
CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 12 September 2014

Report
By
Regional Park Manager

SUBJECT: UPLANDS PROJECT

1.0 Purpose of Report:

1.1 To inform members of the Joint Committee of a proposed upland project.

2.0 Recommendation:

That members of the Joint Committee:-

2.1 Are aware of this potential development within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

3.0 Background:

3.1 To achieve CMRP's conservation, recreation, social and education outcomes partnership projects are necessary.

3.2 The proposed project will be a partnership between land managers, Newton Rigg College and Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. The project will demonstrate upland land management to show how organisations with a range of moorland interests can combine to produce long-term farm and conservation benefits, contribute to the local economy of a moorland area, provide increased levels of employment, support farm and sporting businesses and encourage recreation in a way that is sustainable.

3.3 Grants funding will be sought to deliver aspects of the project.

3.4 Additionally, there is interest from supermarkets that would be keen to promote meat sales, including game, from the project.

Members wishing further information regarding this report should contact Mr David Gatherer, Regional Park Manager, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, 01505 614791.

4.0 Uplands Project

4.1 The main aims of the project are noted below.

- to increase breeding hen harriers in the Renfrewshire heights SPA and Site of Special Scientific Interest
- to re-vegetate a heather/grass mix over several thousand acres
- to create extensive areas of native woodland
- to re-introduce black grouse and grey partridge
- work towards the re-introduction of red squirrels in the area
- improve sheep and cattle performance
- provide commercial populations of red grouse
- provide employment and financial betterment in the rural community
- improve public access across the park area, linking the visitor centres and providing walking and cycling routes that can be accessed by all
- provide educational interpretation of the project to the public through the park visitor centres
- deliver a model for the Scottish Government's 'Land Use Strategy' that reduces reliance on subsidy and improves the viability of rural communities

4.2 In addition, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park is planning to lead a peatland restoration project across the two council owned farms of Hardridge (Inverclyde) and West Tandlemuir (Renfrewshire) and aims to combine this with work of the RSPB at the Glengarnock Futurescape Project.

4.3 It is planned that a follow on project from Windows on Wildlife will run alongside this project involving tracking of birds and animals.

5.0 Conclusion:

5.1 The outlined project fits well with the aims of the Regional Park.

5.2 Grants for project development will be sought and there is the potential for investment from companies.

5.3 Partnership working will improve the economy and biodiversity of the uplands.

Contribution to the National Outcomes of Report: Uplands Project
 Completed by: D. Gatherer, Regional Park Manager...Date 12 September 2014

1. We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe	
2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people	This could be used as a business model for upland Scotland. It will provide education and employment in the rural community.
3. We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation	This is primarily a scientific research project that will establish a working model for upland areas of Scotland.
4. Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens	Some young people will have the ability to learn through this project.
5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed	This project will promote skill development and increase learning.
6. We live longer, healthier lives	
7. We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society	
8. We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk	This project will lead to improved life chances for some young people by increasing their skill and competence level.
9. We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger	
10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need	
11. We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others	
12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations	This project may be a template for managing upland areas for food production and conservation to the benefit of both.
13. We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity	
14. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production	Locally produced food, less travel miles.
15. Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs	