

The Highland Council

City of Inverness Area Committee – 1 December 2016

Agenda Item	8
Report No	CIA/ 50/16

Ness Islands Management Works

Report by Director of Community Services

Summary

This report details the allocation of work required on the Ness Islands in accordance with the current Ness Islands Management Plan and a report by Crudens Consulting Engineers dated April 2015.

Members are invited to note the contents of the report.

1. Background

- 1.1 The current Ness Islands Management Plan was approved by the City of Inverness Area Committee on 2 June 2015. The aim of the plan is to ensure that the islands area is maintained and managed in an appropriate way. As a result of the implementation of the plan, additional Common Good funding has been allocated to the Ness Islands Project to bring the islands up to an acceptable and manageable level.
- 1.2 The works have been divided into four specific groups; Paths, Bridges, Bank Erosion and Trees.

2. Proposal for the allocation of work

- 2.1 Seven local companies have been approached with a view of bidding for the work. Of these, two have shown continued interest.
- 2.2 Unfortunately, neither firm has the capacity to deliver the wide variety of works specified. It is therefore proposed to share the workload according to agreeable quotes.
- 2.3 The tree survey of the islands has been allocated to a qualified tree surgeon and they will also make note of the roosting of bats in the islands. An identification of all required tree work will be an outcome of the tree survey. This will be a long-term overview and will identify all the significant work required. The Councils tree officer will also be involved and consulted on any proposals.
- 2.4 Quotes have not yet been received but are expected by 21 November 2016. Work will be allocated in full during December 2016.

3. Timescales

- 3.1 Given the nature of the islands and the potential for flooding, some work cannot be done unless the water is at a sustainable low level, i.e. Bank Erosion, underneath and including the stanchions of the bridges and some paths. As a result much of it cannot be completed during the winter months, and we will agree an appropriate timescale for these works with the successful contractors
- 3.2 Once all these works are completed, the Ness Islands Management Plan will be operational and annual maintenance schedule implemented with general inspections every 3 years and comprehensive inspections every 9 years.

4. Implications

4.1 Resources

There is a budget of £225,000 for all the works.

4.2 Legal, equalities, climate change/carbon clever, rural, Gaelic, risk

There are no legal, climate change/carbon clever, rural, Gaelic or risk implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

Members are invited to:

- i) Note that the improvement plan is in progress;
- ii) Note that a further report will be available once works are underway and there is more progress to report.

Designation: Director of Community Services

Date: 15 November 2016

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