

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Update on Developing Water Transport Links and Increasing Attraction to the Park

Committee: Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee

Date: 6 November 2015

Cabinet Members: Councillor Smith (Plymouth City Council)
Councillor Mrs Duffin (Cornwall Council)

CMT Members: Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place, Plymouth City Council)
Peter Marsh (Head of Commissioning and Asset Management, Cornwall Council)

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Ref:

Key Decision: No

Part: Part I

Purpose of the report:

At the July Joint Committee an update was requested at this meeting on progress in developing improved water transport links to the Park. It also gives information on a bid for funding to commence the process of refurbishing three listed properties on the Park which are currently closed to public access.

The Brilliant Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 -2016/17:

Delivering excellent services and increasing levels of earned income

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land:

None.

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

None.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

The information be noted and where required, further updates be made to future Joint Committee meetings.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

None.

Published work / information:

Minutes of the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Coast Communities Team (TRPCCT)
DCLG paper on Coast Community Teams

Background papers:

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating SMT Member													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report? Yes / No													

- 1.0 At the last Joint Committee, an update was requested on the development of improved water transport links with the Park, which would help to increase footfall into the Park and potentially therefore income.
- 1.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) launched an initiative to establish coastal communities' teams across the country. The intention was to reverse the trend of economic decline in coastal areas by linking together individual groups and organisations to:-
- Encourage greater local partnership working
 - Support the development of local solutions to economic issues facing coastal communities
 - Establish a network of teams across England who can work together and with the government to tackle issues facing local communities
 - Encourage the sustainable use of heritage/cultural assets to provide both focus for community activities and enhance economic opportunities.
- 1.2 To help establish the teams, the DCLG has set aside £1.1m in 2015/16 to start the process (approx. £10k per team), which could also be used to commission the preparation of the Economic Plan for the team area or if already established, progress initial priorities in advance of the Economic Plan being adopted.
- 1.3 A team has been established on the peninsula and is known as the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Coastal Communities Team (TRPCCT). Participants come from most of the local organisations and groups with an interest in the coastal and tidal river frontage and tourism. A similar team has been established around the Saltash area.
- 1.4 The first meeting of the team established three initial priorities aimed at reconnecting the communities of Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula;
- A waterside jetty/pontoon in Torpoint (subsequently increased to include Mount Edgcumbe and other locations)
 - Improve the road junction on the A374 at Ring of Bells, Antony
 - Improve footpath and cycling network across the peninsula
- 1.5 Mount Edgcumbe is represented on this team and is supportive and working with the other team members on the first priority to improve water transport links within the peninsula as well as to Plymouth and further afield (hopefully working with the Saltash team to obtain greater benefit). This would follow the DCLG recommendation on joint working between neighbouring Teams as Saltash already has a landing pontoon at Waterside.
- 1.6 The TRPCCT has commenced the process of commissioning the Economic Plan for the peninsula and will work from that to secure funding toward the initial priorities as well as others that may be developed as part of the Economic Plan preparation.
- 1.7 Clearly, a network of landing provisions needs to be established in order to allow greater use of water transport and whilst Mount Edgcumbe does have a slipway at Cremyll, this is incorporated as the main landing facility for the Cremyll ferry which generally precludes its use by other operators.
- 1.8 We will keep you aware of progress as further development of this action occurs through the TRPCCT

- 2.0 Linked to the DCLG Coastal Communities Team work, a further sum of money was allocated by DCLG in a separate pot of £3m to be bid for and spent by end of February 2016. The maximum amount available is £50k . The intention is to commence the development of projects linked to the DCLG initiative priorities.
- 2.1 Details of this pot of money and the deadline for bids were only made available at the end of July 2015. As the closing date was set at 14th September 2015, a rapid decision was made to put in a bid for the Park.
- 2.1 As the economic plan was not in place and with the support of TRPCCT, Mount Edgcombe submitted a bid to prepare all the required documentation (detailed specifications, estimated costs and potential end use) on three structures on the Park – The English Garden House, French Conservatory and West Lodge to carry out a full refurbishment. The allocation applied for was £13.5k.
- 2.2 The intention is that this additional information will support approaches to grant funding organisations like the Heritage Lottery Fund for external capital funding to refurbish these building and bring them back into effective use and add additional attraction to the Park that will also realise potential income benefits.
- 2.3 It is understood that the number of bids for funding from the pot was high and the available funds well over subscribed. No information on success, or otherwise, has been released at this time.