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| Report To: | Environment & Regeneration Committee | Date: | 26 August 2021 |
| Report By: | Interim Service Director, Environment & Economic Recovery | Report No: | R+P/21/08/06/SJ |
| Contact Officer: | Stuart Jamieson | Contact No: | 01475 712709 |
| Subject: | General Update | | |

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on a number of projects.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Since the Council has been directly responsible for the management of its own area of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park there has been regular engagement with the Ardgowan Estate and a number of matters require to be regularised
- 2.2 As part of the organisational recovery decisions by the Policy & Resources Committee, visibility of these funding allocations require to be presented to the Environment & Regeneration Committee for oversight and ongoing scrutiny.
- 2.3 In order to expedite the submission of the Community Renewal Fund it was necessary to use Emergency Powers to complete the submission to the UK Government.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee are asked to:

- 3.1 a) Delegate authority to the Interim Service Director – Environment and Economic Recovery, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and the Solicitor to the Council to conclude lease and management agreements with Ardgowan Estate for the Cornalees Visitor Centre, Shielhill Glen and Lunderston Bay
- 3.2 b) Note the allocation of funds within the organisational recovery initiative and that reports will be presented on a cyclical basis.
- 3.3 c) Agree to the allocation of the unallocated funds for digital marketing and
- 3.4 d) Note the use of emergency powers by the Chief Executive for the submission to the UK Governments Community Renewal Fund

Stuart Jamieson
Interim Service Director, Environment & Economic Recovery

4.0 BACKGROUND

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

- 4.1 Since taking on the management of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, regular engagement has taken place between Ardgowan Estate and the Inverclyde Council (IC).
- 4.2 A number of points need to be formalised between IC and the Estate.
- 4.3 A ground lease requires to be agreed in respect of the Cornalees Visitor Centre and its environs.
- 4.4 It is likely that this will be agreed over 25 years at a value of circ. £2k per annum, increasing annually by Retail Price Index (RPI).
- 4.5 A management agreement, requires to be entered into in respect of the Shielhill Glen. There are currently two leases in existence for Lunderston bay and it is intended to amalgamate these into one long-term lease at an approx. value of less than £2k per annum.

Organisational Recovery

- 4.6 As part of Councils organisation recovery programme, funding has been allocated for a number of special interventions. As the host committee, the Environment and Regeneration Committee will receive regular updates in respect of progress. The interventions identified are as follows:-

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|---------------|--|---|---|
| ER 1.1 | Furlough Extension | Provide support to the business community to extend the Furlough scheme where they have been unable to reopen. | Core (former West Scotland Loan Fund) (Capped at £175K) |
| ER 1.2 | Rent Relief Scheme | Create a rent relief scheme for business who are unable to meet their legal commitments to provide significant importance to the economy. | Recovery Funding £150k |
| ER 1.3 | Town Centre Promotion | Create three events in each location to promote Town Centre Activity in Kilmacolm, Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock for local traders. | Recovery Funding £200k |
| ER 1.4 | Digital Marketing | Provide support to local businesses to ensure that their Marketing Strategy online is fit for purpose. | Core + Recovery Funding - £150k |
| ER 1.5 | Impact of Brexit and Covid on Stock | To provide specialist support to local businesses to remove barriers to gaining access to stock affected both by Covid and Brexit | Recovery Funding - £50k |

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| | | including import and export advice. | |
| ER 1.6 | Extension to Discretionary Grant Scheme | To extend discretionary grant scheme support beyond existing Scottish Government intervention. | Recovery Funding - £500k |
| ER 1.7 | Business Support Schemes | To continue the delivery of the Scottish Government Business Support Schemes | Scottish Government Funding |
| ER 1.8 | Town Centre Parking | Extension of Pay and Display suspension in town centre car parks | Recovery Funding £349k |
| ER 2.1 | Investment in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park | Provide Investment to the existing facilities at Lunderston Bay, Cornalees and Path infrastructure to promote physical activity and healthy pastimes. | Recovery Funding - £250k (Naturescot £72k) |
| ER 2.2 | Investment in Council Parks Estate | Upgrade facilities at Kilmacolm, Coronation and King Street Parks to support outdoor activities | Recovery Funding-£200k |

Unallocated funding

- 4.7 As part of the Scottish Government's COVID-19 response within the Discretionary Grants Fund an allocation of £28,000 was made to Inverclyde Council, to date £822 has been disbursed. It is proposed to allocate the remaining £28,000 to the digital marketing campaign identified above.

Homologation of Emergency Powers Report

- 4.8 As part of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda, a notional allocation was made to Inverclyde Council for a series of projects. It was necessary to use emergency powers to submit the projects to the UK Government, report attached. The outcome of this bidding process was due to be advised at the end of July however this remains outstanding.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 5.1 Officers estimate the cost of a hearing before an independent Reporter at £5,000.

One off Costs

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Years | Proposed Spend this Report £000 | Virement From | Other Comments |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Various | Various | 21-23 | 1871 | | |

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | With Effect from | Annual Net Impact £000 | Virement From (If Applicable) | Other Comments |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| N/A | | | | | |

5.2 **Legal**

None.

5.3 **Human Resources**

None.

5.4 **Equalities**

Equalities

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

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| X |

YES

NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

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| X |

YES – A written statement showing how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.

NO

Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

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| X |

YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

NO

5.5 **Repopulation**

N/A

6.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 None.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.