
| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Report To: | Environment & Regeneration Committee | Date: | 31 October 2013 |
| Report By: | Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources | Report No: | R297/13/AF/SJ/CC |
| Contact Officer: | Stuart W. Jamieson | Contact No: | 2464 |
| Subject: | Grow Wild Flagship Projects Programme | | |

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise of the use of powers delegated to the Chief Executive to accept an offer of external grant monies towards developing proposals for the Belville Street Community Garden in respect of the Grow Wild Programme being run by Kew Gardens and Greenspace Scotland.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 River Clyde Homes are working with the local community to develop a community garden on the site of the former Belville Street high flats. Support for this project has been provided by the Lower Clyde Greenspace Manager.
- 2.2 Kew Gardens, in partnership with Greenspace Scotland, are running a community planting programme called Grow Wild, which aims to inspire communities to do something positive for the areas where they live by sowing and growing native wild flower species. They are seeking flagship sites throughout Scotland, and Belville Street community garden is one such potential flagship site, having been to this date successful in a bidding process for flagship funding.
- 2.3 In order to allow Kew Gardens to thoroughly assess the viability of Belville Street Community Garden as a flagship site, Kew are offering a development grant of £4,000, which will be used to work up planting plans, method statements and establishment processes to ensure that any wild flower planting done on site is viable, permanent and contributes to the site transformation.
- 2.4 Due to the specialist nature of this work in terms of biodiversity and greenspace, River Clyde Homes have asked Inverclyde Council to oversee this particular grant and its implementation.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the use of powers delegated to the Chief Executive

Stuart W. Jamieson
Head of Regeneration and Planning

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As landowners, River Clyde Homes have, over the last 2 years, been developing plans for a community garden on the site of the former Belville Street Flats, and have carried out significant community consultation which supports this aim for the site. A variety of activities and consultation events have already taken place on the site.
- 4.2 Due to the nature of this project in relation to greenspace, green network and biodiversity, the project has been supported by the Lower Clyde Greenspace Manager.
- 4.3 Simultaneously with the development of plans for the community garden, Kew Gardens and Greenspace Scotland have been developing the Grow Wild Programme, and were looking for potential candidate sites to enter into a flagship programme. In detail, Grow Wild are looking for 4 candidate sites in Scotland to compete with each other for up to £100,000 funding, with the winning site being chosen by public vote following coverage in a suitable national television programme.
- 4.4 River Clyde Homes have already achieved significant funding for the Belville Community Garden, notably from the Big Lottery Funding. However, almost all of the capital element of this funding is going towards the site creation, with only a very modest sum being reserved for planting. Therefore, given the timing of the Grow Wild programme, it represented a significant opportunity to further improve the site for local residents.
- 4.5 An application to the Grow Wild Programme was therefore submitted, and has to date been successful in getting to the final 5 sites in Scotland. To help ensure that the proposals for the site are fully integrated with the aims of Grow Wild, Kew Gardens and Greenspace Scotland have offered a development grant to allow more detailed proposals to be presented to them. This will be achieved by engaging external consultants to allow us to meet a very quick turnaround time of only 4 weeks.
- 4.6 The proposal is for Inverclyde Council to accept this grant on behalf of the Belville Street project, due to its staff having the specialist knowledge to take the scheme forward.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The aims and objectives of this proposal will help the Council deliver the Environment Outcome of the Inverclyde Alliance Single Outcome Agreement 2013/17.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of accepting this grant funding. All funding will be from external sources, with the Council's input being officer time as part of an existing work programme.

The Council's input at this stage is simply to support the initial Development Plan, which as already outlined is fully funded by Grow Wild. Any future award of funding will be to River Clyde Homes, as landowners, hence there are no future financial implications to the Council from future funding awards. Additionally, the future maintenance of the site will not be the responsibility of the Council, but will fall to River Clyde Homes, as landowner.

- 6.2 Finance:

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Year | Proposed spend this report | Virement from | Other comments |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

6.3 Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/Savings:

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Year | Proposed spend this report | Virement from | Other comments |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

7.0 USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS

7.1 The external funders are operating to a compressed timescale that is incompatible with Inverclyde Council's Committee timetable. Emergency powers were therefore requested to allow the project to begin immediately.

7.2 The use of powers delegated to the Chief Executive to accept the offer of grant from Kew Gardens/Greenspace Scotland was authorised by the Chief Executive and Councillors McCormick, Clocherty and MacLeod.

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 Inverclyde Council's Procurement Manager and External Funding Officer have been consulted regarding the content of this report.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS: None