

would be brought forward to the 12th October meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee

- 1.6 Following receipt of suggestions from Elected Members officers are now working through these projects and undertaking the necessary due diligence as well as reviewing those projects that were put forward as suggestions in the email to Elected Members. This is to ensure that those projects that go forward for formal approval are the best fit with the fund, the necessary resources are in place and the projects are at a stage where deliverability can be assured within the timeframe. In addition it is also necessary to ensure that the total value of all the project allocations at this stage does not exceed the prudent estimate of £1.0million, at least until the Council receives formal confirmation of the allocation.
- 1.7 In light of the above work that is still ongoing, it is proposed to seek agreement from Members for a further delegation of powers to the Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth, in consultation with the Leader, Depute Leader and Leader of the largest Opposition Group, to approve the final list of projects to be supported by the £1.0million prudent allocation of Crown Estate 2023/24 funding in consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Policy and Resources Committee:

- a) Note that the formal allocation of Crown Estate funding for the 2023/24 is still awaited;
- b) Note the proposal to allocate a £1.0million prudent estimate of anticipated Crown Estate 2023/24 funding against individual projects pending receipt of the formal allocation;
- c) Note that officers sought suggestions from Elected Members and are undertaking due diligence in reviewing those projects against the criteria set by the Scottish Government;
- d) Agree to a delegation of powers to the Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth, in consultation with the Leader, Depute Leader and Leader of the largest Opposition Group to approve the final list of projects to be supported by the £1.0million prudent allocation of Crown Estate 2023/24 funding;
- e) Note that officers will inform Elected Members of the decision taken by the delegation; and
- f) Note that a further report will be brought back to members of Policy and Resources should the formal allocation for 2023/24 represent a higher figure than £1.0million.

CROWN ESTATE 2023/2024 ALLOCATION AND POSSIBLE PROJECTS

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Scottish Ministers made a commitment in 2014 that they would provide 100% of the net revenue from Scottish Crown Estate marine assets out to 12 nautical miles to Local Authorities for coastal community benefit if management of the assets was devolved. The expectation was that Local Authorities would use the funding for additional expenditure that specifically benefits coastal communities, with individual authorities making decisions on funding of projects to benefit coastal communities and being transparent and accountable to their communities and other for expenditure.
- 2.2 The Council is still awaiting confirmation of the allocation for this financial year (2023/24) and it is unclear as to when formal written notification will be given of this year's allocation. However it is considered, based on previous year's allocations, that a prudent estimate of £1.0m of anticipated funding in 2023/24, should be considered and consideration given as to how this funding could be allocated taking into account the guidance.
- 2.3 This report follows on from a report to Policy and Resources Committee on 10 August 23 at which it was agreed that an email communication would be issued to all Elected Members from the Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth suggesting projects that could be funded by Crown Estate 23/24 allocation and seeking members' views on these and other suggestions which would fit within the funds criteria and timeline. The email was subsequently issued to members and suggestions received.
- 2.4 It was also agreed at the August Policy and Resources Committee that following consultation with all elected members, as detailed above, a further report on the proposed allocation of the Crown Estate Funding for 2023/24 would be brought forward to the 12th October meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

community project.

- 4.5 Where the funding is being provided as a grant a contract needs to be drawn up and issued and the grant and associated drawdown managed by officers of the Council.
- 4.6 Following receipt of suggestions from elected members officers are now working through these projects and undertaking the necessary due diligence as well as reviewing those projects that were put forward as suggestions in the email to elected members. This is to ensure that those projects that go forward for formal approval are the best fit with the fund, the necessary resources are in place and the projects are at a stage where deliverability can be assured within the timeframe. In addition it is also necessary to ensure that the total value of all the project allocations does not exceed the prudent estimate of £1.0million, at least until the council receives formal confirmation of the allocation.
- 4.7 In light of the above work that is still ongoing it is proposed to seek agreement from members for a further delegation of powers to the Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth to approve the final list of projects to be supported by the £1.0million prudent allocation of Crown Estate 2023/24 funding in consultation with the Leader, Depute Leader and Leader of the largest Opposition Group.
- 4.8 The challenge in respect of the funding has always been to identify projects that meet the criteria, and are able to be delivered within short timeframes with our limited staff res-0(w)35(i)-27(t)28(h)56 400.13 Tmc4TBT1 0 (st)28(a)-6(f)28(f)faff1 0

development of the area.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – There is a need to comply with the Scottish Government guidance as outlined in the report. The expectation is that Local Authorities would use the funding for additional expenditure that specifically benefits coastal communities, with individual authorities making decisions on funding of projects to benefit coastal communities and being transparent and accountable to their communities and other for expenditure.
- 6.2 Financial – The Scottish Government expect that any funds will be committed and spent as quickly as possible.
- 6.3 Legal – None.
- 6.4 HR – Resourced from existing staff.
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
 - 6.5.1 Equalities -