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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL LAUDER COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the LAUDER
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE
held in The Leader's Office, Council
Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on
Wednesday, 14 December 2016 at 2.00 pm

Present:- Councillors D. Parker (Chairman), I. Gillespie and J. Torrance.
Apologies:- Community Councillor A. Smith
In Attendance:- Capital and Investment Manager (K Robb), Principal Solicitor (H MacLeod),
Estates Manager (N Hastie), Democratic Services Officer (P Bolson).

1. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of 2 August 2016.

DECISION

NOTED for signature by the Chairman.

2. **LAUDER COMMON LAND - CONSIDERATION FOR TREE PLANTING**

The Chairman welcomed Mr David Kennedy, Woodland Officer with the Forestry Commission and Mr Hugh Chalmers from the Tweed Forum who were in attendance to provide Members with information about the opportunity to plant trees on areas of Lauder Common land. Members were advised that the Forestry Commission was working to a strong agenda for tree planting at the current time, with the existing grant scheme attracting EU Funding of 50% at the current time. Mr Kennedy explained the environmental benefits of planting, such as provision of shelter for wildlife, improved management of river flow and pollution control. In terms of costs to the landowner, this was very much dependent on the scale and type of planting as detailed in the Appendix to this Minute. Mr Chalmers went on to explain the process for submitting an application to the Forestry Commission and confirmed that a number of plantings had taken place across the Borders. In response to a question from Members on the level of maintenance that would be necessary for new plantings, Mr Kennedy explained that the initial maintenance would normally last for between 5 and 10 years and grants could be available during the first 5 years. Grants could also be available to local communities to develop walkways and paths within the plantings however, it was noted that the population of Lauder did not meet the required criteria for this funding. Further questions arose in terms of ownership of the tree harvest when the planting was on Common Good land. Following discussion, Members agreed that more specific information was required and Mr Kennedy was therefore invited to develop a formal proposal for consideration at a future meeting of the Lauder Common Good Fund Sub-Committee. The proposal should include data to allow potential legal and planning issues to be addressed in advance of any formal consultation with Lauder Community Council and the wider community. The Chairman thanked Mr Kennedy and Mr Chalmers for their attendance.

(a) **NOTED the presentation.**

(b) **AGREED to receive a formal proposal from Mr Kennedy, Woodland Officer with the Forestry Commission in respect of tree planting on Lauder Common Good land for consideration.**

3. **FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT FOR PERIOD TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2016.**

There had been circulated copies of the Monitoring Report for the period to 30 September 2016 along with the full year projected out-turn for 2016/17 and projected balance sheet values as at 31 March 2017. Appendix 1 to the report provided a projected Income and Expenditure and showed a projected surplus of £50 for the year. The projected balance

sheet at Appendix 2 showed a projected decrease in the level of reserves of £11,443. The property portfolio was detailed in Appendix 3, presenting a projected rental income of £10,965 for 2016/7 and actual property expenditure of £3,306 for the period of the report. The increase from the total cash invested in the Newton Fund up to 30 September 2016 stood at £18,940 and details were included in Appendix 4 to the report. Ms Robb advised Members that further return on investment had been received since the report was circulated and these would be included in the next monitoring paper to the Sub-Committee. Ms Robb further advised that there were no officer concerns in relation to the Newton Fund. Following discussion, it was agreed that a further £10,000 be invested in the Newton Fund with immediate effect.

(a) **NOTED:-**

(i) **the projected balance sheet value as at 31 March 2017 as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;**

(ii) **the summary of the property portfolio as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report; and**

(iii) **the current position of the investment in the Newton Fund as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.**

(b) **AGREED:-**

(i) **the projected Income and Expenditure for 2016/17 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and**

(ii) **that a further £10,000 be invested in the Newton Fund with immediate effect.**

4. **APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Chairman agreed that an Application for Financial Assistance on behalf of Lauder Amateur Dramatic Society be considered under Urgent Business. The application was on behalf of Lauder Amateur Dramatic Society for £500 to assist with the cost of staging the annual production by the Society. The application explained that year on year, costs had been rising and in addition, the show being produced in March 2017 required a more complicated stage setting which would require a higher outlay by the Society. In considering the application, Members noted that the accounts submitted were for 2015 and Members were of the opinion that more up to date accounts were required prior to any financial assistance being released. It was agreed, therefore, that subject to Lauder Amateur Dramatic Society providing the required up to date accounts, financial assistance in the sum of £500 would be granted to Lauder Amateur Dramatic Society.

DECISION

AGREED that, subject to Lauder Amateur Dramatic Society providing the required up to date accounts, financial assistance in the sum of £500 would be granted to Lauder Amateur Dramatic Society.

5. **NEXT MEETING**

Members noted that the next meeting of Lauder Common Good Fund Sub-Committee would take place on Tuesday 21 February 2017.

The meeting concluded at 2.55 pm

FORESTRY GRANT SCHEME summary

- There is no loss of Basic payment,
- The grants are for capital items including planting, paid at the submission of the claim, and 5 annual maintenance grants paid via SAF.
- The planting models include proportions of other species, open space and native broadleaves, see page 2
- The scheme is competitive, but woodland creation tends to be accepted, unless very unsuited to the location.
- All schemes are placed on the public register and consulted with the council, regional archaeologist, and some others if necessary for 28 days and go to clearing once a month after that.
- Paper work and design should be planned well in advance of planting.
- Claim for fencing separate from planting is permitted, to aid cash flow and payment of contractors.
- Details are updated on line and full guidance , if in doubt arrange a site visit with the Woodland officer

Woodland Creation option

Payment rates in standard areas

Payment rates in target areas

	Initial planting payment rate (£/ha)	Annual maintenance payment rate (£/ha/year) for five years *	Total payment rate (£/ha)	Initial planting payment rate (£/ha)	Annual maintenance payment rate (£/ha/year) for five years *	Total payment rate (£/ha)
Conifer	1920	208	2960	2160	234	3330
Diverse Conifer	2160	336	3840	2430	378	4320
Broadleaves	2880	528	5520	3240	594	6210
Native Upland Birch	1840	128	2480	2070	144	2790
Native Broadleaves	1840	272	3200	2070	306	3600
Native Low-density Broadleaves	560	96	1040	630	108	1170
Small or Farm Woodland	2400	400	4400	2700	450	4950

Plus capital items such as

Stock fence	£4.40/m	Deer fence	£6.80/m
Upgrade stock to deer	£3.28/m	Rabbit proofing	£1.60/m
Vole guards	£0.19 each	Tree shelters 1.2	£2.00 each
Tree shelters 0.6	£1.16 each	Gates stock	£136 each
Gates Deer	£172 each	Pedestrian self closing	£280 each

Standard area - £1920 + £208 x 5 yrs = £2960

Target Areas - £2160 + £234 x 5 yrs = £3330

Species	Minimum	Maximum	Stocking
SS	65%	75%	2500
OC	10%	15%	2500
NBL	5%	10%	1100
OG	0%	10%	-

- accessible timber transport
- aimed at SS crop
- UKFS
- 1.5m minimum width
- 2ha minimum size block in any one year
- VP, parents of families - extra grant, available if more than YC14
- minimum seed orchard material for SS
- max 20% of NBL to be shrubs
- target area - preferred/potential in LAWS
- ESC - suitable or very suitable
- productive broadleaves swap with OC

DIVERSE CONIFER (productive)

Standard area - £2160 + 336 x 5 yrs = £3840

Target Areas - £2430 + £378 x 5 yrs = £4320

Species	Minimum	Maximum	Stocking
Main Conifer	40%	75%	2500
Other Conifer	10%	40%	2500
NBL	5%	10%	1100
OG	0%	10%	-

Note: woods for water not eligible in the Scottish Border

- accessible timber transport
- aimed at conifer other than SS
- UKFS
- 1.5m minimum width
- 2ha minimum size block in any calendar year
- must have at least 2 conifer species
- target area - preferred/potential in LAWS
- YC 8 minimum for Sp/La
- YC 12 minimum for NS,DF,WRC
- Max 3% SS permitted
- target area - CNPA priority area
- target area - woods for water

BROADLEAVES (productive)

Standard area - £2880 + £528 x 5 yrs = £5520

Target Areas - £3240 + £594 x 5 yrs = £6210

Species	Minimum	Maximum	Stocking
Broadleaves	75%	90%	-
NBL	5%	10%	1100
OG	0%	10%	-

- accessible timber transport
- aimed at broadleaved woodlands for sawn and prime timber
- UKFS
- 1.5m minimum width
- 2ha minimum size block in any one year
- max 20% of NBL to be shrubs
- ESC climatically suitable or very suitable
- achieve minimum YC 6
- target area - preferred/potential in LAWS
- target area - woods for water

SMALL OR FARM

Standard area - £2400 + £400 x 5 yrs = £4400

Target Areas - £2700 + £450 x 5 yrs = £4950

Species	Minimum	Maximum	Stocking
Broadleaves	20%	60%	2500
Diverse Con	20%	60%	2500
NBL	5%	10%	1100
OG	0%	10%	-

- aimed at creating small scale MBL and Conifer woods on farms
- UKFS
- 1.5m minimum width
- 0.25ha minimum size block up to 5ha
- up to 10ha per business
- max 20% of NBL to be shrubs
- target area - woods for water
- ESC suitable or very suitable
- YC 6 MB, YC8 for Sp and La,
- YC12 NS, WRC etc

Standard area - £1840 + £128 x 5 yrs = £2480

Target Areas - £2070 + £144 x 5 yrs = £2790

Species	Minimum	Maximum	Stocking
NDB	85%	100%	1600
OG	0%	15%	-

Note: In South Scotland, max 5% SP

- aimed for NVC W4 (downy birch with purple moor grass, shallow peat)
- UKFS
- 1.5m minimum width
- 0.25ha minimum size block in any one year
- No more than 75% of one species
- up to 10% native SP
- max 20% of NBL to be shrubs
- target area - CNPA priority area

NATIVE BROADLEAVES

Standard area - £1840 + £272 x 5 yrs = £3200

Target Areas - £2070 + £306 x 5 yrs = £3600

Species	Minimum	Maximum	Stocking
NBL	85%	100%	1600
OG	0%	15%	-

Note: In south Scotland, max 5% SP

- aimed at creating NBL priority woodland
- UKFS
- 1.5m minimum width
- 0.25ha minimum size block
- no more than 75% of single species
- up to 10% native SP in pinewood zone, otherwise max 5%
- max 20% of NBL to be shrubs
- target area - CNPA priority area
- target area - woods for water

NATIVE LOW DENSITY BROADLEAVES

Standard area - £560 + £96 x 5 yrs = £1040

Target Areas - £630 + £108 x 5 yrs = £1170

Species	Minimum	Maximum	Stocking
NBL	50	100%	500
OG	0%	50%	-

- aimed at creating specific native woodland or scrub habitats
- UKFS
- 1.5m minimum width
- 0.25ha minimum size block up to 10ha if stand alone option
- max 20% of NBL to be shrubs
- target area - CNPA priority area
- target area - woods for water

AGRO FORESTRY

400 trees/ha £3600 + £84 x 5 years = £4020

200 trees/ha £1860 + £48 x 5 years = £2100

- 0.25ha - 5ha max per farm business
- Must be permanent grassland pasture
- Land classification for agric Class 3.1 - 4.2 inclusive
- Appropriate soils for productive timber
- OK/SYC/CH/BE
- Only for grazing sheep
- Protection - vole or spiral+ 1.5 m high net cage from 50mm square weldmesh to create a cage of at least 4.5cm and two stakes
- Maintenance - high pruning, singling leaders,