

Connections to the Pentland Hills Regional Park – Access Study

Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee

14th January 2010

Purpose of report

- 1 To inform the Joint Committee of a successful bid to the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund for an enabling study into improving non-motorised access to and from the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

Main report

- 2 The Scottish Government's second National Planning Framework (NPF2) designated the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) as one of the key 14 National Developments. The CSGN aims to improve the quality and extent of woodland cover throughout Central Scotland.
- 3 The Forestry Commission Scotland, in its capacity as joint lead partner for the CSGN, is administering a new fund (the CSGN Development Fund), to support projects that help meet CSGN objectives. Eligible projects will include:
 - woodland creation and management;
 - creation of a high quality landscape in support of development plan settlement strategies (including accessible green space for communities);
 - strategic routes for active travel and recreation;
 - strategic habitat networks and habitat development projects;
 - restoration of vacant and derelict land for green network purposes;
 - integration of woodland, habitat, greenspace and access development with water catchment and coastal zone management.
- 4 In September 2010, Scottish Natural Heritage provided an additional £200K to the Development fund to widen the eligibility of projects to include those without a significant woodland component. Applications needed to be submitted by 30th

September 2010 and projects completed by 31st March 2011. The Regional Park was successful in securing £13,000 from the Fund to carry out a study into improving non-motorised access between the Regional Park and surrounding communities.

- 5 CSGN funding is available at this stage for enabling work which will directly lead to physical works on the ground. The study will therefore provide impetus for future access improvements to and from the Regional Park.
- 6 The study will have two key outputs:
 - provision of a strategic overview of non-motorised access routes to and from the Regional Park; and
 - detailed proposals and specifications for up to 4 path improvements projects.
- 7 Consultation will be targeted to key officers and community groups with a known interest in local access routes to the Pentlands. The Consultative Forum will be consulted at its meeting of 11th February.
- 8 In November 2010, Land Use Consultants (Edinburgh) was appointed to deliver the project and work started in early December. An interim report will be submitted in Mid February 2011 and all work will be completed by end March 2011.

Financial Implications

- 9 The study has a value of £13,000 and is 100% funded by the Central Scotland Development Fund. There are no further direct funding contributions required from the Regional Park or its partner local authorities.

Environmental Impact

- 10 Improvement of access routes to and from the Regional Park will encourage more visits by non-motorised modes enhancing the environmental quality of the area and making a contribution to a reduction in CO₂ emissions from transport.

Recommendations

- 11 It is recommended that the Joint Committee:
 - a) notes that funding for the access study has been secured from the Central Scotland Green Network; and
 - b) considers a further report on the study findings in due course.


David Jamieson
Parks & Greenspace Manager

Appendices	None
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Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	Relevant to the following National Outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.2 We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.6 We live longer, healthier lives.10 We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.11 We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.12 We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations13 We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.14 We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.15 Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.
Background Papers	Further Information on the Central Scotland Green Network at: http://www.centraisotlandgreennetwork.org/