
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve
Committee**

**DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

21st August 2018

Duchess Wood WIAT Application Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on the status of the initial application to the Forestry Commission (FC), *Woods In and Around Town Urban Woodland Management Plan* fund.
- 1.2 An application was submitted to the FC on 31-May-2017 in request of retrospective funding towards the time and resources required to develop a management plan for the Local Nature Reserve. The application was approved on 6-July-2017 and further to contract agreement, the plan preparation grant of £1,299.75 has now been received.
- 1.3 This initial funding demonstrates the FC's support for the content of the management plan, and now allows for subsequent grant applications to be considered by the FC, based on existing management plan content and accompanying concept designs.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that members note the contents of this report.

Duchess Wood WIAT Application Update

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the award from the Forestry Commission (FC), relating to their *Woods In and Around Town Urban Woodland Management Plan* fund.
- 3.2 The application was approved on 6-July-2017 and further to contract agreement, the plan preparation grant of £1299.75 has now been received. This is a retrospective grant payment towards the time and resources required to produce the plan. This award signifies that the content of the management plan is supported by the FC and enables subsequent funding applications to be made.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that members note the contents of this report.

5.0 DETAIL

- 5.1 A first stage application was submitted to the Forestry Commission, 'Woods In and Around Town Urban Woodland Management' fund on 31-May-2017. The application requested a 100% grant for the development and production of a Woodland Management Plan.
- 5.2 An approval letter was issued by the Forestry Commission on 6-July-2017, and a grant contract subsequently issued on 2-Aug-2017.
- 5.3 The plan preparation grant of £1,299.75 has now been received. This is a retrospective grant payment towards the time and resources required to produce the plan.
- 5.4 The resulting Woodland Management Plan approved by the Forestry Commission will inform what works could be integrated to protect and enhance the woodland and will inform best practice. The Woodland Management Plan is expected to extend to a period of 10 years with a full review at the end of year 5.

The current Management Agreement is due to expire in 2020 and it therefore should be noted that the Woodland Management Plan outruns the current Management Agreement.

- 5.5 The approval of the Woodland Management Plan opens up further opportunity to apply for additional funds from wider Forestry Commission Woodland Improvement Grants, which would allow for the implementation of the Woodland Management Plan. The Forestry Commission's wider grant streams are understood to operate on a 100% funding basis and would not require any match.
- 5.6 Potential applications to the wider grant streams will be subject to discussions and agreement of the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee and as such full consideration should be given to prioritising work plans and agreeing next steps.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The application to the Forestry Commission, 'Woods In and Around Town Urban Woodland Management' fund was approved on 6-July-2017 and further to contract agreement, the plan preparation grant of £1,299.75 has now been received. The resulting Woodland Management Plan approved by the Forestry Commission will inform what works could be integrated to protect and enhance the woodland and will inform best practice.
- 6.2 Potential applications to the wider Forestry Commission grant streams will be subject to the agreement of the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Policy Duchess Wood is designated as a Local Nature Reserve in the Local Development Plan.
- 7.2 Financial The value of this grant is £1299.75. This represents a 100% grant with no requirement for match funding.
- 7.3 Legal None
- 7.4 HR None
- 7.5 Equalities/ Fairer Scotland Duty No equal opportunities implications.
- 7.6 Risk None at present.
- 7.7 Customer Service Working with local people.

Pippa Milne Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure

Policy Lead, Sustainable Economic Growth, Councillor Aileen Morton

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For further information contact: Mhairi Gardiner, Development Officer,
Transformation Projects & Regeneration Team Tel: 01436 658 817