

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE Finance and Resources Committee  
DATE 2 December 2010  
DIRECTOR Gordon McIntosh  
TITLE OF REPORT Funding for East Grampian Coast Partnership  
REPORT NUMBER: EPI/10/272

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to request to secure funding for the East Grampian Coast Partnership (EGCP) to deliver an element of the South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Project. This report gives background about the EGCP and its current situation.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee endorses the promotion of external funding for supporting the delivery of the South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Project from Aberdeen Greenspace.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are at present no available funds within existing budgets to undertake this work.

It should be noted that there has been previous funding arrangements with the EGCP and Aberdeen City Council but as a result of budget constraints such an arrangement ceased in the 2009-2010 financial year.

Aberdeen City Council awarded funding to establish EGCP for the first two years (2005/2006 and 2006/2007) through the City Growth Fund (approved by the Energising Aberdeen Board). (See Table 1)

**Table 1 EGCP Establishment Funding**

<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>2005/2006 (£)</b>	<b>2006/2007 (£)</b>
City Growth Fund	68,750	68,650
Aberdeenshire Council	15,000	15,000
SNH	15,000	15,000
Other	11,300	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110,050</b>	<b>98,650</b>

In 2006 EGCP submitted a detailed 3-year Business Plan which included a predicted budget for 2007-2010. Table 2 provides details of the predicted budget for 2007-2010.

**Table 2: Predicted Budget for 2007-2010.**

<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>2007/2008 (£)</b>	<b>2008/2009 (£)</b>	<b>2009/2010 (£)</b>
Aberdeen City Council	20,000	20,000	20,000
Aberdeenshire Council	20,000	20,000	20,000
SNH	20,000	20,000	20,000
Other	29,900	30,400	30,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89,900</b>	<b>90,400</b>	<b>90,700</b>

**Table 3: Aberdeen City Council's actual funding for 2007-2010.**

<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>2007/2008 (£)</b>	<b>2008/2009 (£)</b>	<b>2009/2010 (£)</b>
Aberdeen City Council	20,000	15,000	0

A paper was referred to Resources Management Committee on 21st November 2006 where the Committee resolved 'to approve funding of £20,000 from the City Growth Fund in 2007/08 to the East Grampian Coastal Partnership, and to refer funding of £20,000 in each of the two subsequent financial years 2008/09 and 2009/10 to the budget process.'

On 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008 the Resources Management Committee received a paper highlighting the EGCP's plan to alter the Partnership's legal structure. The Committee resolved '*that officers advise the East Grampian Coastal Partnership that future funding allocations would be subject to the budget process and could not be guaranteed and that in future years, would be unlikely to match Aberdeenshire Council's contribution...*'.

Funding was able to be made in 2008-2009 on a one-off basis from existing budget underspends and Table 3 provides details of the actual funding EGCP received for 2008/2009.

**Table 4: Actual Funding Received for 2008/2009.**

<b>FUNDING SOURCES 2008/2009</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Aberdeen City Council	15,000
Aberdeenshire Council	15,000
Scottish Natural Heritage	20,000
Peterhead Port Authority	3,000
Macaulay Institute (in Kind)	11,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64,000</b>

Due to budget constraints for the 2009-2010 there was no funding available to be applied to meet the EGCP's predicted budget. Whilst the Partnership undertake worthy projects, there is no current statutory requirement for it and many of the projects it undertakes that enable many of the City's and the Council's priorities are also undertaken by Council officers. In 2009-2010 no provision was made to the EGCP but a one-off amount of £1500 was given. There is no future provision.

All funding partners depend on each other for a commitment to funding before committing themselves. If one funding partner is unable to commit, there is a high risk of the other two funding partners not committing. Below is a table of the current funders. It could be argued that the Council has, over the years, contributed more than its share to date. However the table below shows the significant reduction in annual funding.

**Table 4: Current Funding**

<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>2010/2011 (£)</b>
Aberdeen City Council	0
Aberdeenshire Council	15,000
SNH	3,600
Aberdeen Harbour	3,000
Marine Scotland	20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,600</b>

The EGCP has funding issues but is prepared to undertake specific work to benefit Aberdeen. They have been asked to propose specific work to assist in the South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Project. This project has £3500 available via a third party. It has been suggested the EGCP approach another third party such as Aberdeen Greenspace to gain the required match funding.

#### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The organization is able to assist in advancing a number of community projects such as Fishing for Litter, Beach Clean Ups, assisting with the Blue Flag Award for Aberdeen Beach and in assisting with the development and implementation of the South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Project.

The work undertaken by the EGCP is aimed at ensuring the sustainability of our coastline and marine resources for future generations. The EGCP aim is to assist in delivery of Integrated Coastal Zone Management from Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh to the Aberdeenshire/Angus Council boundary at the mouth of the River North Esk, by St. Cyrus.

Some of the tasks undertaken by EGCP could be undertaken in-house. The EGCP is awaiting an outcome of guidance from the Scottish Government with regards to the Marine Act (Scotland) 2010, as it may or may not be tasked to undertake a statutory role. The EGCP and University of Aberdeen have offered to lead a multi-sector presentation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management as agreed by the Enterprise Planning Committee on 9 November 2010..

## 5. MAIN ISSUES

Recently both the Chair and Project Manager of the East Coast Grampian Partnership (EGCP), met with the Council's Chief Executive and officers to discuss the possibility of one-off funding of £7,000 for the organisation for this financial year. Currently the environmental work undertaken by EGCP either duplicates core duties undertaken by Council officers or are not Council priorities. The majority of the EGCP's activities are of greater benefit to other partners. Officers have carefully examined existing budgets and have no available funding to apply to this organisation. The EGCP may have a future part to play in implementing the Marine Act (Scotland) 2010, but the requirement has yet to be finalized by the Scottish Government.

With this in mind, the ECGP has been working with Council officers to offer distinct work products that would be of unique value to a variety of projects being led by the Council. It is possible that funding for specific work may be made available through the delivery of the South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Project and through this external funding may be able to be sourced.

## 6. IMPACT

Corporate - This work supports the aspirations contained in the Council Administration's Policy, Vibrant Dynamic and Forward Looking. In particular ensuring the sustainability of a successful economy for Aberdeen, continue to promote Aberdeen and in minimising the impact of Council's activities on the environment. .

Public - A full equality and human rights impact is not required..

## 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

<http://www.egcp.org.uk/>

## 8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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