
To: Joint Committee

On: 14th December 2018

Report by: Head of Planning & Housing, Renfrewshire Council

Heading: Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Governance Review

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks to update the Joint Committee on the governance review and seeks agreement to revise the existing Minute of Agreement and supporting governance documents.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee:
- (i) Authorise the Head of Planning & Housing of Renfrewshire Council in consultation with relevant Council officers to progress the review and revision of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Minute of Agreement 2004 and supporting governance documents;
 - (ii) Agree that following the Approval of the relevant Committees / Boards of Renfrewshire, Inverclyde & North Ayrshire Councils a report be brought back to a future meeting of the Joint Committee confirming the changes to the Minute of Agreement and supporting documents.
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3. Background

- 3.1 Members will be aware of the commitments made to review the governance, assets and resources related to the Park Authority with a view to improving the positive role of the park resources and identifying key themes for development.

- 3.2 The Park Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 has been a key driver of this review and since its approval by the Joint Committee has re-focussed Park activity, identified operational efficiencies and improved the visitor experience.
- 3.3 However, to achieve a more effective governance framework the existing Minute of Agreement requires to be reviewed and amended.
- 3.4 The Minute of Agreement was approved in 2004 and does not meet the current needs of the Park and its users and therefore requires to be amended in line with the relevant Financial Regulations, Procedural Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegations.

4. Progress to Date

- 4.1 Examples of best practise across the natural heritage and leisure sector have been reviewed in association with local, regional and national policy developments to identify opportunities for the Park going forward.
- 4.2 Recent public engagement activity has supplemented these findings with local needs and aspirations.
- **Visitor Survey** - a high level of satisfaction with the Park's natural heritage assets and the platform provided for learning, leisure and health. Respondents recognise opportunities for change, including the type of activity the Park undertakes and the way it's delivered.
 - **Staff Workshops** - good progress is being made in achieving the objectives of the Park Strategy and Action Plan. Staff acknowledge the potential for organisational change over the coming years to respond to internal and external pressures.
- 4.3 The Park has successfully delivered operational efficiencies and accommodated reductions in financial requisitions. Anticipated financial pressures have necessitated further planning to ensure the Park has the support and resources to undertake key activities in the short term.
- 4.4 Staff roles and responsibilities have been realigned to maintain effective operations following the departure of the Interim Park Manager in June 2018. A revised staff structure will be implemented to provide strategic direction.
- 4.5 A review of the Park's assets and activities has identified several opportunities to improve the Park's sustainability. This has been considered within the scope afforded by the existing Minute of Agreement and Standing Orders, specifically relating to asset management and it is recognised that the Minute of Agreement requires to be revised to inform and support continued sustainability.

- 4.6 At its meeting on the 7th September 2018 the Joint Committee considered the Annual Audit Report 2017/18 by Audit Scotland. The report stated the Park's governance arrangements "remain out of date and may not reflect the current legislative requirements and CMPA's current situation" (Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee, Audit of 2017/18 Annual Accounts).
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5. Next Steps

- 5.1 There is scope to improve the governance framework to allow it to react timeously to opportunities and foster the wider communities ability to exercise rights under community empowerment legislation.
- 5.2 The Joint Committee is asked to agree to revise the existing governance framework, including the Minute of Agreement and supporting governance documents.
- 5.3 A supplementary report to the Joint Committee outlines the process to improve community participation in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. This will be considered as part of the review and revision of the governance framework
- 5.4 Outputs of the consultation and review process will inform the development of a revised Minute of Agreement to be presented to respective Council boards for approval in 2019. A further report will be submitted to the Joint Committee seeking approval of the revised Minute of Agreement.
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6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Significant operational efficiencies have been made since the approval of the Park Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021. A revised Minute of Agreement will:
- safeguard these efficiencies;
 - provide an effective governance framework which will maximise resources;
 - create an increasingly inclusive, resilient and commercially viable organisation, and;
 - meet the requirements of the Annual Audit Report 2017/18.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None

2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
 3. **Legal** – Legal advice will be sought as required to provide guidance regarding the processes and implications associated with any proposed changes to governance.
 4. **Property/Assets** – None.
 5. **Information Technology** – none
 6. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website
 7. **Health & Safety** – n/a
 8. **Procurement** – n/a
 9. **Risk** – n/a
 10. **Privacy Impact** – n/a
 11. **COSLA Policy Position** – n/a
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