

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Housing & Environment
DATE	13 th April 2010
CORPORATE DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Projects (SACRP) – Reference from EP& I on 23 rd February 2010

H&E 10058

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Members of the Housing & Environment Committee that the report on the next steps for the South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Projects (SACRP) was fully endorsed by the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee at the meeting held on 23rd February 2010, and was referred to this Committee for further consideration of environment matters arising from the study. A copy of the Executive Summary and the full version of the SACRP study has been placed in the Members Library for information.

EP&I Committee agreed to nominate their Vice Convenor, Councillor Callum McCaig to be the City Council's representative on the Project Steering Group

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Members are recommended to

- 1 Note the recommendations adopted by the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee at the meeting held on 23rd February 2010 as set out in section 6.1 of the report, and to forward any considerations to the Project Steering Group.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost for the development of the SACRP feasibility studies was contained within the overall budget agreed by full Council at its meeting on 25th October 2006 and delegated to the then Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services South. In consultation with the then Aberdeen City South Urban Regeneration Company (South URC) Interim Board on 28th October 2008, a budget of £100,000 was ring-fenced to meet the costs of this work, of which approximately £75,000 was the research contract price which was openly tendered and won competitively by the University of Aberdeen. Funding for any future projects/sub-projects will be reported back to Members and reports will assess all capital and revenue implications for the City Council.

The bid for external funding for the Torry Battery from Historic Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is seeking funding for the financial year 2011-2012. Members are asked to note that a sum of £40,000 for match funding purposes in the financial year 2011-2012 will be required to assist with the application for a total funding package estimated in the order of £400,000.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The development of the SACRP project and its sub-projects is regarded as one cornerstone linked to the promotion of sustainable development initiatives and the emergence of green tourism that will help uplift the perception and amenity of the South of the City with a strong focus on Torry, and complements other economic, social, environmental, and physical initiatives being undertaken; the Torry Battery is one example. Community involvement will continue through the schools and local organisations.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The development of the SACRP project and sub-projects, as envisaged, will help address a number of environmental and land management issues, and will assist in seeking to secure external funding for the implementation of any sub-projects.

Vibrant, Dynamic, Forward Looking Aberdeen (VDFL)

SACRP actively develops the delivery of VDFL under the aspects of Education, Economic Development, Culture, Arts and Sports, and the Environment as it will bring together key organisational and support staff from the partner and community organisations.

The development of the initiatives outlined in this report will be in accord with the Interim Business Plan as adopted by the City Council at its meeting on 16th December 2009.

Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)

SACRP also assists in delivering on the SOA related to National Outcomes 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

The development of any projects to enhance the area as a whole will require measures to be taken to ensure that these works do not have a negative impact on natural heritage and archaeological interests and should also comply with the Nature Conservation Scotland Act 2004 and the Council's Nature Conservation Strategy 2010-2015.

Equality and Human Rights implications

A full equality and human rights impact was not required, as this proposal will have a positive impact for all the equality target groups.

6.0 REPORT

6.1 Report to Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee 23rd February 2010.

At this meeting, Members were offered the following recommendations that were accepted unanimously: Members are recommended to

- 1 Note the successful completion of the scoping and feasibility study as endorsed by the SACRP Steering Group at its meeting held on 26th November 2009 and to record appreciation to all those organisations that provided support and assistance towards the completion of this work
- 2 Agree to the creation of a formal, multi-agency Project Steering Group with proposed terms of reference, to re-affirm in principle the implementation of the Nigg Bay Coastal Park as a key project with special reference to the community wetlands project, as set out in the main considerations of this report
- 3 Nominate One Member of the City Council to the proposed Project Steering Group
- 4 Note the present stage for the development of the Torry Community Wetlands Project in the St. Fitticks Community Park and the on-going need to continue to attract external funding for the implementation of this project;
- 5 Note that a report on proposed land use issues is to be presented to a future meeting of the Guildry and Mortification's Board as a landowner in the vicinity of the Bay of Nigg;
- 6 Endorses the present stage with the development of external funding bids for conservation works for the Torry Battery, with a progress report on the identified funding to date to be presented to the June/July cycle. Note: This bid had been developed by a separate group as an original List B sub-project;
- 7 Note that at no additional cost to the City Council, commitment to some of the outcomes of the study will continue until 31st March 2010 by the University of Aberdeen
- 8 Request a report back to Members from the Project Steering Group on the development of sub-projects for the meeting of the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee set for 31st May 2010

6.2 Context of the study

Members are asked to note that the Full Report of the SACRP study by the University of Aberdeen is some 200 pages in total, and includes appendices, sub-project reports, diagrams and photographs. A copy of this report, and the 20 page Executive Summary has been placed in the Members Library.

The feasibility study was led by the University of Aberdeen who were awarded the contract after an open tendered competitive exercise was followed. They created an open informal partnership with a range of public, private and not for profit organisations, sharing information and data to build up and evaluate the conclusions of each part of the study. A conclusion to be drawn from this informal approach is that there is now a need to have a formalised and structured approach to partnership working that can be gained through the creation of a Project Steering Group, involving leaders and managers in the proposed membership so as to enable decision making on policy, project prioritisation and financial considerations within their own structures of governance. Such an approach will pool experience and the resource of staff time in researching and compilation of bids for external funding that can help take forward projects of varying scale and complexity.

The original proposal for this study dates from the recommendations of the multi-agency Scoping Committee which were presented to Members at the meeting of the South Area Committee on 29th November 2007 – article 16 refers. The study envisaged that the cumulative benefits of a range of interventionist projects would be cumulative over a ten-twenty year timescales to enable a turnaround in the degraded environmental conditions that built up over a long period of time. The justification for undertaking early interventions is to create sustainable benefits that can be accrued from on a range of small project that create added value around economic development, environmental and social regeneration issues..

The projects identified in List A (please refer to page 18 of the Executive Summary) have remained as the core elements in this feasibility study, and with prior consent from the City Council, some elements have expanded as a consequence of further discussions and informal consultations. As an evolving, community based initiative; it cannot progress without raising awareness, support and understanding, and considerable time and effort have been committed to meeting individuals, agencies and others within the project area. Almost all proposals recommended for further action in the Full Report included the need for co-operation, supplementary funding and compliance with guidelines and regulations – and this cannot be done without on-going and further research, consultation and interaction. A variety of educational sub-projects, some including data gathering and fieldwork have been completed, and an interim report on this aspect of the work was presented to Members of the South Area Committee on 19th February 2009 – article 3 refers. List B projects are listed on page 19 and 20 of the Executive Summary.

A presentation by the University of Aberdeen and progress report led by the then Director of Neighbourhood Services South on the development of SACRP was presented to Members and approved at the meeting of the South Area Committee on 28th May 2009 – article 5 refers.

This report is presented to Members on the conclusion of the study and it was the considered view of the Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure to Members that the study had been fully completed to his satisfaction.

6.3 Wider Aim of the study

Collectively, these regeneration proposals relate directly or indirectly to sustainable development, through economic opportunities, environmental and amenity improvements. This will have some economic development benefit but they will also engender more positive attitudes in the local community and further afield to the potential quality of the coastal area which is presently substantially under-utilised and, to some extent, perceived as unattractive, polluted and neglected – none of which is wholly correct and many aspects of which can be corrected over time through investment and localised management initiatives

The critical understanding of the potential of this area is to appreciate its geographical setting within swathes of “green and open” areas extending from the Harbour, past The Torry Battery, the Lighthouse area at Girdleness, Balnagask Golf Course and periphery, and in particular to the coastal fringe from the mouth of the Dee to Cove. These natural assets also link with the potential of a restored and landscaped Ness Tip. These are all parts of the greater “open” area along a diverse coastal zone. Nigg Bay, broadly defined, lies in a central position and, uniquely, has the potential to become, over a period of time, the core of a managed coastal city park with its focus being the bay and its backshore. Few cities have such an extensive series of coalescing “open and green” areas within their boundaries, and, on the whole, in their ownership, and with latent potential for imaginative use. A Coastal Park remains as a central development, which could encapsulate most of the other sub-projects, and to a degree, it could be argued that the “Park” as such exists already but needs to be developed to higher levels of landscape, educational use and amenity provision.

Members were asked to re-affirm the “in principle” designation of the Nigg Bay Coastal Park as adopted by the then South Area Committee on 28th May 2009 embracing the headlands of Torry, the emergence of a maturing St. Fitticks Community Park, and the future completion of environmental restoration works at Ness Tip on Tullos Hill.

The first meeting of the agreed Project Steering Group is set to take place on 7th April 2010 and an update on the first meeting will be reported to Members on the proposals for implementation of the main project that is the Coastal Park itself, along with the following identified sub-projects: -

- The beach and its backshore, including the SSSI platform

- The community wetlands project
- Screening of the Waste Water Treatment Works
- The Boat Ramp
- Artificial Reef

This will involve detailed evaluation of design, specification and cost evaluations and archaeological implications, prior to seeking planning, building and other related consents as needed, to be followed by all aspects of procurement including tendering and evaluation functions prior to any legal commitment being entered into by the City Council as the developer of land within the proposed designated area. The Project Steering Group is also well placed to take advantage of any emerging external funding streams that could help take forward any small but important sub-project; a present example of such an opportunity is the one described in this report for the Torry Battery; section 6.9 refers. Although a list B project identified in this study, a separate group of organisations, led by the City Council came together from the SACRP main group to lead this much needed work.

This way of working, to take advantage of the ability to secure needed external investment should be at the core of the planning and delivery of sub-projects within the overall framework of the emergence of a coastal park. Lastly, the Project Steering Group should be empowered to fully evaluate future management and maintenance options including community ownership models where such a desire is expressed.

The membership of the Project Steering Group was agreed to include one representative as follows: -

- ◆ The Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure, as Project Owner,
- ◆ The University of Aberdeen
- ◆ The Aberdeen Harbour Board
- ◆ The Crown Estate
- ◆ Aberdeen Greenspace Trust
- ◆ East Grampian Coastal Partnership
- ◆ Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
- ◆ Scottish Water
- ◆ Scottish Natural Heritage
- ◆ Aberdeen City & Shire Economic Forum
- ◆ Visit Scotland
- ◆ Scottish Businesses in the Community
- ◆ Grampian Waste Water Services Ltd
- ◆ Torry Community Council
- ◆ Cove and Altens Community Council
- ◆ Torry Associated School Group
- ◆ Kincorth Associated School Group
- ◆ Sport Aberdeen
- ◆ One Elected Member of the City Council

The following proposed terms of reference were agreed: -

- The Project Steering Group (PSG) would operate as a high level consultation group, addressing strategic issues and major points of difficulty and ensuring that all other stakeholders were committed to the project
- The PSG would not have any powers that cut across the project owner's accountability and authority of the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee as the Investment Decision Maker in this project
- If a major issue could not be resolved with the Project Owner, PSG members should have recourse through their own structure of governance to the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee
- The cycle of PSG meetings would be agreed to support the main project reporting requirements
- Should the PSG agree to make alterations to their remit, these would be included in a future report to the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee.

6.4 The East Tullos Burn

At the meeting of the then South Area Committee on 28th May 2009, Members endorsed the concept of the wetlands proposal on the understanding that: -

- ◆ the development of the wetlands having no automatic recourse to City Council funds, save for those required to maintain the necessary health and safety for any water feature in a public open space
- ◆ the proposal is examined by all interested organisations through open consultations, as a prelude to seeking and securing planning consent for the creation of any agreed feature
- ◆ the satisfactory assessment that upstream sources of potential contaminants have been minimised to acknowledged environmental standards through a combination of regulatory inspections, and site management and maintenance protocols
- ◆ the creation of any permanent feature is rigorously assessed for all aspects of health and safety, and for on-going management and maintenance costs

Since that meeting, further investigative work has been undertaken and an opportunity to seek external funds from the European Union (Life +) became available. The SACRP Steering Group, with prior approval from the City Council submitted at short notice a bid for future funding via the Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), with the active support of the Scottish Government, to develop the Torry Community Wetland Project, and

details of the submission are included in the appendix within the Full Report as prepared by the University of Aberdeen. By a letter dated 29th January 2010, the EU has now advised that this project does not meet the eligibility criteria for funding in the current round of bidding, but can be modified and re-submitted in time for the next submission deadline of September 2010. A working group has been established to develop a proposal in time for the 2010 submission date in September 2010.

6.5 Developing the Marine and Geoscience Study Centre

As reported to the then South Area Committee at the meeting held on 19th February 2009, this long-standing commitment is being progressed for a facility at or near Nigg Bay and is regarded as a distinct sub-project within the proposed formation of a Coastal Park. The current design proposal envisages the construction of a purpose-built building with educational, community and demonstration functions. It would have field-centre capacity and is deemed to be part of a re-awakening of interest in the Torry Community in its maritime heritage and its future potential.

The lack of direct access to the sea has been recognised as a problem for the City of Aberdeen where there seems to be a demand for water-based recreational, sport and educational activities. Accordingly, active consideration has been given to constructing a boat launch ramp from or near the existing car park area. Surveys have been undertaken to establish beach gradients and water depths and help select the optimum site. A hydrographic study was completed as part of this feasibility project to help select the best location.

This facility is considered to be viable in its own right but it is also important for the development of a Geoscience and Marine Study Centre. The hydrographic and hydrodynamic studies as completed are also central to the full appraisal of this proposal. Some years ago a proposal to construct an artificial multi-purpose submerged reef from recycled materials was put forward and received support in principle. This links well with the boat ramp and the Marine and Geoscience Study Centre by providing both protection and, in effect, a small boat harbour. The submerged reef will also create a rich habitat for marine life and thereafter be of educational or possible recreational value. It would also help improve the coastal zone for sea and flood defences.

It might be considered beneficial to the project as a whole to consider relocating the wave recording buoy from its present location off Aberdeen Beach to the Bay of Nigg to add real-time evaluation to detailed studies that have been undertaken to date. Given the operational remit of the Aberdeen Harbour Board, direct discussions need to be continued to assess the full maritime and safety matters that would need to be satisfied for any final decision for the deployment of the wave recorder and for any other project within the confines of Nigg Bay.

6.6 The environment of Nigg Bay.

Some sites identified to date are all within the land ownership of the Guildry and Mortifications Board, and a report to the Board will require to be prepared for their consideration. Linked to this development are a series of discrete projects that include: -

- ◆ Hydrography and Wave Processes within Nigg Bay. This work has been completed and has modelled waves and incident energy conditions using existing bathymetric data and the accumulating data from the wave buoy in Aberdeen Bay. Appropriate free software (SWAN) was used and the information can now be transferred to the City Council.
- ◆ Sea Bed Data. Suitable sampling work was not undertaken in 2009 but is expected to be completed this year. Both SEPA and Scottish Water have agreed to provide assistance in data analysis as soon as practicable.
- ◆ The Local Information System (GIS) Database.

The Local Information System is a G.I.S. based compilation of data and information for the Nigg Bay area. It was developed on the basis of testing its value to the project as a whole and ensuring ways by which partner organisations, especially the City of Aberdeen, could access, extract and use the information in the L.I.S. Both these objectives were met by December 2009, but the nature of the sub-project was also designed to ensure that additional layers of information could be added (and exchanged) into the foreseeable future for non-commercial use by both the University and the City of Aberdeen.

In addition, the L.I.S. continues to be a core element in further educational and research developments within the general scope of the SACRP project. It is also an important element in the "Expert Couplet" agreement between the City of Aberdeen and the University in the IMCORE European-funded research programme on best practice Coastal Zone Management. Practical arrangements are in place to ensure that all these ongoing and future uses can be guaranteed. This L.I.S. also contains visualisation and fly-through capabilities for both presentational and educational purposes.

- ◆ Educational links. These are developing quickly and at many levels. These include discussions with Primary and Secondary Schools in the context of raising awareness but also to seek advice on possible project experience within the range of school activities. Case studies have been undertaken at University level student projects, e.g., boat ramp, submerged breakwater, beach mapping, etc. The feasibility study for the proposed Geoscience and Marine Study Centre has established links with a range of possible interests, including clubs that could use the building and the boat launch for education and training purposes. Seamanship courses are deemed to be an unmet need and need to be linked to the Curriculum for Excellence, and supported through the schools liaison activities involving the Universities, Aberdeen College and Employers.

- ◆ Landscaping East of Road. This area is included within the scope of the City Council's Nature Conservation Strategy (2010 – 2015) that was adopted by the Corporate, Policy and Performance Committee on 21st January 2010. In appendix C, Balnagask to Cove has three designations
 - ◆ District Wildlife Site (Local Nature Conservation Sites)
 - ◆ Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - ◆ Site of Interest to Natural Science (SINS)

The beach, backshore and inland coastal platform have recorded ecological interest, notably for the variety of coastal habitats and associated species including a nationally rare plant species. As discussed elsewhere, the inland fossil cliff is an SSSI geological site.

This report outlines the need for a more general proposal that relates to both superficial clean-up and major recontouring and “removals” for the area on the south side of the bay as described above. It is considered central to the overarching theme of a Coastal Park for a substantial increase in the amenity and landscape value of the beach and backshore areas of Nigg Bay. In short, there is scope and need for improvement, albeit with due attention to conserving biodiversity and habitat/species attributes in line with the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. In general, this area appears to most visitors to be a nondescript, unattractive and untidy area between the beach and the existing road from Torry to Cove. Recycling of non-toxic materials, some of which occur locally, plus selected sources of imported subsoil and topsoil could be used to create a higher topography with rolling ridges and hollows up to six metres above upper tidal level.

These areas could be vegetated with appropriate species of shrubs and possibly trees with footpaths to an improved inter-tidal beach zone. In the longer term, the beach might be recharged with imported sand that is likely to be retained due to the closed hydrodynamic processes in this sheltered bay area with its low seawards gradients and lack of backwash forces. A sand beach and “pseudo” artificial dunes would transform this unappealing zone and uplift its use to become a source of pride for the local community and the City. This proposal is made more complex by commitments to existing designations and therefore needs to be more site-specific, e.g., differentiating between existing and possible future habitats, but, subject to additional consultations and more detailed planning should be feasible – and is arguably overdue, - and need not necessarily be high cost.

This proposed initiative was not a specific, List A sub-project but emerged during the research and consultation processes. Accordingly, more needs to be done, plus greater specification of existing conservational attributes, including biodiversity, habitats and species; however, the goal is achievable and is considered worthy of this effort in the long term.

- ◆ Beach Clean-up. This needs to be approached at two levels. The first involves local schools and community groups in the removal of superficial debris and rubbish in the area between the road and the sea. This has been done before but needs repeating. Both the ACC Countryside Ranger Service and the East Grampian Coastal Partnership are involved in these exercises which should take place regularly. The second level of “clean-up” requires much more substantial undertakings for the area in the southern half of the bay between the boulder beach and the base of the old cliff, which also contains the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

For decades large boulders, masonry and other materials have been dumped in this area which has been raised above its natural level. Most of the area was also surfaced by an extensive flat cover of tarmac up to 15cm thick. Now partly obscured by a veneer of vegetation, this layer is seen best along the coastal edge which is, in effect, a two-three metre high “cliff” of eroding rubble beneath a layer of tarmac.

This coastal area is of prime concern as an integral part of the general proposal to make and to shape a more diverse and attractive landscape, including some areas of ridges and sand hills between the “beach” and the road (in the north) and the old cliffline in the south. In time, a fully – extended coastal trail could be made to integrate into the existing Core Paths for the City.

- ◆ The Coastal Trail. This is at an early stage but direct contact has been made with SNH for a Geo Site Status report on the SSSI on the old cliffs of glacial deposits in the south of the area. The National Geological Survey (Edinburgh based) has been contacted and has offered assistance. Field reconnaissance has been done. Links are currently being established with the appropriate Officers in the City Council so that a ‘trail leaflet’ from Torry to Cove can be added to the existing series of heritage and interpretation leaflets, which included the recent “Torry Industrial and Maritime Trail” and the three previous publications which refer specifically to Torry. Links with appropriate GIS data are also planned and the path will be overlaid onto Google Earth. By promoting the geology and amenity characteristics of this area through interpretation, etc., it is possible to promote field studies to wider audience above those undertaken by Universities and Colleges.
- ◆ Tree planting. Tree planting on a significant scale is required in a number of locations in the general environment of Nigg Bay, not least in the immediate vicinity of the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) that is under the management of Aberdeen Environmental Services. An early action arising from the focus on this study is that Officers of the City Council are currently drawing up new planting plans for the coming months as approved recently by Members of this Committee in January 2010. Given the obvious advantages of screening the WWTW; this is regarded as one of the first priorities for local action in and along the coast and especially around the St. Fitticks Community Park.

6.7 External Support

Interests amongst potential supporter and funders has been sought and obtained from several sources including local industry and commerce, and considerable goodwill exists but funding is unlikely to be committed until specific projects have been approved and costed. One of the key tasks for the PSG will be to seek out and secure external funding for the development of the project as a whole, or for any of the identified sub-projects. The support from the City Council's External Funding Team will be integral to this approach.

6.8 European Links

Pan-European projects links are vested in the Innovative Management for Europe's Changing Coastal Resource (IMCORE) <http://imcore.eu> that seeks to transfer good practice in integrated coastal zone management between European nation states. Aberdeen is a member of the group and some of the projects within SACRP will provide the basis for an international workshop to be held in Aberdeen during the lifetime of the IMCORE programme, to be held on 2nd and 3rd November 2010.

6.9 The Torry Battery

Torry Point Battery was embraced within the study as a list B project, however, this was just one of many sub-projects identified to be taken forward by the City Council. The Torry Battery has significant importance to Torry and the City and warranted early attention to address noticeable dilapidations in the remaining fortifications of this Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The Torry Battery has commanded the entrance to Aberdeen harbour since 1860, is one of the best-loved historical monuments in the City. It has had a long and varied history - as a coastal defence battery, emergency housing and latterly as a sanctuary for migratory birds. There are many rich sources of evidence about its past historical documents and maps, architectural and archaeological remains, photographs and oral reminiscences.

Research into these sources over recent years by Council staff has highlighted many aspects of the Battery's fascinating history and led in 2000 to its scheduling by Scottish Ministers as a monument of national significance. That led in turn to recognition that such an important structure deserved the best of physical care and protection, to ensure its long-term preservation as a source of pride and enjoyment for the people of Torry, Aberdeen and beyond.

- To ensure the preservation of the Torry Battery and raise its profile by making it more attractive and accessible for locals, visitors and tourists.
- To create a safe and accessible environment for school groups and those with disabilities to be able to access the site.
- To seek out and assemble peoples' memories of the Battery in the period immediately prior to, during and after the Second World War, up to the present based on reminiscences and oral histories.
- To develop capacity for volunteer opportunities within the Torry community

Conservation works on the Battery site will look to improve the extent of wear and vandalism that the site has encountered over the years. An ashlar and rubble construction featuring a main gate, un-roofed buildings and various armaments, the site has been loosely repaired over the years, but requires some attention if it is to be a safe and accessible visitor site. A full architectural report has been commissioned to identify the extent of works required and further funding is being sought from other sources to enable this to take place. In addition, new interpretation boards, depicting the site from a post conservation phase would be commissioned and there will be a need to improve the car parking facilities to accommodate for additional visitors.

The intended scope of works will respect the national significance of the site in that there will be no alteration to the existing structures. However, the sympathetic restoration and conservation works will include the following:

- consolidation and capping of the wallheads to prevent further deterioration
- repointing of masonry walls
- the stripping back of vegetation currently overgrowing the structures and the formation of gravel strips at the base of the existing masonry walls
- minor landscaping works to assist in visitor interpretation

Officers have sourced potential funding partners but the Council would have to make at least a 10% contribution (£40,000) towards the costs, which will attract around £360,000 from external sources. The current estimated costs are in the region of £400,000. Approaches to funders have met with met with positive responses and the City Council has been requested to submit external funding applications as follows:

Historic Scotland : £ 160,000 (Will take up to a year for approval)
 Scottish Natural Heritage: £ 200,000

The conservation works will be programmed to commence in 2011 (summer). As such the Councils share of funding will be required to be approved for the 2011/12 financial year.

6.10 Summary.

This study envisaged that the benefits of a range of interventionist projects would be cumulative over a ten - twenty year timescale, enabling a turnaround in the degraded environmental conditions that built up over a long period of time. An early commitment to projects and sub-projects could help bring forward these anticipated benefits.

The purpose of the SACRP study was to rigorously test the feasibility of a series of co-ordinated and integrated projects, which included the acquisition of critical baseline data. The report to EP&I Committee recommended endorsement of the completion of the study undertaken by the University of Aberdeen and recognises that sustainable development and green tourism potential can be achieved once core-funding streams can be secured. The report to Members can be regarded as a benchmark to begin the process to assess capital and recurrent costs and to determine the optimal phasing of the sub-projects as detailed in the Full Report. There is value in engaging with all levels of education and in a wide range of disciplines, some of are not exclusively environmental in the development of projects and sub-projects that have been identified in this study through the formation of the Project Steering Group with a broad interest of stakeholder organisations. Further links must also be developed with the higher education sectors for the benefits that can accrue to schools and their communities.

Although this project focused on Nigg Bay and its surroundings, any developments will also need to be co-ordinated with other proposals in adjacent areas, e.g. recording and promoting the heritage interests in Old Cove, Torry and Footdee.

A report on the development on projects and sub-projects for further consideration at the EP&I meeting set for 31st May 2010.

7 AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

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9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to South Area Committee on 29th November 2007 –article 16 refers
Report to South Area Committee on 19th February 2009 –article 3 refers
Report to South Area Committee on 28th May 2009 – article 5 refers
SACRP full report (200 pages) to Aberdeen City Council – January 2010
which includes the Executive Summary (20 pages)