

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration**

#### **Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Development Committee: 17 September 2014**

---

**Subject: Levensgrove Park – Heritage Lottery Fund Regeneration Project**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the Council's stage one pass from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the regeneration of Levensgrove Park.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** The Committee is invited to:-

- (a) note the content of this report;
- (b) delegate authority to the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration to accept the terms and conditions of the grant offer from the Heritage Lottery Fund (**Appendix 1**) to develop a stage two application for the regeneration of Levensgrove Park.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1** As part of the Council's ten year capital planning process of 2012/13 the Greenspace Section secured £860k to secure match funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a regeneration project at Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton
- 3.2** The application process for the Parks for People Programme is in two stages – the first for a grant to develop the application and the second for a grant to deliver the project. The application for the development phase grant was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund on 28 February 2014. A pass was awarded at the end of June 2014. A development grant of £91,300 was awarded to enable the Council to progress the plans to a stage where they can be used to deliver the project.

#### **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** The timescale for the development and delivery stages of the project are:

- August 2014 – August 2015: Development of stage two application
- August 2015: Stage two application submitted
- December 2015: Notification of success of stage two application

- January 2016: Completion of design work and production of tender documents.
- June 2016 – September 2017 – Project delivery.

**4.2** The estimated total cost of the project is £3,750,000, with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant request of £2,600,000. The balance is made of match funding from WDC, Sportscotland and Historic Scotland.

**4.3** The proposed work to the park includes:

- Restoration of the park's heritage features - St Serf's Church, Shiers Well, Kilmahew Fountain and the Cenotaph.
- The re-creation of the original entrance to the park by reinstating the gate posts and installing replacement gates to the original design.
- Repairs to the existing pedestrian gates and replace missing gates.
- Repair and replace missing sections of the boundary wall.
- Replace the existing dilapidated pavilion with cafe facility and Park Ranger's office / workspace.
- Extend Social Work / Grounds Maintenance facility in the depot, including improved access, parking for disabled, new pedestrian access, disabled play area reduce height of hedge and replace security fence.
- Instigate traffic management measures including provision of improved vehicle access point to rear of park.
- Remove old play areas and install new play and sports facilities for all ages, including facilities for disabled visitors.
- Repair paths and associated drainage throughout park.
- Remove dilapidated buildings and fences throughout the park.
- Reduce impact of tarmac area at former bandstand by replacing with paths and soft landscaping.
- Install signage and interpretation panels to promote greater awareness of the heritage value of the park and enhance the visitor experience.
- Install new seats and picnic benches.
- Remove hedges to open up views to the River Leven.
- Implement findings of tree survey and recommendations (eg removal of inappropriate planting and the restoration of the original park design where appropriate).
- Restructure arboretum.
- Install CCTV round heritage features, new pavilion and Social Work / Grounds Maintenance Facility.
- Install lighting from new pavilion through park to main entrances to improve personal security.
- Employment of staff to work with the local community to develop and promote the park and heritage features.

## **5. People Implications**

**5.1** Officers from the Greenspace section will work with specialist consultants to develop the stage two application.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1** A budget of £800,000 has been committed to this project as part of the Council's agreed ten year capital plan (2012-2022). A forecast spend of £60k has been allocated to 2014/15, with £300k in 15/16 and £440k in 16/17. The total project cost is estimated to be £3,750,000. Match funding is being sought from Heritage Lottery Fund (£2,600,000), Sportscotland (£200,000) and Historic Scotland (£37,500). The balance of funding is made up of work in kind and volunteer time.
- 6.2** A re-phasing of the project will be considered and realigned spend for each year will be subject to future approval by Council.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1** There is a reputational risk to the Council if the funding contribution is withdrawn or the application is unsuccessful.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1** An equalities impact assessment has been prepared for this project and is attached.

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1** The Greenspace Community Engagement Team undertook a comprehensive survey of visitors to the park and the local community. This involved face to face interviews with visitors to the park, in the surrounding area and an on-line survey using a "survey Monkey" questionnaire. There were 381 responses giving a wide range of valuable information on the park and the public's perceptions and awareness of the heritage in the park. The responses were collated and helped to form the basis of our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

- 10.1** The regeneration of our Parks and open spaces is fundamental in promoting health and social wellbeing and tourism within West Dunbartonshire.

**Richard Cairns**

**Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration**

**Date: 26 August 2014**

---

### **Person to Contact**

Ian Bain - Greenspace Manager, Elm Road, Dumbarton,  
G82 2RH, telephone: 01389 608405, e-mail:  
[ian.bain@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:ian.bain@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

**Appendices:** **Appendix 1 – Standard Terms of Grant**

**Background Papers:** Equalities Impact Assessment

**Wards Affected:** All