

**FALKIRK COMMUNITY TRUST**

**To: FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: CULTURE, LEISURE & PARKS CAPITAL PROGRAMMES 2011/12  
– RECOMMENDED SPEND PROPOSALS**

**Date: 5 OCTOBER 2011**

**Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE, FALKIRK COMMUNITY TRUST**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Council approved the General Services Capital Programme on 9th February 2011. Included in the programme was an annual allocation for Community Services Culture & Leisure Strategy Fund and Parks Development Plan Fund. This report sets out recommendations and proposals for the use of these funds to assist the development of culture, sport and parks facilities across the area.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council and the Trust, between them, are responsible for maintaining an extensive range of assets across the area and the management of these is a priority. The capital funds play an important role in maintaining these assets to provide for the sporting, cultural, leisure and recreational needs in local areas whilst also helping to attract visitors to the area.
- 2.2 The agreed allocation for the 2011/12 Culture & Leisure Strategy Fund was £433,000. The meeting on 9th February also agreed an allocation of £200,000 for the Parks Development Plan.

**3. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 The parks, sports and cultural assets of the Council and the Trust require an ongoing programme of investment to maintain them in satisfactory condition for use as well as their customer appeal. The following projects have been identified as priorities for investment.

**Leisure Projects**

*Polmonthill Golf Course* - Over recent years the Council has received complaints from users regarding the poor condition of the changing facilities at the golf course. These facilities are accessible to both the general public and Golf Club members playing at the golf course. Upgrading of showers, changing accommodation and lockers is proposed at a cost of £60,000.

*Polmonthill Ski Centre* –The Centre requires a rolling programme of replacing worn ski matting on the slope and the cost of this work is £20,000.

*Polmonthill Electrical Works* – As reported last year the Council has been conducting a programme of fixed wire testing in its facilities. These suggest that a programme of upgrades to Golf and Ski facilities is needed at Polmonthill. These premises have integrated services, and require to be upgraded jointly. The Trust is in discussion with the Golf Club to agree an approach whereby costs are shared in line with the lease arrangements for the clubhouse. A budget sum of £29,000 is identified for the total works and allows for further investigatory work to be carried out enabling a cost breakdown to be determined.

*Denny Football Centre* - Denny Football Centre comprises the former Denny High School sports hall, dance studio and changing rooms. Community Services took over the management of the premises as a community sports facility in 2009/10 following the opening of the new Denny High School. The building requires significant capital investment to bring it up to standard appropriate to a sports venue. Works include substantial and essential re-wiring throughout the building and upgrading of electrical distribution cabinets to meet health & safety requirements; upgrading of lighting in the Sports Hall to an appropriate standard to enable playable sports use; energy conservation measures installed on all new and upgraded lighting. The cost of these works is anticipated at £188,000.

*Pavilion refurbishment* – There is a rolling programme of refurbishment at pavilions and a number were refurbished with funding from the 2008/09 capital programme. This year, proposals are to undertake improvement works to Inchyra, Maddiston, Easter Carmuir and Dawson Park. Works will include essential frost protection works. A sum of £30k is identified for these works.

*Bo'ness Town Hall* – Bo'ness Town Hall sits in an elevated and exposed location and significant wear and tear to windows and external doors has been experienced. Priority has been given to the worst affected parts of the building and it is proposed to replace 30% of the windows and the front doors. The work undertaken will be appropriate to the Grade B listing of the building and is anticipated to cost £45k.

### **Culture Projects**

*Abbotsinch Museum Store* – As detailed above (*Polmonthill Golf Course*) the Council's programme of fixed wire testing has identified urgent electrical works to be undertaken within the Museum Store which is anticipated to cost £21,000.

*Kinneil Museum* - Match funding for a Heritage Lottery Fund funding bid to work in collaboration with the local community to upgrade the layout, displays and collection. Budget requirement of £10,000.

### **Libraries Projects**

*Grangemouth Library* – the single storey extension which forms the rear part of the library has many structural defects, cracking in walls and defective lintels. The lintels should be replaced, wall cracks tied and filled and the walls lathed and rendered. The defects leave the building in a dangerous condition. It is anticipated that repair work will cost £30,000.

## **Parks Projects**

*Kinneil Estate* – Kinneil Estate has a considerable area of woodland and a Tree Management Survey will be commissioned at an approximate cost of £10,000, to enable the service to develop a management plan for forest maintenance and to ensure safe community access. Coalfields Regeneration funding of £27,755 has been secured towards a project to undertake enhancement and upgrading of the pond areas to improve visitor access, safety and overall amenity of the Estate. Further capital funding of £25,000 will enable this project to be implemented. Consultation with the Friends of Kinneil Group will finalise plans. The total capital programme funds sought for proposals at Kinneil Estate is £35,000.

*Muiravonside Country Park* – This park is a popular family attraction and improvements are proposed to enhance the visitor experience and length of stay at the venue. A new family picnic area will be developed and path network improvements will create smaller paddock areas for viewing and better accommodating the animals at a total cost of £25,000.

*Pitch Improvement* – The Council has been pursuing, and the Trust would intend to continue pursuing, a programme of pitch improvement works to improve drainage and playability. It is proposed to continue the investment that commenced last year in pitches at Stenhousemuir, Blinkbonny in Slamannan and Denny Football Centre, with a second phase of work on these pitches to install a new lateral drain at Stenhousemuir and sand slitting work at Slamannan and Denny. A new improvement programme will commence on pitches at Shieldhill and Loch Park, Bonnybridge to install perimeter drains. The total cost of the works is £40,000.

*Play Area Improvement* – Upgrade of play area provision at Little Carriden near Bo'ness, Coney Park near Banknock, Laurieston Public Park and Princes Park in Falkirk at a cost of £80,000.

*Local Park Improvement* – To improve access and drainage at Victoria Park and Princes Park in Falkirk and Coney Park near Banknock at a total cost of £20,000.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 A total sum of £433,000 is provided within the 2011/12 General Capital Programme to support the Culture & Leisure Strategy. An additional £200,000 is allocated for the Parks Development Plan. The proposed expenditure breakdown for this year is summarised below:

<b>Projects</b>	<b>2011/12 £</b>
<b>Culture &amp; Leisure</b>	
▪ Polmonthill Golf Course	£60,000
▪ Polmonthill Ski Centre	£20,000
▪ Polmonthill Electrical Works	£29,000
▪ Denny Football Centre	£188,000
▪ Pavilion Refurbishment	£30,000
▪ Bo'ness Town Hall	£45,000
▪ Abbotsinch Museum Store	£21,000

▪ Grangemouth Library	£30,000
▪ Kinneil Museum	£10,000
<b>Culture &amp; Leisure Fund Total</b>	<b>£433,000</b>

#### **Parks Development**

▪ Kinneil Estate	£35,000
▪ Muiravonside Country Park	£25,000
▪ Pitch Improvement	£40,000
▪ Play Area Improvement	£80,000
▪ Local Park Improvement	£20,000
<b>Parks Development Fund Total</b>	<b>£200,000</b>

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The proposals outlined in this report invest in the Council's and the Trust's culture and leisure assets and will help take forward the aims of the Trust's and the Council's strategies for Culture, Leisure Parks and Parks. It will help ensure that they respond to consumer demand and provide modern, fit for purpose facilities.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the proposals for Culture, Leisure and Parks capital expenditure for 2011/12 as summarised in 4.1.

*Maureen Campbell.*

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**Chief Executive, Falkirk Community Trust**  
**Date: 26 September 2011**