main access routes throughout the park and improve signage; enhance security and provide better play and sport facilities.
- To enhance intellectual access to the park through the creation of interpretation panels to promote greater awareness of the heritage value of the park and enhance the overall visitor experience.
- To engage with volunteers, community representatives, Friends group and schools to become involved not only in the restoration work but to continue in the management of the park, community events and educational opportunities; and to increase employment and training.

3.3 The project Works and services will be procured in accordance with EU procurement regulations, with an anticipated start date of early January 2012.

4. People Implications

4.1 HLF funding of £212,000 has been secured to provide three year fixed term contracts for five new dedicated posts as follows:-

Community Engagement Ranger - to engage with the community and encourage a better overall use of the park.

Park Wardens (2 posts) - to improve security within the park.

Apprentice Gardeners (2 posts) - to learn new skills working on the restoration project.

This £212,000 is part of the £859,000 HLF Grant.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The total costs of the project are £1,731,670. The project requires £610,000 of funding from WDC.

5.2 It is anticipated that the £610,000 of capital funding will be spent over the 2011/12 and 2012/13 financial years.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There is a risk of reputational damage to the Council if funding is withdrawn from this project, given the level of public consultation already carried out and the level of funds invested in developing the project to this stage.

7. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 7.1** No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this project.

8. Strategic Assessment

Social and Economic Regeneration

- 8.1** The restoration of Dalmuir Park will contribute to the social regeneration of the wider Clydebank area and add to the sense of civic pride. In addition the funding supports 5 new posts including 2 apprentices providing valuable employment and training opportunities.

Financial Strategy

- 8.2** This project will provide over £1.7million worth of investment into Dalmuir Park against a capital investment of £600,000 from the Council, thus making best use of public funds.

Asset Management Strategy

- 8.3** The restoration of Dalmuir Park will contribute to meeting actions set out in the Councils open space asset management plan.

Fit for Purpose Services

- 8.4** The investment made in additional staff will lead to a significant improvement in service delivery within Dalmuir Park.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1** The committee is asked to note the content of this report.

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Date: 16 August 2011

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All