

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Council: 27 February 2008

Subject: Architectural Lighting of Dumbarton Castle and Rock

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update of the work undertaken to identify an improved scheme of architectural lighting of Dumbarton Castle and Rock and to agree to the allocation of funds to commission a feasibility study to determine the most appropriate lighting design and costs associated with the project.

2. Background

- 2.1** At its meeting of 27 June 2007, the Council agreed that Dumbarton Castle and Rock should be lit to a standard befitting to its status and equal to the best in Scotland, which the Council will strive to meet by mid 2008. The Council noted that successful implementation of this project will depend on a sustainable income stream being identified to provide funding for ongoing maintenance and repair over the long term as well as initial capital costs.
- 2.2** Following a report to Council at its August 2007 meeting, Members agreed to note the formation of a working group to progress the renewal of the architectural lighting around Dumbarton Castle and Rock. The group consists of elected members, Council officers and selected external partners. The Council noted that a further report covering this matter, including financial implications, would be submitted to the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee for consideration.
- 2.3** A report to the 5 September 2007 meeting of the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee, entitled Dumbarton Town Centre Projects 2007 - 2008, reported on proposed allocations for key projects in Dumbarton town centre in 2007-2008. The report recommended a proposed allocation of £20,000 towards a feasibility study for the architectural lighting of Dumbarton Castle and Rock. The Committee agreed to continue the matter in order that consultation could be carried out. It was also agreed that a report providing further details, including a breakdown of costs involved, would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

3. Main Issues

3.1 Following the Committee decision, a number of community organisations were consulted to determine the level of public support for the project. The results of the consultation with the 18 groups consulted revealed;

- 13 were firmly in support of the proposals.
- The remaining 5 groups either questioned a certain element of the proposals or were opposed to the proposals.
- Of the 5, two supported the proposals but questioned if it was a priority;
- Two did not want general funds to be used;
- One felt that money should be used to prevent the closure of the Denny Theatre.

It is also evident that the external partners represented on the working group are supportive of the project

3.2 Glasgow City Council has a well developed City Lighting Strategy that has resulted in the lighting of a number of prominent buildings throughout the City. In order to benefit from the experience of the City Council a meeting was held between West Dunbartonshire Council officers and an officer of Glasgow City Council's Lighting Department. As a result, the following steps have been identified that would be required to progress the report:

- appropriate lighting designers to be identified;
- designers to be invited to discuss the project;
- seek approval for funding to progress to the next stage;
- appoint designer to undertake a feasibility study;
- report on the recommendations and funding of the feasibility study;
- use the indicative costs as a basis of attracting funding for the project;
- appoint lighting designer to progress design from feasibility study;
- involve Historic Scotland in the design of the scheme at this stage; and
- progress to a detailed design stage.

3.3 If this matter is to be progressed, a lighting designer will therefore require to be appointed to produce a feasibility study. In general terms the feasibility study would have to consider:

- the most appropriate lighting design for the Rock and Castle;
- implementation costs for the project;
- running costs associated with the scheme of lighting; and
- maintenance costs of the selected lighting.

3.4 It is anticipated that the feasibility study will form the basis of any future submission to fund the detailed design and implementation of the architectural lighting scheme. It should be noted that the feasibility study could identify the requirement for a significant level of funding that may not be achieved at this present time. Should this be the case, however, the feasibility study would remain a relevant document and could be used at a future date when funding was available to implement the scheme of floodlighting.

3.5 The likely budget required to undertake the feasibility study is expected to be £10,000. This is lower than the initial estimate of £20,000 and has been arrived at following discussions with lighting consultants.

3.6 Impact Assessments

No impact assessment has been required for this piece of work.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The costs for the feasibility study can be covered within the approved General Services Capital Programme, within the Rediscovering Dumbarton budget. The feasibility study will establish the estimated capital cost of the scheme. Advances in technology suggest that revenue running costs can be kept to a minimum but the feasibility study would also consider this issue.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There are no known risks.

7. Conclusions

7.1 In order to allow the project to proceed funds are required to be allocated to the project in order to commission a feasibility study. This would provide the Council and its partners with an indication of implementation, running and maintenance costs, and also the most appropriate lighting design for the Castle and Rock. The costs identified in the feasibility study could be used as a basis of funding submissions to progress towards implementing the architectural lighting.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Members are invited to:

- (a) note the progress with works to identify an improved scheme of floodlighting of Dumbarton Castle and Rock; and**
- (b) agree to the allocation of £10,000 from the Rediscovering Dumbarton General Services Capital Budget (2007/08) to allow a feasibility study to be undertaken.**

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Date: 11 February 2008

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Appendices: Nil

Background Papers: Motion forwarded by Councillor Calvert

Report to Council of August 2007 entitled Floodlighting of Dumbarton Castle and Rock

Report to Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee of 5 September 2007 entitled Dumbarton Town Centre Projects 2007 - 2008

Wards Affected: 3