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**Report to Place Committee**

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**Date of Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

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**Subject: Gartmorn Dam Management Plan**

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**Report by: Strategic Director (Place)**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the production of an updated Management Plan for Gartmorn Dam in conjunction with key stakeholders.

**2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee :
- (a) notes the updated Gartmorn Dam Management Plan, and
  - (b) supports the development of partnerships in order to enable its effective implementation.

**3.0 Background**

- 3.1. The 2019-2023 Gartmorn Dam Management Plan was developed in conjunction with Local Community Groups, Scottish Water and the Scottish National Heritage (SNH)<sup>1</sup>. It provides an update to the original Management Plan which was written by Clackmannanshire Ranger Service in 2002.
- 3.2. The management plan is required as a condition of our lease of the Gartmorn Dam from Scottish Water.
- 3.3. It is considered that the Management Plan is a model of good practice.
- 3.4. Since the 2002 plan was written there have been quite a few changes that have had an impact on Gartmorn Dam. The updated Management Plan reflects these changes :

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<sup>1</sup> The SNH promote and care for the natural heritage, enable people to enjoy the outdoors and support those who manage it.

- Changes in the status of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (no longer designated for overwintering wildfowl and status of the water in tending towards eutrophic rather than mesotrophic).
- Increase in visitors, including dog walkers (including commercial dog walkers) resulting in increased disturbance with a particular impact on nesting birds.
- Change in use of buildings – Visitor Centre is now a cafe, there are no public toilets and the Old Visitor centre is currently boarded up.
- Formation and involvement of Gartmorn Dam Development Trust.
- Changes to some of the leases
- Gartmorn Dam is no longer a fishery
- The SSSI now has its own Management plan, to allow for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) consents.

#### 2.5. **Green Flag Status**

The Management plan is designed to cover the criteria for the Green Flag Award. <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk>

The Green Flag Award® scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

#### 2.6. **Purpose & Aims**

- To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces.
- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve.
- To establish standards of good management. To promote and share good practice amongst the green space sector.
- To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers.

### 4.0 **Gartmorn Dam Management Plan Key Points**

#### 4.1. **Vision**

To actively manage and improve Gartmorn Dam Country Park for the benefit of people and biodiversity

#### 4.2. **Aims**

*Conservation* : To increase the biodiversity value of the site and in particular to ensure the continued management of the SSSI features.

*Landscape* : To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value.

*Recreation* : To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation for all ages and user groups.

*Community Involvement* : To engage with the local, wider community and user groups.

*Education* : To provide quality experiences for formal and informal education.

*Cultural* : To protect and conserve all features of cultural significance and heritage value.

*Sustainability* : To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.

*Legal* : To ensure that the site management works comply with all legal obligations. Part of the Country Park is a SSSI so there are obligations to ensure its management complies with SNH guidance.

*Maintenance* : To ensure that a maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the Park and meet visitor expectations.

*Safety* : To ensure the safety of visitors and staff working on the site.

*Marketing* : To positively promote Gartmorn Dam Country Park to local residents and potential visitors to the area.

## **5.0 Benefits of the Updated Gartmorn Dam Management Plan**

- 5.1. The plan will ensure continued compliance with the Council's obligations as set out in its lease from Scottish Water.
- 5.2. The updated management plan retains the essence of previous plans, but is far more realistic to deliver.
- 5.3. It also takes into account the Green Flag Award Scheme and some changes to the needs of the Site itself.

## **6.0 Implementing the plan**

- 6.1. It has historically been the case, that the Ranger Service was responsible for writing and carrying out the management plan. Country parks, by definition, are normally supported by a Ranger Services to promote visitor enjoyment and understanding of their natural qualities. In recognition of the current level of resources the service will increasingly need to work with partners and to seek out funding opportunities to enable successful delivery of the plan.

## **7.0 Next steps**

- 7.1. Following presentation to the Place Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 the Management Plan will be used to develop partnerships to enhance the area

and to ensure that Gartmorn Dam is appropriately managed and meets the needs of the local community.

## 8.0 Sustainability Implications

8.1. The implementation of the plan will have a positive contribution to sustainability in its widest sense.

- Providing opportunities for green commuting routes (linked to various communities by the core path network).
- Providing opportunities for Learning for Sustainability. The Dam provides an ideal environment for this and support is available for teachers through the Clackmannanshire Outdoor Woodland Learning Group (OWLS).
- Much of the Management plan is concerned with biodiversity and ties in with Clackmannanshire's Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Building Sustainable Communities – Through Local Involvement : Currently GDDT, TCV, Forestry Commission, Volunteer Group, CRAG and various other groups that utilise the Dam.

## 9.0 Resource Implications

9.1. *Financial Details*

No additional budget provision is requested at this point. The existing Rangers budget will be used where appropriate. Should initiatives or projects arise that require additional expenditure associated with the Management Plan, a further paper will be presented for consideration and approval.

9.2. *Staffing*

9.3. Existing resources will be utilised at this stage along with collaborative working with Community and volunteer groups.

## 10.0 Exempt Reports

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

## 11.0 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 )

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses	X
Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive	X
People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment	X

Our communities are safer	X
Vulnerable people and families are supported	X
Substance misuse and its effects are reduced	X
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing	X
The environment is protected and enhanced for all	X
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence	X

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

Local Development Plan  
 Local Outcome Improvement Plan  
 Sustainability and Climate Change Plan  
 Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Action Plan

**12.0 Equalities Impact**

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

**13.0 Legality**

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

**14.0 Appendices**

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

None, however the Management Plan has been made available as a group room paper.

**15.0 Background Papers**

15.1 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)

Gartmorn Dam Country Park and LNR – Descriptive Management Plan 2001

**Author(s)**

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**Approved by**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
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