

**WHITEHAVEN REGENERATION PROGRAMME – COASTAL FRINGE**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Cllr M Ashbrook  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Mike Tichford  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Brian Kirkbride

**Summary:** To inform Members of progress of the Coastal Fringe scheme and to seek Council support to the Commissioning of a Conservation Management Plan for the Former Haig Colliery Site.

**Recommendation:** That Members:

1. Note progress on the development of the Coastal Fringe Investment Programme
2. Agree to contribute towards the production of a Conservation Management Plan to a maximum value of £30,000

**Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan:** The project will aid regeneration in Whitehaven and help diversify the offer of Tourism and Recreation for Whitehaven.

**Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21):** The project will address areas of brown field decline and will provide enhanced public open space.

**Financial and human resource implications:** A financial contribution is made to a maximum value of £30,000 from the Major Projects Fund of £276,318 leaving a balance of £246,318.

**Project & Risk Management:** The Conservation Management Plan is a project, which will help future conservation and management of the Haig Colliery Site. Management of the project is overseen by the Coastal Fringe Task Group who will ensure that the project is delivered to the required standard.

**Key Decision Status**

- **Financial:** N/A  
- **Ward:** N/A

**Other Ward Implications:** None

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 A report was presented to the Executive on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2006 detailing the concept of the Coastal Fringe project as part of the wider Whitehaven Regeneration Programme. This report presents an update on the current progress and key milestones achieved in developing the programme.
- 1.2 It came to the attention of the Coastal Fringe Task Group that Haig Pit have been advised that as part of their application for Heritage Lottery Funding a Conservation Management Plan needs to be undertaken upon the Haig site and the surrounding area which is within Copelands ownership. The Conservation Management Plan will aid development of the Haig site in its entirety and as such is seen as a crucial element to support.

## **2. COASTAL FRINGE UPDATE**

- 2.1 Following the report dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2006 the Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by all parties and is now in place. A Funding Agreement has been received for the capital investment relating to Copeland land this is currently being finalised with solicitors. The appointment of a Project Manager to aid the development and oversee the delivery of the capital scheme has been out to tender and a preferred tender has been identified; a verbal update on the successful appointee will be presented at the meeting. It will be the role of the Project Manager to work with the Council to appoint a detailed design team and to oversee procurement of contractors to implement the capital works.
- 2.2 The Land Restoration Trust in association with the National Trust held an event on 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at which a number of the partners and Members were invited to take part in a number of workshops to aid the development of the Coastal Fringe Programme. The event was well attended and overall a common appreciation of the potential of the site was acknowledged the result of the event is that a paper is now going to be developed and presented to the next meeting of the Coastal Fringe Task Group following which a detailed plan will be identified and will be presented to members at a future Executive meeting.
- 2.3 It should also be noted that this is the start of a process to redevelop the Whitehaven Coastline and there are a number of aspects of the scheme which are currently being developed which may have an impact on the council due to our legal position as land owner of specific sites. Two sites, which have been highlighted as in need of attention which adjoin the Haig Colliery site, are the South Beach Area and Saltom Pit both of which have public access issues and the Council have some responsibility or duty to manage. Resources may be required to be identified to support these sites as part of the overall strategic development of the Whitehaven Coastline the detail of which will be identified in a further report to the executive as required.

## **3. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- 3.1 A Conservation Management Plan is a plan that identifies how best to preserve sites and areas of historic value for prosperity, the heritage of the Former Haig Colliery Site has been identified as a site which is worthy of such a management plan being in place.
- 3.2 The requirement of such a plan has been initially brought to the attention of the Coastal Fringe Task Group due to a specific request to support the Heritage Lottery submission by the Haig Mining Company.
- 3.3 Initial approaches have been made to English Partnerships to support the cost of undertaking the Conservation Management Plan out of the investment already identified but it has been expressed by English Partnerships that they feel that Copeland Borough Council financially supporting this piece of work will give them confidence that all parties are willing to work together to deliver the Coastal Fringe Programme. It is on this basis that I am seeking support up to a maximum of £30,000 to cover the cost of production of the plan.
- 3.4 As Haig Mining Company are already in negotiations with potential parties to undertake production of such a plan it is felt by the Coastal Fringe Task Group that they would be best placed to commission and appoint consultants to produce the plan on the basis that the Task Group have overall responsibility for the plan as it relates to the whole of the Haig Colliery Site.
- 3.5 The production of such a plan will support the level of investment that is committed by English Partnerships into the land that Copeland Borough Council owns and into the buildings of the Haig Mine itself.

#### **4 CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The Coastal Fringe Programme has an investment of £4,088,000 approved through English Partnerships which they have programmed for actual expenditure in 2007/08 otherwise the investment may be pushed back to the end of their programme in 2012.
- 4.2 The actions taken to appoint a project Manager and supporting the production of a Conservation Management Plan will aid the delivery of the investment in 2007/08 as identified by English Partnerships.

#### **List of Appendices**

None

**List of Background Documents:** Executive report 14/3/06 – Coastal Fringe

**List of Consultees:** Corporate Team, Catherine Nicholson, Paul Robson, Cllr Alan Holliday, Duncan Fyfe, Toni Magean