



AGENDA ITEM

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**Application for Financial Assistance
Friends of Charlotte Dundas**

Falkirk Council

Title: Application for Financial Assistance Friends of Charlotte Dundas

Meeting: Grangemouth Common Good Sub-Committee

Date: 11 August 2016

Submitted By: Director of Corporate & Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 An application has been received from The Friends of Charlotte Dundas group for funding towards the development of the Charlotte Dundas Heritage Trail. The funding applied for will be used to “unlock” other funding which requires a 10% third party contribution.

2. Recommendation

2.1 Members of the Sub-Committee are asked to agree:-

(1) The award of £2,500 from Grangemouth Common Good Fund towards the development of the Charlotte Dundas Heritage Trail.

3. Background

- 3.1 The project aims to educate and inform both visitors and local people, in particular children, about the Scottish engineer William Symington, and his pioneering work on steam navigation and in particular the Charlotte Dundas vessel.
- 3.2 The project is to create a heritage trail along the canal between the Helix Park and Lock 1, where the canal meets the River Carron in Grangemouth. It is planned to landscape Lock 1 where a Charlotte Dundas exhibit will be situated. The south and north banks of the canal will have interpretation panels and seating whilst a “rope path” will be developed from Lock 1 to Dalgrain Road.
- 3.3 The trail will be fully accessible to all members of the public at all times. There will be pedestrian/cycle friendly access at five different locations. The Old Town will become more accessible and provide another route into the Helix from Grangemouth. It is also hoped the project will give residents a sense of civic pride in their town and its history and achievements.

- 3.4 The development of the Trail will reinforce Grangemouth and Falkirk's place as a tourist destination by improving generation of visitor expenditure. The project can also enhance the social and economic needs of Grangemouth by acting as a catalyst for local business through increased commercial opportunities from the attraction of the Trail to the Helix Park. The planned development contributes to the Falkirk Area Tourism Strategy 2015-2020 and meets the objective of Falkirk Community Trust's Heritage Delivery Plan and Public Art Strategy.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The balance of the Grangemouth Common Good Fund is relatively small at £24,606. Annual interest to the fund is only in the region of £120 so if the requested funding of £2,500 is granted the fund balance will be reduced by 10%, and it will take twenty years to bring the fund balance back to current levels.
- 4.2 The last grant made by the Sub-Committee was in June 2013 when £2,000 was approved for the Grangemouth Spitfire Memorial. This was the only grant paid since 2009.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There is support for the project at a strategic level from Falkirk Council, Falkirk Community Trust, Scottish Canals, Grangemouth Community Council, Visit Scotland and other local groups

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 The cost of the heritage trail is £216,608. An additional £48,804 is expected to be spent on the Rope path and this part of the project is totally funded via grants from Sustrans and Falkirk Environmental Trust.

Funding for the Heritage Trail is ongoing with the following monies either secured or applied for at present:-

Environmental Body	£50,000	approved in principle
Grangemouth Common Good Fund	£2,500	this application – part of 10% third party requirement of above
Scottish Canals	£1,000	Approved –part of 10% third party requirement of above
Falkirk Community Fund	£1,000	Applied for – part of 10% third party requirement of above

Friends of Charlotte Dundas Group	£500	Fundraising – part of 10% third party requirement of above
Heritage Lottery Fund	£95,000	Applied for
Falkirk Council	£1,000	Awarded
Community Grant		
Awards for All	£5,000	Awarded
Natural Heritage	£50,000	Applied for
	<u>£206,000</u>	

- 6.2 This application for £2,500 is to form part of the £5,000 third party funding which is a requirement to release the £50,000 approved in principle from the Environmental Body. The balance of £2,500 is being sought from Scottish Canals, Falkirk Community Fund and the group's own fundraising. None of the other funding received to date can qualify towards the EB funding contribution. If approved the Common Good assistance will not be released until Officers are satisfied that overall funding is in place and the project will proceed as planned.

Resources

- 6.3 There are no resource implications (such as staff and assets) which arise from the report recommendations.

Legal

- 6.4 The site of the canal extension and Lock 1 is owned by Scottish Canals. The rope path route is in the ownership of Scottish Canals and Berendsen Laundry. Permission for the Project is granted by the owners and planning permission has also been awarded.

Risk

- 6.5 There are no risk implications which arise from the report recommendations.

Equalities

- 6.6 An equality and poverty impact assessment has not been required.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.7 A sustainability assessment has not been completed as part of compiling this report.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The project is supported by a number of bodies and should encourage more visitors to the area and increase its profile. The sum requested of £2,500 is small in comparison to the overall project cost of £265,412 and is required to release the EB funding contribution.

- 7.2 The Grangemouth Common Good Fund is relatively small and receives interest of only £120 per annum. This is only the second application for funding received since 2009 and Members will need to consider if they wish to reduce the fund balance by awarding the grant.

Director of Corporate & Housing Services

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Date: 4 August 2016

Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- Application received from K Hutton, Chairman, Friends of Charlotte Dundas 14 June 2016