

# **Report**

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Report to:	<b>Community Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>31 March 2009</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Transfer of Scottish Natural Heritage Revenue Grant to Local Government</b>
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## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ inform Committee of the funding settlement for the Council, as confirmed by Scottish Natural Heritage on 6 January 2009.

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the implications of the proposed reduction in revenue funding for the Countryside and Greenspace Service be noted.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1. As part of the wider Local Government Finance Settlement in Scotland, £3.7million is being transferred from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to direct local authority control. This money represents revenue grant support for Countryside Ranger Services, as well as the delivery of Greenspace and Biodiversity outcomes.
- 3.2. South Lanarkshire Council has maintained and developed an effective partnership with SNH since 1996 and this has resulted in relatively high levels of core grant support. In 2006, the Council and SNH developed a Local Framework Agreement, under which the SNH funding allocation, previously assessed on the basis of Ranger Service and other staff posts, was rolled up into a single annual payment linked to the delivery of agreed outcomes. This was the first agreement of its kind between SNH and a local authority.

## **4. Settlement Details**

4.1. The settlement detail, split between revenue and capital, for financial years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 is as follows:

	<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>
Revenue	130,340	148,910
Capital	17,086	19,521
<b>Total</b>	<b>147,426</b>	<b>168,431</b>

When compared to the level of income previously received from SNH, this represents a reduction in revenue funding of £73,600 for 2009/2010 and £55,090 for 2010/2011.

- 4.2. Contact has been made with Scottish Natural Heritage into ascertaining the detail and reason behind the reduced funding package.

## **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. In order to accommodate the reduced level of revenue funding it will be necessary to implement the following actions:-
- ◆ non filling of seasonal countryside rangers posts
  - ◆ non filling of job share vacancy of a main grade Countryside Ranger

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. As previously outlined, there will be a reduced level of revenue funding in support of the Council's Countryside and Greenspace Section (paragraph 4.1).

## **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. Examples of the type of impact to service delivery made by the reduction in revenue funding include:-
- ◆ reduced environmental education programme
  - ◆ reduced level of guided walks and tours

## **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. Consultation has taken place with the relevant Trade Unions.

**Norrie Anderson**  
**Executive Director (Community Resources)**

26 February 2009

## **Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values**

- ◆ Improve the Quality of the Physical Environment
- ◆ Increase Involvement in Lifelong Learning
- ◆ Improve Community Safety
- ◆ Improve Health and Physical Activity
- ◆ Improve the Lives of Vulnerable Children, Young People and Adults
- ◆ Increase Participation in Arts and Culture

## **Previous References**

None

## **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Letter from Scottish Natural Heritage, 6 January 2009

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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