
To: Joint Committee

On: 4th September 2020

Report by: Head of Planning and Housing, Renfrewshire Council

Heading: Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Governance Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks to update the Joint Committee on the recent decisions by Renfrewshire Council and Inverclyde Council to terminate the Minute of Agreement and dissolve the Park Authority Joint Committee with effect from 31st March 2021.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee:
- (i) Note the decisions of Renfrewshire Council and Inverclyde Council to terminate the Minute of Agreement and dissolve the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee with effect from 31st March 2021.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Authority Joint Committee ("Park Authority") is governed by a Minute of Agreement (MoA) which was most recently agreed by Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and North Ayrshire in 2004. On 17 February 2020, North Ayrshire Council gave notice of withdrawal from the MoA.
- 3.2 Following consideration by the remaining Councils it was concluded that the governance arrangements as they currently stand are disproportionate to the size and operation of activities within the Park, and the most appropriate option is to terminate the MoA and for the Park Authority to be dissolved.

- 3.3 Renfrewshire Council's Environment and Infrastructure Board held on 26th August 2020 and Inverclyde Council's Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 27th August 2020 agreed the termination of the MoA and dissolution of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Joint Committee from 31st March 2021.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Prior to the termination of the Minute of Agreement, each Council will confirm their share of the liabilities and moveable assets of the Park Authority. Thereafter, the individual Councils will manage separately the financial arrangements for those services which are provided solely within their respective boundaries.
- 4.2 Renfrewshire Council is the employing authority for Park staff and any organisational development changes will be agreed in full consultation with partner organisations and staff.
- 4.3 Following the dissolution of the Joint Committee, each local authority will make investment and operational decisions separately regarding the parts of the Regional Park lying within their respective boundaries.
- 4.4 These arrangements will not affect the designation of Clyde Muirshiel as a Regional Park or the Country Park designations for Muirshiel and Castle Semple. Each Council will also investigate partnership opportunities in relation to marketing and promoting the recreational and environmental education role of the Regional Park.
- 4.5 Liaison with Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and North Ayrshire Councils will continue to ensure the protection and enhancement of the Regional Park's natural environment, while opportunities for ongoing community involvement in park activities will be encouraged.
- 4.6 Opportunities to generate income by providing services under service level agreements will continue to be investigated to support the ongoing provision and development of activities within the Regional Park.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Minute of Agreement will terminate on 31st March 2021 and the Joint Committee will dissolve on that date. Thereafter, each Council will manage separately the financial arrangements for those services which are provided solely within their respective Council boundaries and functions delegated to the Park Authority will revert to the relevant Council.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – As set out in Section 4 above.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – Renfrewshire Council is the employing authority for Park staff and any organisational development changes will be agreed in full consultation with partner organisations
3. **Legal** – Agreement among the three Councils will be required on their respective shares of the Park Authority's liabilities and moveable assets documentation. Upon termination of the MoA, functions delegated to the Park Authority will revert to the relevant Council
4. **Property/Assets** – the properties operated by the Park Authority will remain vested with the Council in whose area they are located, who will also continue to manage and maintain these assets.
5. **Information Technology** – n/a
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
7. **Health & Safety** – n/a
8. **Procurement** – n/a
9. **Risk** – n/a
10. **Privacy Impact** – n/a
11. **Cosla Policy Position** – n/a

Author: Fraser Carlin, Head of Planning and Housing, Renfrewshire Council