

ITEM No ...2.....
-------------------

**REPORT TO:** ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015

**REPORT ON:** DUNDEE LAW HERITAGE PROJECT

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

**REPORT NO:** 393-2015

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update committee on progress with the Dundee Law Heritage Project and to seek authority to progress with Phase 1 of the planned improvement works and actions.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- approve the proposed Phase 1 improvement works and instruct the Director of Environment to undertake these works;
- note the intention to create a part time, 2 year fixed term post of Community Participation officer; and
- note that a further report will be brought back on the Phase 2 works and funding.

## 3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services advises that the Capital costs for Phase 1 of £211,200 can be met as follows:-

Heritage Lottery Fund	£48,600
Community Regeneration Fund	£20,000
DCC Risk Management	£5,000
DCC Smarter Choices, Smarter Places	£3,000
Capital Plan 2016-2021 – Environmental Improvements Parks & Open Spaces	<u>£134,600</u>
	<u>£211,200</u>

3.2 The Revenue costs for Phase 1 of the project are £50,500 over the years 2015/2016 to 2017/2018. The Executive Director of Corporate Services advises that £11,600 will be met from the grant from the Heritage Lottery fund with the balance of £38,900 being met from the Environment Department's Revenue Budget in the relevant years.

3.3 Further external funding applications are in preparation in order to complete the Phase 2 works and will be brought back to committee for approval in due course.

## 4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Reference is made to Article IV of the Minute of the Meeting of the Environment Committee of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 (Report No 17-2013 refers) when the Director of Environment was remitted to bring forward detailed proposals, costs and to seek external funding in order to progress the works.

4.2 The proposed Dundee Law Heritage Project has been developed from the Dundee Law Master Plan. The project aims to make exploring the Law easier, more enjoyable and a more interactive experience. The physical infrastructure improvements include the reconstruction of

access steps, upgrading of footpaths and drainage, refurbishment of seating and bollards, installation of new interpretive and directional signage.

In addition, it is planned to undertake landscape and biodiversity improvements including creating wildflower meadows and other planting regimes. Woodland management including the removal of storm damaged trees, pruning adjacent to roads and footpaths and planting of native species trees at the former quarry will be carried out in the second phase when funding is secured

- 4.3 In addition to the physical signage improvements, it is proposed to develop proposals for a heritage-based digital interpretation initiative as a key element of the overall Dundee Law project. A dedicated web site will be created with compelling content that will appeal to people of all interests, abilities and ages, including local communities, visitors from within the Dundee city region and potential external visitors to the city. The web site will be designed to enhance visitors' experience of the greater Law area and will provide orientation and interpretation for the various heritage attractions at Dundee Law. It is intended that the new web site will contain essential practical and interpretive information in connection with the following aspects of Dundee Law:

- The creation of the Law together with its settlement and development over time
- The panoramic views from the Law summit
- Visible heritage, e.g. the War Memorial and the World War Two Pillbox
- Hidden heritage, e.g. the remains of the Iron Age hill fort and buried rail tunnel
- Landscape and wildlife, including biodiversity, habitats, etc.
- Practical information including directions (by foot, bike and car), event details, contacts, etc.

In addition to the essential web content, the feasibility of more ambitious digital interpretation content for implementation either as part of the first phase of the project (subject to funding) or as part of a subsequent phase of the digital interpretation initiative, will be explored.

- 4.5 It is intended to develop a programme of community based activities around the three themes of supporting heritage, supporting the community and supporting learning. In order to assist in the development of these programmes, funding has been secured for the employment of a part-time Community Participation Officer for twenty four months. This officer will lead on involving the community in a range of activities including biodiversity surveys, habitat improvements and provide linkages with schools etc. To ensure the longer term sustainability of this initiative, linkages with relevant council service areas will be developed along with the establishment of a formal Friends of Dundee Law Group.

- 4.6 The cost of the project is as follows:

<b>Project Phase 1</b>	<b>Costs</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	
Upgrading of footpaths and steps etc.	£128,200
Interpretive and directional signage	£29,000
Landscaping and biodiversity improvements	£15,500
Digital interpretation and educational package	£30,000
Professional fees	£8,500
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>£211,200</b>
<b>Revenue Expenditure</b>	
Community Engagement activity including officer costs	£50,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£261,700</b>
<b>Project Phase 2</b>	
Woodland management improvements and further community engagement work	£92,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>£92,100</b>
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>£353,800</b>

An offer of £128,200 has been received from the Environment Department's Construction Services Division to undertake the main physical infrastructure improvement works associated with Phase 1 excluding the interpretive and directional signage elements

- 4.7 A mixture of external and internal funding has been identified and funding for Phase 1 of the project is identified below. Heritage Lottery Funding towards Phase 2 has been secured and applications will be made to the Forestry Commission, Fields in Trust, and Community Regeneration Fund to complete the funding mix.

<b>Source of Funding</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Phase 1</b>	
Environment Department Capital, Parks & Open Space 2015-2018	£134,600
Environment Department Revenue Budget, 2015-2018	£38,900
Community Regeneration Fund	£20,000
Dundee City Council - Risk Management	£5,000
Dundee City Council - Smarter Choices, Smarter Places	£3,000
Heritage Lottery Fund – Phase 1	£60,200
<b>Total Funding Phase 1</b>	<b>£261,700</b>
<b>Phase 2</b>	
Heritage Lottery Fund – Phase 2 (confirmed)	£20,600
WIAT, FIT and CRF (subject to funding bids)	£71,500
<b>Total Funding Phase 2</b>	<b>£92,100</b>
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>£353,800</b>

- 4.8 Extensive community consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of the Dundee Law Masterplan as well as the development of the Dundee Law Heritage Project and funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 4.9 To recognise the improvements made and to ensure a good standard of maintenance in the future, an application for Green Flag accreditation will be undertaken. This benchmark is the UK standard for parks and green spaces.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services, Executive Director of City Development, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

**7.0 BACKGROUND REPORTS**

7.1 None

---

Ken Laing  
**Director of Environment**

---

Gary Robertson  
**Director of Environmental Management**

15 October 2015