
Report to: Place Committee

Date of Meeting: 13 September 2018

Subject: Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (IFLI)

Report by: Strategic Director - Place

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to report upon the significant success of the IFLI project and to seek support for the development of further opportunities, including a legacy scheme which will build on the success of IFLI.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee notes :
- (a) the contents of the report on the success of IFLI, and
 - (b) that further opportunities are being explored by the Inner Forth Futures Partnership to build on the legacy of the IFLI project and to support the development of the Inner Forth Futures initiative.

3.0 Background

- 3.1. The Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (IFLI) is a landscape partnership scheme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 3.2. The Council agreed in June 2013 to support IFLI with a £20,000 per year contribution for the four years 2014 to 2018. This was complemented by a further £27,860 for trainees hosted by the Council and funded by the Coastal Communities Fund. In return the equivalent of £1,308,944 of work was delivered within the Clackmannanshire area, multiplying that investment by nearly thirteen times.
- 3.3. The projects within the scheme have been delivered over a 4½-year period (between March 2014 and September 2018) and are now entering a 10 year maintenance and management phase.
- 3.4. The purpose of the scheme was to enhance, restore and celebrate the landscape of the Inner Forth in Scotland. IFLI covered an area of 202km² around the River Forth in Clackmannanshire, Stirling, Falkirk and Fife.

- 3.5. Within Clackmannanshire the Initiative area included the full length of the Forth shoreline to a point approximately 1-2km inland from the shoreline.
- 3.6. Partners include the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (lead partner), Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils, Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland, Sustrans and the Central Scotland Green Network Trust.

The initiative has delivered 54 projects worth £4.1 million in the area. These projects included enhancements to 127ha of biodiversity and landscape areas and the development and maintenance of 13km of paths routes.

- 3.7. Over 4,000 participants have been involved in over 400 learning and participation activities. This has included:
 - 850 local school pupils and 1,000 volunteers delivering £225K worth of volunteer time,
 - 154 training courses for 624 participants, and
 - A positive impact on 54 jobs with 233 individual training accreditations and qualifications achieved.

4.0 Considerations

- 4.1. The project has been an outstanding success, exceeding all target outputs, and has been nominated, shortlisted or highly commended in 6 national awards schemes.
- 4.2. IFLI has delivered outstanding value for money, providing a return of nearly thirteen pounds for every pound invested by the Council in Clackmannanshire while exceeding all of the original targets
- 4.3. The scheme has delivered against the Council's Priority Outcomes and legal requirements over the period:
 - supporting employment, training and equality of opportunities,
 - providing access to a safe and healthy environment
 - developing safe and healthy travel,
 - increasing economic development and
 - ensuring environmental protection, including biodiversity and adaptation to climate change.

5.0 Future Opportunities

- 5.1. Building on the successes of the IFLI project, Fife Council has joined the partnership to extend its scope to cover the entirety of the Inner Forth area upstream of the Forth Bridges. The expanded partnership aim to deliver the Inner Forth Futures project which has a renewed vision that:

“the sense of connection, purpose and place that put the Inner Forth at the forefront of the industrial development of Scotland will be revitalised.”

- 5.2. The expanded partnership at an advanced stage of fund raising to deliver this renewed vision Partners to date have committed £130,000 and in addition to the ongoing management and maintenance budget for IFLI, applications are under way to LEADER and EcoCo/LIFE bringing the value of IFF to £438,000.in an effort to make the Inner Forth a better area to live, work and visit by improving marketing and awareness of its natural and cultural heritage assets and sustainable transport options.
- 5.3. The emphasis of the Inner Forth Futures project, over the next two years will be to:
- Deliver a strong IFLI legacy and ensure that management and maintenance are met,
 - Management of a maintenance budget to fund any required additional works, and a legacy fund for community action and skills development,
 - Development of an Inner Forth brand to promote the area’s heritage and sustainable travel networks, creating a network of business, community, tourism and heritage groups and encouraging increased visitor numbers to the area using promotional trails based on public transport and active travel networks,
 - Support communities to engage in the area’s management and promotion, providing support to develop and share skills and experience in heritage management, monitoring and planning,
 - Pilot partnership approaches to delivering habitat networks and climate adaptation, demonstrating local delivery of the National Ecological Network and developing and promoting new ways of adapting land and heritage management in the face of climate change.

6.0 Sustainability Implications

- 6.1. IFLI has enabled the Council to better meet its sustainability and climate change duties and participation in legacy projects will continue to deliver positive impacts on the environment. and better preparedness for the likely impacts of a changing climate in addition to social and economic components of sustainability including enhanced accessibility, equal access to training and economic growth

7.0 Resource Implications

7.1. Financial Details

- 7.2. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7.3. *Staffing*

7.4. IFLI was delivered with existing resources and resulted in outstanding value for money. However, staff resources have reduced significantly since the scheme was first introduced, most notably with the loss of a full time Sustainability Officer to help the agenda.

8.0 Exempt Reports

8.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

9.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

- Biodiversity and Climate Change
- Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

10.0 Equalities Impact

10.1. Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?
Yes No

11.0 Legality

11.1. It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

12.0 Appendices

12.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

11.0 Background Papers

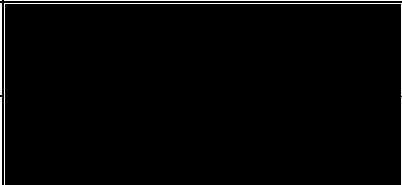
11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

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Approved by

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