

Report To: Environment and Regeneration Committee**Date:** 7 June 2012**Report By:** Corporate Director
Environment, Regeneration & Resources**Report No:** RC/12/03/02/SJ/JH**Contact Officer:** Head of Regeneration & Planning**Tel No:** 01475 712401**Subject** **Big Lottery Fund (Coastal Communities Fund & Heritage Lottery)**

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of the submission of the stage 1 application to the Big Lottery Fund and to seek approval for the submission of a stage 2 application, if stage 1 is successful, under the Coastal Communities and Heritage programmes.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Coastal Communities fund was launched in February 2012 across England and Wales and subsequently a package of funding was made available for Scotland. The fund is designed to support the development of UK coastal communities by promoting sustainable economic growth and jobs, so that people are better able to respond to the changing economic needs and opportunities of their area.
- 2.2 A total of £3.9 million is available in Scotland, of which £2.05 million has been allocated for the areas designated as "the rest of Scotland" eg sitting outside of the Highlands and Islands. It is anticipated that this will be a very competitive process for the coastal communities across both Scotland and the UK.
- 2.3 The Heritage Lottery Fund gives grants to sustain and transform our heritage, with grants available on a rolling programme. A bid to HLF is being prepared that will complement the Coastal Communities aims and objectives, targeting educational and community engagement aspects associated with Heritage Inverclyde.
- 2.4 Inverclyde Council has undertaken preparatory work with local partners and wish to be the lead and accountable body in an Inverclyde submission. Partners include Inverclyde Community Development Trust, Discover Inverclyde, James Watt College, Jobcentre Plus, Inverclyde Tourist Group, Inverclyde Ramblers, Riverside Inverclyde. Visit Scotland will support the preparation of the Inverclyde bid.
- 2.5 The closing date for stage 1 applications to the Big Lottery Fund was April 27th 2012. The Inverclyde bid to Coastal Communities was for the value of £353,000 and if successful at stage 1 a full business plan will require to be prepared for the final submission date in September 2012.
- 2.6 The submitted bid included capital spend targeted at the Heritage Inverclyde Project – incorporating interpretative media along the coastal route which will identify key heritage points and visitor attractions.
- 2.7 The submitted bid included revenue spend, primarily targeted at developing employment opportunities, training and volunteering. A total of 12 apprentice posts would be created over two years, developing a skilled workforce for future tourism initiatives.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 (a) Committee note the submission of the stage 1 application
(b) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources to prepare, if selected, a stage 2 application and if the stage 2 application is successful to accept the award of grant.

Stuart Jamieson
Head of Planning and Regeneration

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Inverclyde has a long and celebrated heritage, this is particularly true in relation to its industrial past but the natural and cultural heritage are important elements of the area's history.
- 4.2 Inverclyde is a key area with significant potential for attracting external funding to boost local heritage and increase tourism, specifically for day visitors to the area. The purpose of the bids is therefore to harness this tourism potential and thereby create employment opportunities as well as growth for local business.
- 4.3 The Heritage Inverclyde Project has been put together by local partners and Ross Associates were appointed in 2011 to develop all aspects of the Project (a copy of the project document will be available in the Members' lounge).
- 4.4 Whilst there has been some success in attracting lottery funding to Inverclyde, the team at the Big Lottery are keen to see additional bids from Inverclyde Council. Both the Coastal Communities and the Heritage Fund are appropriate sources of funding for this activity, it is hoped to put together a good bid and get through to phase 2 of the application process, where more significant details on finance and performance will be required.
- 4.5 The HLF Officer has also indicated that if the Coastal Communities bid is unsuccessful at stage 1, we could submit a full application for the full Project to HLF. This is the final year of Inverclyde being designated as a priority area for the funding.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications – NA

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Corporate Management Team of Inverclyde Council has been made aware of this application.
- 6.2 The Head of Regeneration and Planning Service has been consulted on this report.
- 6.3 The external funding group of Inverclyde Council has been made aware of this application.
- 6.4 Additional consultation has taken place with Legal Services, Environmental Services and Finance.