

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL CABINET – 26 MARCH 2008

BARONY ‘A’ FRAME REGENERATION PROJECT

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to allocate previously approved East Ayrshire Council funding as a contribution to the interpretation and landscaping element of the Barony “A” Frame project rather than to professional fees.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Barony ‘A’ Frame Trust has successfully completed the first two phases of the regeneration project – the restoration of the category B listed structure, the last of its type in Britain, and the hard landscaping of the former derelict site at the base of the ‘A’ Frame. The Trust has also developed the first phase of the oral history project ‘Pitheid Patter’ as an educational and interpretive tool which records the rich mining heritage of the area.
- 2.2 The project is one with a very high profile, having been featured on both the BBC and STV News programmes and winning the ‘Peoples Millions’ lottery funding in November 2007. A very successful launch event for the restoration project was held on 21st January 2008 and a plaque was unveiled by HRH the Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay.
- 2.3 A complex funding package was secured by the Trust from a range of organisations, the major funders being Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland. The current phase of the project being developed involves implementation of interpretation material and further landscaping on the site.

3. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 The Trust has secured a funding package of over £1.3 million. Included in this is a contribution by the Council of £131,642 approved at Emergency Powers Committee on 21 December 2006 with £106,340 of this being retained by the Council in respect of professional fees

incurred by Technical Services, with the remaining £25,302 being remitted to the Trust.

3.2 As the project is nearing completion a review of the complex funding package has recently been carried out by the Trust. Two issues have arisen from that review:

- A funding shortfall has been identified with regard to the interpretation and landscaping phase of the project; and
- Professional fees are less than anticipated and are being funded from a number of sources. The Trust advises that contributions towards fees from other funders are a fixed element of respective funding awards and as such cannot be used to fund other project costs (e.g. interpretation and landscaping). . Therefore it is proposed that the utilisation of the retained £106,340 is revised.

3.3 It is proposed that the amount of £106,340 is now utilised partly as a contribution towards fees of £33,934 with the balance of £72,406 allocated to interpretation and landscaping costs. Fees have been incurred by the Council of £79,764; these costs will now be partly offset by funds from Historic Scotland and HLF of £45,830. In the records of the project, an equal amount of £45,830 attributable to the Council will be allocated to interpretation and landscaping costs. An amount of £26,576 is unexpended cash and should be remitted to the Trust. Refer to Table 1 below. .

3.4 It should be noted that fees incurred by the Council on behalf of the Trust have been confirmed as final fees by Technical Services.

Table 1:

Item	Amount
Originally Approved Contribution	£131,642
Amount remitted to Barony Trust	£ 25,302
Amount retained by Council for fees	£106,340
Fees Incurred by the Council	£79,764 *partially offset by HLF/HS
Balance Remaining	£26,576
Proposed Revision of use of £106,340	
Contribution to Fees by EAC	£33,934
Contribution to Interpretation and landscaping	£72,406

4. SUSTAINABILITY

- 4.1 The Barony 'A' Frame project demonstrates a satisfactory level of sustainability.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The recommendations are accommodated within the originally approved amount of £131,642. As such there are no additional cost implications to the Council.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This project is identified within the Improving the Environment Action Plan and the Regeneration Outcome Agreement of the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Cabinet is asked to:
- (i) approve the change of usage of the previously approved funds as set out in paragraph 3.3 and release up to a maximum amount of £26,576 to the Barony "A" Frame Trust for the interpretation and landscaping element of the project.

Elizabeth Morton

Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

12 March 2008 (SJ/SA)

FV-AN

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report to Emergency Powers Committee – 21 December 2006 "Barony "A" Frame Restoration Project "

Members wishing further information should contact Susan Jones, Senior Planning Officer (Projects) on 01563 576755 or Eilidh Mackay, Acting Financial Service Manager on 01563 576433