

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL CABINET – 26 MARCH 2008

CATRINE ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE PROJECT, HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND SUBMISSION

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek authority for the Head of Planning & Economic Development in partnership with the Catrine Community Trust to submit a funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Catrine Environmental Heritage Project with the full support of the Council. Also to approve in principle match funding for the Project in financial years 2009/10 – 2010/11, and to seek approval for development funding for the Stage 2 submission subject to a successful Stage 1 bid.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In March 2005 the Development Services Committee agreed to enter into the Catrine Environmental Heritage Partnership (CEHP) with the Catrine Community Trust (formerly the Catrine Voes Trust) for the purposes of progressing the Catrine Environmental Heritage Project (CEHPr) and to make grant submissions to implement the project. In addition an agency agreement was signed between the Council and the CEHP, permitting the Council to act as agent for the CEHP. Councillors Jim Roberts, Neil McGhee, and Eric Jackson are the Council's nominated representatives on the CEHP with Councillor Jim Roberts currently holding the position of Chair of the CEHP.
- 2.2 At the 21 June 2007 Council meeting it was agreed to appoint Austin-Smith:Lord to undertake the Catrine Environmental Heritage Project, Conservation Management Plan and submit a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant application at a cost of £150,000.

3. CATRINE ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE PROJECT HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND SUBMISSION

- 3.1 The Catrine Environmental Heritage Project aims to establish and implement a range of proposals to conserve, enhance and promote the historic and environmental importance of Catrine, whilst maximising the potential for related educational and recreational uses and enhancing local economic development opportunities. The major hard outputs for the project include the conservation of the Catrine Weir and Voes System (Scheduled Ancient Monument) to a structurally sound

condition that includes the improvement of the fish ladder and enables the conservation/restoration and re-use of the turbines and water system to develop a hydro electricity scheme. The hydro scheme would provide an income to ensure the continued management & maintenance of both the built and natural heritage surrounding the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

3.2 As a result of a successful bid for £217,000 from the Environmental Justice Fund the Catrine Trout Hatchery which was part of the original project is currently nearing completion on site.

3.3 The HLF bid will seek up to £1M towards some or all of the following proposals:-

- (i) the production of an education pack based on the natural & built history of Catrine linked to the school curriculum;
- (ii) access and interpretation proposals;
- (iii) the encapsulation of the Weir in Lime concrete;
- (iv) the upgrading of the fish pass in a natural form, including CCTV and fish counter;
- (v) the conservation/restoration of the 1950's turbines and the development of a community hydro electric scheme;
- (vi) repairs to the tunnel, lades and Voes; and
- (vii) stabilisation of the river bank above and below the Weir.

3.4 Those elements included in the final submission will be dependent on the costs of the above proposals. These costs are currently being finalised by the consultant quantity surveyors. It is clear from initial costings that the cost of completing all these proposals will run into several millions. The HLF submission will be finalised by the consultants in consultation with the CEHP.

3.5 This project will have the following benefits for Catrine and the surrounding area, it will:-

- Conserve the Catrine Water System (including the weir, voes, tunnel and lades), which is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM), and is a nationally important part of Scotland's Industrial Heritage within East Ayrshire.
- Restore and bring back into community use the 1950's hydro scheme, which will in turn provide net revenue income to enable future maintenance of the Catrine Water System (SAM).
- The upgraded fish pass, CCTV and fish counter to be installed will improve fish movements up stream, and provide additional educational information about the numbers of fish utilizing the fish pass. This will also provide a significant visitor attraction.

- The development of the Education Programme and material will engage schools on an Ayrshire wide basis (initially), and will involve the recruitment of an education and engagement officer
- The delivery of the Education Programme will involve 1,000 pupil visits to Catrine per annum
- It is estimated 8,500 tourists per annum will be attracted to Catrine from outside the locality providing significant economic benefits to the area.
- A Volunteer Programme will be developed, engaging local people in daily maintenance of the SAM, and the delivery of heritage events, building on the success of the annual Local Nature Reserve celebrations, and
- The development of effective interpretation of the SAM and Local Nature Reserve by the local community.

3.6 The opportunity will also be taken to develop links between this project and Dumfries House and the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment. The proximity of the River Ayr Way is also a particularly significant and useful opportunity in relation to the wider benefits of this project and this will feature in the HLF Bid.

3.7 As part of the Stage 1 bid to the HLF a brief and estimated cost for development of the Stage 2 bid will be required. To enable HLF to consider funding the development work, the Council will be required to show evidence that part of the funding has been agreed for Stage 2 development. It is considered that a commitment of up to £50,000 towards the development of the Stage 2 HLF bid will be required.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This multi-million pound project requires significant funding and to improve the chances of a successful bid for funding from the HLF it requires an in principle agreement of match funding from the Council. The project is programmed to start in financial year 2009/10 and to last for a minimum of 2 years. It is proposed that in principle match funding of up to £1M for the Catrine Environmental Heritage Project in financial years 2009/10 -2010/11 is agreed subject to the approval of the HLF funding bid, and subject to the availability of council resources.

The source of the £1m Council contribution has not been identified at this stage. It may be that it could be accommodated from Revenue Balances depending on the level of unavoidable liabilities which emerge. If this is not possible efficiencies across the Council may be required if the funding bid is successful and members are minded at that stage to afford the scheme the highest priority.

- 4.2 In addition up to £50,000 development funding for the Stage 2 submission will be required in 2008/09 subject to a successful Stage 1 bid. This will be provided from existing departmental budgets.

5. LEGAL/PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Constitution of the CEHP, and the Agency Agreement between the Council and the CEHP have been signed and registered and permit the Council to act on behalf of the CEHP.
- 5.2 Conditions attached to any offer of grant from the HLF will be considered by the Solicitor to the Council prior to any acceptance of an offer.
- 5.3 The HLF bid includes the requirement for a CEHP Project Officer to progress the project. On approval of a stage 1 pass this proposal would require to be developed for the stage 2 submission.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The implementation of the Catrine Environmental Heritage Project will contribute significantly to achieving targets contained in the "Improving the Environment" and "Improving Opportunities" Action Plans of the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Without the Council's approval and support of the HLF submission the potential to obtain funding from the HLF for this project would be jeopardised. This would undermine the ability of the Council to meet the targets identified in the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet :-
- (i) Fully supports the Catrine Environmental Heritage Project, HLF Submission;
 - (ii) Approve in principle match funding up to £1M for the Catrine Environmental Heritage Project in financial years 2009/10 - 2010/11 subject to the approval of HLF funding bid, and subject to the availability of resources at that time; and

- (iii) Approve up to £50,000 development funding for the development of the Stage 2 submission subject to the approval of the Stage 1 bid.

Elizabeth Morton

Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

18 March 2008

(CMcK/SA)

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 Report to Council – 21 June 2007 “Community, Heritage and Environment Projects Budgets 2006/07 – 2007/08.”
- 2 Report to Development Services Committee – 6 March 2007 “Community, Heritage and Environment Projects Overview 2006/07 – 2007/08.”
- 3 Report to Development Services Committee – 9 March 2005 “Catrine Environmental Heritage Project – Organisational Arrangements.”

Anyone wishing further information should contact Karl Doroszenko, Development Planning & Regeneration Manager, Tel: 01563 576751.

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