

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 21 September 2023

Scottish Crown Estate net revenue allocations – coastal adaptation

Executive/routine
Wards

Executive
1 – Almond; 4 – Forth; 13 – Leith; 14 – Craigentinny/
Duddingston; 17 – Portobello/Craigmillar

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Finance and Resources Committee agree that Scottish Crown Estate net revenue allocations to the Council for 2023/24 and subsequent financial years be utilised for coastal adaptation activities.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Scottish Crown Estate net revenue allocations – coastal adaptation

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Council receives annual funding from the Scottish Crown Estate for activities to benefit coastal communities. Under the current methodology this allocation is approximately £80,000 per annum. It is recommended that the allocations for 2023/2024 and subsequent financial years be utilised for coastal adaptation activities.

3. Background

Scottish Crown Estate net revenue allocations

- 3.1 The Scottish Crown Estate comprises various land and property assets in Scotland held in right of the Crown. These include the seabed, foreshore, fishing rights, and rural estates. These assets are managed by Crown Estate Scotland, which generates an income from rents and other sources.
- 3.2 In recent years, net revenue from marine assets within 12 nautical miles held by the Scottish Crown Estate has been distributed to local authorities to deliver benefits for coastal communities. The current methodology was agreed between Marine Scotland and COSLA in 2021/2022. A further revision to this methodology is planned to be applied in 2023/2024.
- 3.3 In prior years, this funding has been utilised as follows:
- 3.3.1 2019/2020 (share of revenue from 2017/2018) – £5,408.52: utilised for the Granton Waterfront regeneration programme;
 - 3.3.2 2020/2021 (share of revenue from 2018/2019) – £7,291.25: utilised for the Granton Waterfront regeneration programme; and
 - 3.3.3 2021/2022 (share of revenue from 2019/2020) – £83,207.22: utilised for the Granton Waterfront regeneration programme¹

¹ The overall allocation of monies to the Granton Waterfront regeneration programme over the three years was used to fund essential repairs to the north boundary wall and collapsed internal retaining wall at Granton
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3.3.4 2022/2023 (share of revenue from 2020/2021) – £79,283.58: utilised for the Seafield Masterplan.

3.4 An allocation for 2023/2024 has not yet been advised but this is expected to be of a similar scale to the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 allocations.

Coastal adaptation

3.5 Climate change is expected to impact upon Edinburgh's coastline via issues such as rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and more frequent extreme weather events.

3.6 The Council published "Edinburgh Adapts", its inaugural Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, in 2016. Actions set out in Edinburgh Adapts included "*engage stakeholders to identify how we can adapt our urban footprint to accommodate a dynamic and changing coast and live with increased coastal flood and erosion risk*" and "*continue to maintain existing flood defences along the coast*". Work is now ongoing on a new Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan covering the period 2023 to 2030.

3.7 The Council is also now in the early stages of preparing a Coastal Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP), which is scheduled to be completed in 2025. The CCAP will set out the Council's strategy for managing its coastline in light of projected rises in sea levels and other considerations, including any proposals around new and upgraded coastal defences.

3.8 Council budgets for adaptation activity generally and coastal adaptation activity in particular are under significant pressure.

3.9 This report has been prepared to set out proposals to utilise future net revenue allocation to Edinburgh for 2023/2024 and beyond.

4. Main report

4.1 The scope to utilise the allocations for a micro grant scheme for projects along Edinburgh's coast has been investigated. However, it is considered that the sums available for disbursement as grants are too small to justify this in terms setting up and administration costs.

4.2 Being mindful of the potentially significant impact of climate change on Edinburgh's coastal communities and the action needed to mitigate this, it is recommended that the allocations for 2023/2024 and future financial years be utilised for activities around coastal adaptation. It is envisaged that this may include:

4.2.1 Production of the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan;

4.2.2 Research and analysis to inform coastal adaptation activities; and

4.2.3 Engagement and awareness raising activities with coastal communities.

Castle Walled Garden. These works helped secure the sustainable future of this significant historic asset for the benefit of the local coastal community and to create a destination for Edinburgh's waterfront.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If this approach is agreed, officers will utilise the 2023/2024 allocations and future allocations to take forward activity around coastal adaptation.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The Council currently receives approximately £80,000 of funding per annum from the Scottish Crown Estate, ring-fenced for activities to benefit coastal communities. It is recommended that this funding be utilised for coastal adaptation activities.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 The recommendation is not considered to have any direct implications for equality, human rights, and socio-economic disadvantage.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 The recommendation is expected to have a modest positive environmental impact by supporting coastal adaptation activities to mitigate the impact of climate change on Edinburgh. It is anticipated these activities may also offer benefits such as supporting biodiversity along the coastline.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 The recommendation is not considered to carry risk for the Council.
- 9.2 The activities to be carried out as part of this recommendation are envisaged as including community engagement events.
- 9.3 The recommendation will support the preparation and delivery of the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan and Coastal Change Adaptation Plan.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Climate Change Adaptation Update – Response to Motions by Councillors Macinnes and Parker](#) – report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee, Thursday 17 November 2022.
- 10.2 [Scottish Crown Estate net revenue allocation](#) – report to the Finance and Resources Committee, Thursday 26 January 2023.

11. Appendices

11.1 None.