

FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MERSEY WATERFRONT REGIONAL PARK (MWRP) BOARD

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report seeks approval of the financial recommendations of the MWRP Board.

2.0 REPORT

2.1 The MWRP Board, some months ago, approved a project called Liverpool Riverlands. This project would have seen developers Langtree Maclean Limited build 1,400 homes on part of the former garden festival site on the Liverpool waterfront and transform the rest of the site into a public waterfront park.

2.2 The total cost of the project was £6.715m with £5.180m coming from Langtree Maclean Limited and £1.535m coming from MWRP funding. The expenditure profile for the MWRP funding was £300,000 in 2008/09 and £1.235m in 2009/10.

2.3 In October 2007 the David Maclean Group went into administration which put the Riverlands project in jeopardy. The developers Langtree have confirmed that they wish to proceed with the scheme but the timescales for its implementation are likely to be outside the Mersey Waterfront funding timescales. Mersey Waterfront funding ends in March 2010.

2.4 Langtree are still discussing the project with the North West Development Agency and the MWRP Board will take a final decision on funding this project at its board meeting in January 2009.

2.5 In the meantime the NWDA have made it clear that they are not expecting the MWRP to underspend in 2008/09 and therefore the £300,000 earmarked for the Liverpool Riverlands project will have to be reallocated to other projects which can spend the resources by the end of March 2009 or else they will be lost.

2.6 The MWRP Board at its meeting on 19 November 2008 therefore, agreed a number of "Quick Win" projects which could achieve the required spend. These projects, which are appended to this report, fit the strategic objectives of the MWRP and are additions to larger projects which have already been funded by the MWRP.

2.7 Further detailed work is required on these projects and this will be completed by the middle of December 2008. A decision on which ones go forward will then be needed so that they can commence on site in the first week of January and achieve the spend by March 2009.

2.8 Given the funding timescales being required by the NWDA, Cabinet is requested to approve the "Quick Win" projects as set out in this report so that those which are finally chosen to proceed can be implemented rapidly thereby ensuring that financial resources are not lost.

2.9 The final decision on which projects proceed will be taken by the Chair of the MWRP Board in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration representing the Accountable Body.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 MWRP is funded by a grant which is made available by the North West Regional Development Agency. Wirral Council is the Accountable Body for the MWRP.

3.2 If the MWRP underspends in 2008-09 then the NWDA has advised that the underspent amount will be lost to the MWRP.

4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Mersey Waterfront promotes equal opportunities for all.

6.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The projects outlined in this report will improve security in the areas of the promenade and canal corridor.

7.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 All the projects will be implemented in keeping with the principles of Agenda 21. In particular, they will seek to address:

- Efficient use of resources and energy
- Minimisation of waste
- Reduction of pollution
- Promotion of accessibility and sustainable transport
- Enrichment of local identity

8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no known Planning implications arising directly from this report.

9.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

10.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 MWRP seeks to promote social inclusion by opening up to access for all Members of the community the waterfront areas of the MWRP area.

11.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 This report will be of interest to all Members of the Council as Wirral is the Accountable Body for the MWRP.

12.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1 Mersey Waterfront papers were used in the preparation of this report and these are held in the Regeneration Department at Wallasey Town Hall.

13.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 It is recommended that:

(1) the "Quick Win" projects are approved by Cabinet so that decisions can be made before the end of December on which ones should be implemented to expend the £300,000 projected shortfall from the Riverlands Project in 2008-09;

(2) "call in" is waived to enable the timescales and expenditure profile required by the NWDA to be met and the Council be informed accordingly; and

(3) the Cabinet Member for Regeneration on behalf of the Accountable Body for the MWRP agrees the projects to be implemented with the Chair of the MWRP Board.

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Director of Regeneration

This report was prepared by David Ball who can be contacted on 691-8395.

MW QUICK WINS

Project Title	Summary	Funding - £'000			Timescale	MWRP linkages to projects already approved
		MW	Other	Total		
Egremont Promenade Railings	Restoration of a section of original railings adjacent to Wallasey Town Hall that WMBC are unable to refurbish as part of the Pride in Our Proms programme	70	0	70	Complete by 31/03/09	Part of Pride in our Promenades Programme
Liverpool Sailing Club	The purchase of equipment and materials to complete the equipping and fit out of the new sailing club building	40	0	40	Complete by 31/03/09	- Ditto -
Leeds & Liverpool Canal Interpretation Project	Production and installation of Gateway features, way markers and mile posts	80	0	80	Complete by 31/03/09	- Ditto -
St Helens Canal	To restore the St Helens Canal to navigable state for water going recreational vehicles accessing Spike Island	100	500	600	Additional works complete by 31/03/09	- Ditto -
Pool of Light	To secure the legacy from the 'Pool of Light' programme and retain the successful lighting feature currently installed on the Royal Daffodil	22	0	22	Completed by 31/03/09	Pool of Light Project
Speke & Garston Coastal Reserve Phase C	Improvements to the coastal reserve to create better access for the local and wider community and provide enhanced views of the Mersey estuary from the site	136	0	136	Work complete by 31/03/09	Part of Sefton Coastal Park
Hightown Dune Health	Project to purchase parcels of land from a private landowner and manage to a higher standard, improve access, link to Sefton coastal path	250	0	250	Uncertain of completion by March because of acquisition negotiations	- Ditto -
Crosby Coastal Park	Implementation of new seating, signage and general street furniture along Crosby promenade	100	0	100	Complete by 31/03/09	- Ditto -
Appraisals	Funding needs to be set aside to fund the appraisals of the prioritised projects	10	0	10	Complete by 31/03/09	
TOTAL		738	500	1298		

