

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 20 November 2006

REPORT ON: Camperdown Wildlife Centre - Otter Enclosure

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts

REPORT NO: 673-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval from the Committee to progress with the otter enclosure project and accept the quotes for specialist works.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that quotations outlined in Section 6.2 for specialist and minor works for the Otter Enclosures at Camperdown Wildlife Centre are agreed.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The total expenditure is £21,452 with £15,000 being gifted by Total Oil. The balance of £6,452 will be met from the Quality of Life funding allocated to the Leisure and Communities Department for 2006/07.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sustainability
This proposal will help to protect, enhance and manage the city's open space and woodland in a suitable manner to enhance environmental quality, promote leisure and access opportunity and encourage healthy living.

4.2 Strategic Environment Assessment
None required.

4.3 Anti-Poverty
None.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Every opportunity is taken to make Dundee a more family friendly and barrier free city.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 General

Reference is made to both the Leisure and Arts Services Committee of 19 January 2004 when development proposals for Camperdown Wildlife Centre were approved and to the same Committee of 23 August 2004 where Camperdown Country Park Development Plan was approved. In both these reports the Members agreed to proposals for the long term development of Camperdown Country Park and the Wildlife Centre.

In terms of progressing the Development Plans and the best use of resources, the

Department have been investigating alternative potential funding streams for improvements which will both sustain and improve existing facilities with the objective of maintaining and attracting visitor numbers.

6.2 Otter Enclosure

An approach that has been successful, is a partnership with Total Oil where they are proposing to award the Council £15,000 to upgrade the Otter Enclosure at Camperdown Wildlife Centre. In addition to this original £15,000 they have also indicated that there may be future contribution relating to the funding of CCTV for the observation of the Otters.

The partnership has emerged through Total's operation of the Otter Field, located off Shetland, and their aim is to engage with Partners with meaningful projects. The European Otters at Camperdown Wildlife Centre are a conservationally important and zoologically monitored species which are seldom seen in their existing enclosure due to their nocturnal habit and general human awareness. The new enclosure will have three mini high resolution cameras with infrared light emitters fitted into each of the otter houses, with viewing option controls in the observation house, offering the public the unique opportunity to enter into the world of otters without having a detrimental impact on the otters' environment. The enclosure will have two pools linked by a pump to circulate water. Excess soil will be landscaped and planted to mimic a natural environment. On the basis of the partnership award, quotations were invited for various aspects of the work and it is recommended that the following specialist suppliers are awarded the contract for the items details below:

Construction of 2 pools including pumping system etc RBS Muir. Jeanfield Cottage, Strathmartine, Dundee	£ 8,084.00
Supply and erect specialist electrical fencing and associated equipment J B Corrie & Co Ltd, Blairgowrie	£ 8,438.00
Supply Observation buildings Gillies & McKay Ltd, Errol, Perthshire	£ 1,573.00
Supply specialist CCTV System Guardian Integrated Security Solutions Ltd, Dundee	£ 1,357.00
Contingency for landscaping, interpretation panels etc	<u>£ 2,000.00</u>
	£21,452.00

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Leisure and Arts Services Committee of 19 January 2004 (Report No 51-2004) - Development Proposals for Camperdown Wildlife Centre and Leisure and Arts Services Committee of 23 August 2004 (Report No 295-2004) - Camperdown Country Park Development Plan.

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
6 November 2006

