

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE– 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

GRANT OFFER, MILTON OF CLOVA CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS

REPORT BY GRAEME DAILLY, DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval to accept a funding offer from Cairngorms National Park Authority under their Visitor Infrastructure Improvement Programme for improvement works at Milton of Clova Carpark.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to accept the funding offer from Cairngorms National Park Authority, delegating authority to the Director of Infrastructure & Environment to execute and deliver any necessary acceptance documents, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Director of Legal, Governance and Change.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to the following priorities contained within the Council Plan:

ECONOMY

- Support and deliver programmes that help people into work.

PEOPLE

- Improve physical, mental health and wellbeing

PLACE

- Protect and enhance our natural and built environment
- Take action to mitigate against climate change by delivering our Transition to Net Zero Action Plan: 2022 to 2030.
- Engage with communities to support their ambitions to deliver on local aspirations through a place framework.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Milton of Clova Carpark, which is council owned and maintained, sits at the start of the road to Glen Doll, opposite the Glen Clova Hotel and is the starting point for various hillwalks in the Angus Glens. During periods of heavy rainfall large parts of the carpark become flooded and unusable.

3.2 The Cairngorms National Park Authority invited Angus Council to submit an Expression of Interest for capital funding as part of their Visitor Infrastructure Improvement Programme. This programme seeks to provide a high-quality experience for visitors to the National Park by improving outdoor access, whilst also reducing potential conflicts between residents and visitors and supporting a diverse visitor profile.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Angus Council's Parks Services designed and submitted a drainage scheme of various swales and detention basins next to the carpark, which will collect rainwater that can slowly dissipate into the ground. Underground soakaways will be installed in the low-lying areas in the carpark and the remaining sections will receive a new open coarse surface layer. By restoring all areas of the carpark to their intended use the pressure on the privately owned car park of the nearby hotel will be eased.
- 4.2 To allow access for all abilities, the unstable steps to the northeast of the area will be removed and replaced with a gently graded zig zag path leading from the parking areas to the Glen Doll Road and towards the hotel. The path will also be extended to provide accessibility to the existing public toilets in the east.
- 4.3 A series of fully accessible picnic tables will be set along the path on a firm paved base. To improve biodiversity, the rainwater infiltration system will be planted with suitable wildflower seed mixtures, and complemented with tree, bulb and groundcover planting.
- 4.4 A grant offer towards these works of up to £63,400 is available from the Cairngorms National Park Authority for the period of 2024 – 2025. It is recommended that the grant offer is accepted to allow a contract in place for works to start March 2025.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total estimated costs for the improvement works are £82,340, of which £71,590 are estimated for construction and £10,750 for design costs. With a grant offer by the Cairngorms National Park Authority of £63,400, the remaining costs to Angus Council will be £8,190. This figure can be covered by the Capital Grant allocation for Parks General Fabric Repairs for 2024/2025. The costs for the design are an in-kind contribution to the project and will be completed by the Parks Services in-house landscape design staff.
- 5.2 The grant offer by the Cairngorms National Park Authority is a maximum offer of funding available. Should the contract costs exceed the available budget, the project will be redesigned to reduce overall costs to the available budget.
- 5.3 Any additional on-going maintenance costs associated with this capital project will be contained within future years revenue budgets of the Infrastructure & Environment directorate.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equalities Impact Assessment is not required for the following reason:- The Report is technical.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Director of Finance and Director of Legal, Governance and Change were consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

Step 1

Name of Proposal (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions):

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment Yes/~~No~~
(A) If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| (i) It does not impact on people | Yes /No |
| (ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics | Yes/ No |
| (iii) It is for information only | Yes /No |
| (iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year | Yes /No |
| (v) It is technical | Yes/ No |

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Jutta Scharnberger, Team Leader Landscape Services 16/08/24

Reviewed by: Graeme Dailly, Director of Infrastructure and Environment

Approved by: Graeme Dailly, Director of Infrastructure and Environment

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.