

Item: 10

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 5 February 2019.

Orkney Native Wildlife Project.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider Elected Member representation on the Assurance Group of the Orkney Native Wildlife Project.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That, in March 2018, the Council agreed to become a partner in the Orkney Native Wildlife Project, along with Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds.

2.2.

That the Council's contribution to the Orkney Native Wildlife Project is non-financial, including granting access to Council-owned land for the purpose of setting traps, as well as entering into a formal partnership for the delivery stage, once the full scope of the project became clear.

2.3.

That a Partnership Board, accountable for delivery of the agreed outcomes of the project, has been established, on which the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure represents the Council.

2.4.

That an independent Project Assurance Group will assist the Partnership Board in its oversight of delivery of the project.

2.5.

That, based on similar projects, partners have advised that it would be appropriate for an Elected Member to represent the Council on the Assurance Group.

It is recommended:

2.6.

That members consider the appointment of an Elected Member to represent the Council on the Assurance Group of the Orkney Native Wildlife Project, bearing in mind Council policy on appointments to external bodies outlined in section 5 of this report.

3. Background

3.1.

In March 2018, the Council agreed to become a partner in the Orkney Native Wildlife Project, along with Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds.

3.2.

The Council's contribution to the Orkney Native Wildlife Project is non-financial, including granting access to Council-owned land for the purpose of setting traps, as well as entering into a formal partnership for the delivery stage, once the full scope of the project becomes clear.

4. Orkney Native Wildlife Project Governance

4.1.

The partnership agreement for the Orkney Native Wildlife Project sets the governance structure for the scheme. A Partnership Board has been established which comprises a senior executive representative of each Partner organisation (Scottish Natural Heritage, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Council). The Partnership Board is ultimately accountable for delivery of the agreed outcomes. The Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure represents the Council on the Project Board.

4.2.

The Partnership Board will be assisted in its oversight of delivery of the project by an independent Project Assurance Group. The role of the Assurance Group is to provide input and guidance to the Partnership Board, include advising on high level risk; checking that the project remains viable in terms of costs and benefits; checking that any stakeholder requirements are being met; ensuring procedures and rules are being followed and that the project is delivering a suitable solution.

4.3.

The project will be directly managed by a Steering Group comprising key officials from each Partner. The Project Manager, once appointed, will report to the Steering Group. The Steering Group must seek the approval of the Partnership Board for changes to the project which materially affect outcomes. The Planning Manager

(Development and Marine Planning) has been appointed as the lead officer on the Steering Group.

5. Policy on Appointment to External Bodies

5.1.

In April 2007, appointment of Councillors to external bodies have ceased with the exception of the following:

- Organisations which are wholly owned by the Council.
- Organisations in which the Council has a majority financial interest.
- Statutory organisations or other bodies to which a Council appointment would be prudent.

5.2.

Partners have advised that, based upon similar projects elsewhere, it would be appropriate for an Elected Member to represent the Council on the Assurance Group.

6. Corporate Governance

This report relates to governance and procedural issues and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

7. Financial Implications

No financial implications arise directly from the recommendation of this report.

8. Legal Aspects

There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendation of this report.

9. Contact Officers

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