

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE		Subject: EXTERNAL FUNDING BID TO THE REGENERATION CAPITAL GRANTS FUND FOR PROPOSED "SEVEN LOCHS" WETLAND PARK AT GARTCOSH, GLENBOIG AND DRUMPELLIER NORTH LANARKSHIRE.
From: HEAD OF PLANNING AND REGENERATION		
Date: 11 th JULY 2013	Ref: DPT/MF	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update members regarding an application to an external funding source to support creation of a "Seven Lochs" wetland park in the Gartcosh/Glenboig areas of North Lanarkshire and adjoining areas in east Glasgow.

2. Background

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Planning and Transportation Committee of 12 June 2013 supported a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to deliver objectives for a "Seven Lochs" wetland park across local authority boundaries between Glasgow and North Lanarkshire. The project involves Glasgow City Council, North Lanarkshire Council and a number of partner organisations including the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, (GCVGNP).
- 2.2 The Scottish Government have now invited grant application bids to a further external funding source, the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, (RCGF), a £25m annual fund to be made available from 2014/15. The RCGF focuses primarily on areas that suffer high levels of deprivation and disadvantage. Funding applications submitted should be for projects that will deliver large scale transformational change with strong regeneration outcomes, that can encourage additional investment and that demonstrate clear community involvement.
- 2.3 A report submitted to the Policy and Resources (Regeneration and Infrastructure) Services Sub Committee on 16 May 2013 advised of development work led by the Physical Regeneration and Funding Team to maximise opportunities of the new fund to North Lanarkshire. That report indicated a number of targeted project ideas and locations. A further report will be presented to a future meeting of the Regeneration Committee regarding which projects have been submitted on behalf of the Council for consideration as part of a two stage selection process.
- 2.4 The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority (GCVSDA), comprising the eight local authorities who prepare the strategic development plan for the Glasgow conurbation, have submitted a separate application to the Regeneration Capital Grants Fund in support of the Seven Lochs wetland park. This funding application has the objectives of
- Developing and creating new multi-functional green infrastructure within and around planned Community Growth Areas at Gartcosh and Glenboig.
 - Improving quality and connectivity of the area's green network including public access along the Monklands Canal corridor from Coatbridge town centre to Easterhouse town centre..

- Working between the Council, community groups and small businesses to develop / enhance visitor and community facilities associated with the Seven Lochs Wetland Park – creating new enterprise opportunities, training opportunities and jobs.
- Developing training programmes, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities targeting young unemployed people and providing opportunities to gain qualifications and enhance employability.
- Involving communities within and around the park in projects which enhance the local environment and support the development of community management / ownership of assets.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 At this time the funding bid by the GCVSDA has no financial implications for the Council. Match Funding is not required however projects are expected to consider any leverage that could be brought to the funding package and this will be considered by the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund application panel when assessing projects.

6. Corporate Considerations

- 6.1 The Seven Lochs wetland park strategy is noted to be in accordance with many of the key themes of the Corporate Plan.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That Committee support the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund application by the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority to deliver elements of the Seven Lochs Wetland Park.
- 7.2 That this report be forwarded to the Regeneration Committee for information purposes.

Shirley Linton

**SHIRLEY LINTON
HEAD OF PLANNING AND REGENERATION**

Local Government Access to Information Act: For further information please contact Mark Forrest, Senior Planning Officer, Development Plans Team on 01236 632624.