

MEETING OF CLYDE GATEWAY URC

Minutes of meeting of 17 March 2021 by video conference

Present: Councillor John Anderson, South Lanarkshire Council
Councillor Laura Doherty, Glasgow City Council
Councillor Greg Hepburn, Glasgow City Council
Ian Manson, Chief Executive
Robert McLeary, South Lanarkshire Community Representative
Allan McQuade, Scottish Enterprise
Councillor Carol Nugent, South Lanarkshire Council
Stuart Patrick, Glasgow Business Representative
Rosie Robertson, Glasgow Community Representative

Apologies Alison Thewliss MP, Chair
Jim Watson, Scottish Enterprise

In attendance: Fiona Brittle, Scottish Government
Alison Brown, Clyde Gateway
Dougie Cameron, Clyde Gateway
Pauline Elliott, South Lanarkshire Council
Michael Kerr, Scottish Government
Lesley-Ann Logan, Clyde Gateway
Barry Macintyre, Clyde Gateway
Martin McKay, Clyde Gateway
Andrew Murphy, Office of Alison Thewliss MP

1. **Welcome, introductions, apologies and any declarations of interest.**

Greg Hepburn welcomed everyone to this special meeting of Clyde Gateway URC's Board the sole purpose of which was to consider the investment decision for Phase 2 of the Cuningar Loop Woodland Park. As Alison Thewliss, the Chair, had given her apologies he would be chairing the meeting instead. Apologies had also been received from Jim Watson who had provided his views beforehand and these would be relayed at the end of today's presentation.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. **Business**

For Approval

2.1 Cuningar Loop Woodland Park (Phase 2) – Investment Decision (CG21(MAR)01)

Dougie Cameron presented a report seeking approval to proceed with Phase 2 of the Cuningar Woodland Park which would deliver a further 8.53 hectares of parkland and thereby removing it from the Vacant/Derelict Land Register. An investment decision was now capable of consideration following the recent welcome news that the Clyde Mission Fund had awarded a £2.3m grant towards this project's total cumulative capital budget of £3.9m. This sum was in addition to the previously reported Green Infrastructure Fund grant of £1.6m from NatureScot, formerly Scottish Natural Heritage.

The report detailed the specific elements of the programme of works as well as the ecology considerations, the arts strategy and planned maintenance arrangements.

Board members sought clarification on several matters including wildlife safeguards, the treatment of invasive species, progress on the ongoing discussions with Forestry and Land Scotland, the future funding and profiling of the maintenance budget, the importation of soil and community engagement. Following explanations and reassurances from staff on all of these aspects the Board:

- (i) Approved a total project capital budget of £3,866,294 to construct Phase Two of the Cuningar Loop Woodland Park including the previous cumulative approved budget of £629,527 for survey works, site investigations and professional fees.
- (ii) Authorised the Chief Executive to enter into a contract with Robertson Construction Group for tendered works of up to £2,602,878 including three years maintenance costs.
- (iii) Approved a separate maintenance budget for a further seven years totalling £495,600.

In reaching these decisions the Board noted:

- (i) All budget figures are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.
- (ii) The obligation towards the end of Clyde Gateway's anticipated operating lifespan, as set out within the Members' Agreement, to place such assets with appropriate public or community bodies and seek an endowment fund to support their future maintenance.
- (iii) The recent grant award of £2.3m from the Scottish Government's Clyde Mission Fund.

Barry Macintyre then reported that Jim Watson had also supported the proposals.

3. Any other business

None.

4. Date, time and venue of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 30th April 2021 at 2.30pm using Microsoft Teams.
