

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Enterprise Planning and Infrastructure DATE 23 February 2010

DIRECTOR: Gordon McIntosh

TITLE OF REPORT: The Dee Catchment Partnership Funding Report

REPORT NUMBER: EP&I/10/029

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks to continue Aberdeen City Council's membership and support of the Dee Catchment Partnership. It presents two options to consider. Option A is to agree continued membership and to continue to fund the partnership or Option B: - to agree to continued membership with no funding.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- a Agrees to continue membership of the Dee Catchment Partnership and either:-
- b Endorses the annual contribution of £3,000 for the next three years to be matched by a further £3,000 per annum from the Interreg IVB Sustainable Urban Fringes Project (SURF) or
- c Endorses no annual contribution

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Table 1 – Annual Sponsor Contributions (2004/2005 – 2009/2010)

Sponsor	2004/2005 (£)	2005/2006 (£)	2006/2007 (£)	2007/2008 (£)	2008/2009 (£)	2009/2010 (£)	Total (£)
Aberdeenshire Council	20,000	0	0	11,000	11,000	0	42,000
Aberdeen City Council	0	15,000	0	5,000	0	0	20,000
Aberdeen Harbour Board	0	2,500	2,500	3,000	3,000	0	11,000
Cairngorms National Park Authority	2,000	8,000	10,000	10,000	7,500	0	37,500
Scottish Natural Heritage	0	7,500	10,000	10,000	10,000	2,500	40,000
Scottish Enterprise Grampian	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	20,000
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	3,000	0	0	3000	915	0	6,915
The Mac Robert Trust	0	0	500	5000	0	0	5,500
TOTAL CASH	25,000	38,000	28,000	52,000	37,415	2,500	182,915
The Macaulay Institute (In Kind)	-	16,138.20	26,041.56	48,510.00	43,395.00	info not available	134,084.76
TOTAL FUNDING	25,000	38,000	28,000	52,000	37,415	2,500	182,915

Since 2008 Environmental Project budgets have made an annual provision of £5,000 for the Dee Catchment Partnership work however, this has not been allocated as there has been no specific funding request from the Partnership until December 2009. It should also be noted that there has been no funding request from any other partners for 2009-2010. The benefits from the Partnership are further outlined in this report and the attached Business Plan. The annual year Budget required is in the region £-76-84k per annum for 3 years with the Council's suggested contribution in the region of 4-3% of this. (See Table 2 and for details refer to the attached Business Plan Page 13 Table 3).

Council contributions have averaged at £3,334 per annum over the past six years. An annual contribution £3,000 has been identified from Environmental budgets to contribute to the partnership for the next three years. These are specifically £1,500 Environmental Awareness Budgets and £1,500 Environmental Policy Budgets. Overall, this reduces the original allocations within the current budget plan by £2,000. This fixed funding will also be for three years.

Table 2 – Dee CMP Business Plan Total Costs

Costs	2011/2012 (£)	2012/2013 (£)	2013/2014 (£)
Total	76,120	79,846	83,761

The Interreg IVB Project Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) is contributing £3,000 per annum specifically concerning urban fringe Catchment management, community engagement and outputs from projects. This will benefit trans-national learning as the Partnership demonstrates excellence in Community and Stakeholder engagement and excellence in collaboration which has been both nationally and internationally recognised. This contribution can only be made with match funding from the Council either in kind or financially or a mix of both.

There are no direct capital implications.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Dee Catchment Partnership through its Catchment Management Plan (CMP) demonstrates leadership in effective land use and protection and enhancement of the environment. It promotes and demonstrates increased citizen participation, thus raising environmental awareness while at the same time, improving the quality and status of the River Dee as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the River Basin. Whilst the River Dee's Status is protected under legislation, the Catchment plan and associated projects aim to ensure that joint actions ensure adherence to this, both directly and indirectly.

This partnership demonstrates sustainable development through social inclusion, economic development and nature conservation. Partners are actively implementing the CMP in order to safeguard our environment and natural heritage for current and future generations. An Equalities Human Rights Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

The Partnership's work through the Dee CMP facilitates and supports the Council's Administration Policy Green Agenda along with the improvement in the environment and human health within the City's Single Outcome Agreement.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Currently three Council Officers are contributing to three Projects with a Senior Officer acting as a representative to the Partnership's Steering Group. If necessary a deputy may attend these meetings. Officer participation is within existing remits.

Should the Council choose not to fund the partnership and its specific work the SURF Project will be unable to contribute match funding for the specific benefits towards the Urban Fringes project. In addition, failure to secure funding for implementing the plan would negatively impact on the planned outcomes that enable the Council's statutory duties.

There are no additional implications.

6. REPORT

6.1 In February 2003 the River Dee Catchment Management Plan (The Dee CMP) Steering Group was established. Its aim was to develop the

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)'s proposals outlined in its '2000 Issues' document. This document was SEPA's response to legislation associated with the Water Framework Directive and the designation of the Dee as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

- 6.2 Whilst not a statutory requirement, the Dee CMP through the Partnership's collaborative work directly influences the River Basin Management Plan, Flooding, Water Quality and Pollution Reduction (which impacts on both Human & Animal Health) to which the Local Authority has statutory obligations. On 22 March 2005 the Environment and Infrastructure Committee agreed to support and contribute to the production and implementation of the Dee CMP. After significant consultation and co-operation with stakeholders, the Dee CMP was adopted by the Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 October 2008.
- 6.3 The Dee CMP is a guide to sustainable use of the River Dee's tributaries and lochs, as well as the habitats and species associated with these waters. It is now included as a regional priority under the Scottish Rural Development Programme. The specific benefits for the City are a collaborative approach with partners, landowners and experts on a range of projects such as Urban Water Courses, Diffuse Pollution, Septic Tank Management and Improved Water Quality for the river basin and beaches. The Septic Tank guide has been adopted as national Guidance. Activities upstream and in the river basin have contributed to the Council's continued Seaside Award for Aberdeen Beach.
- 6.4 The Dee CMP acts as a conduit for the Council's Nature Conservation Strategy 2010 and Draft Open Space Audit. The Council only contributes to projects that have direct benefit to the Council and the City, such as Diffuse Pollution and Urban Drainage.
- 6.5 The Dee Catchment Partnership
 - 6.5.1 The partnership members come from a variety of stakeholders and interested parties. The investment to date from partners in both funding, time and participation has been significant. The Dee CMP is the first of its type in Scotland. During these austere fiscal times all budgets are being thoroughly examined to justify continued funding.
 - 6.5.2 Currently the Council is consulting on both its Local Development Plan and Open space Audit. The Council has consulted on its Nature Conservation Strategy 2010 and will develop an Open Space Strategy. The Dee CMP and active participation in relevant projects is fundamental to advance these work streams. The Dee CMP through the collaboration with the Dee Catchment Partnership also provides significant opportunities for Trans-national learning through the various Interreg IVB and IVC projects being undertaken by this Council.
 - 6.5.3 The Scottish Government sees the Dee Catchment Partnership as an example of good practice (See the attached Business Plan). The

Partnership submitted a proposal to UNESCO's Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) initiative. Based on the recommendations of the EC, The Partnership is part of the third phase (2008-2013) of IHP HELP Network. This participation in the HELP network jointly addresses mutual areas of interest for Integrated Water Resources Management. These successes positively reflect on the Council's participation.

- 6.6 If the Council is unable to commit to the Dee Catchment Partnership, this could have an effect on the overall impact of the Dee CMP, the objectives linked to it, and the sustainable development of the River Dee catchment area. The River Dee CMP is more than a document. Its implementation requires partners to actively engage with each other, the public and landowners in order to deal with the Dee's natural and human environment along with its associated pressures within its catchment for the benefit of current and future generations.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Jan Falconer
Strategist- Sustainable Development
jfalconer@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 81-4614
07718604757

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Dee Catchment Management Plan
The Dee Catchment Partnership Business Plan
Aberdeen's Nature Conservation Strategy 2010