

Report

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Report to:	Finance and Information Technology Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2011
Report by:	Chief Executive

Subject:	Lanark Common Good - Lanark Playpark Action Group
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise of a request by the Lanark Playpark Action Group for a contribution from the Lanark Common Good Fund towards a project at Lanark Loch.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a contribution of £30,000 is made to the Lanark Playpark Action Group subject to conditions laid out at Section 5.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Lanark Playpark Action Group (LPAG) has completed an initial phase of a project to improve the provision of children's play areas in Lanark. Phase 1 included the installation of a new play train at Lanark Loch.
- 3.2. Phase 2 of the project aims to provide a large main play area at Lanark Loch with age grouped specific play equipment and appropriate seating at picnic areas.
- 3.3. The Project complements the Council's vision for play provision in South Lanarkshire. The Council's Landscape Design Team have been assisting the Group in the design of the proposed play area and, currently, this phase is expected to cost £150,000 (excluding VAT).

4. Funding Sources

- 4.1. LPAG have advised that, as of July 2011, they have secured £50,000 from the Council's Renewable Energy Fund towards the project. This award is dependent on the final spend incurred by the project.
- 4.2. LPAG also advised of plans to apply to other funders to gain further funding. This includes applications to various commercial organisations with local interests, as well as targeting local supporters and undertaking local fundraising.
- 4.3. LPAG is asking for £30,000 from the Lanark Common Good fund as a contribution towards the second phase of their project.

5. Conditions of Award

- 5.1. It is important that any use of Common Good Funds meets the original intended aim and, therefore, it is important that, before committing any funds, assurance is given that the play facilities which will be delivered are of the scale and quality that has been proposed.
- 5.2. It is recommended that the request for funds from the Lanark Common Good Fund is agreed, however, the award is conditional on LPAG being able to demonstrate that funding for the full project has been secured. Any change to the scope of the project may require the funding to be reconsidered.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Lanark Common Good fund has a balance at the end of 2010/2011 of £145,000. There are expected commitments of £57,000 and a balance of £88,000 is left to meet our legal obligations as owners
- 7.2. A contribution of £30,000 for the play park will reduce this balance to £58,000

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There is the risk that LPAG will not be able to attract the level of funding required to complete the project, and the contribution by the Common Good would be used to fund a smaller project. This will be mitigated through the conditions placed on the award which will stipulate that LPAG demonstrates that full funding has been secured, and that the play facilities which will be delivered will be of the scale and quality currently proposed.
- 8.2. There is also a risk that the project will not be delivered despite full funding being achieved. This is mitigated as the Council's Landscape Design Team is assisting in the design and delivery of the project.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. A copy of this report has been sent to the Royal Burgh of Lanark Community Council.

Archibald Strang
Chief Executive

18 August 2011

Link(s) to Council Values/Improvement Themes/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, Effective and Efficient

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

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

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