

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 15th December 2020

Title: Lake and Country Park Update

Contact Officer: Compliance and Environment Officer – Angus Whitburn

Background

In the last Climate & Biodiversity meeting, it was agreed to commission a phase 1 ecology survey. It was recommended by the Environment Officer that councillors would wait until Frank Lucas had provided his quote as he had experience in the area.

Current Situation

Ecology Survey

Frank Lucas has provided a quote as attached in the confidential appendix to complete an enhanced phase 1 survey of the south end of the lake and country park and wet meadow. This has come in cheaper than the other 3 quotes supplied. Frank advised an enhanced survey to provide a more detail showing of habitats present in the area. He felt this would better support any management decisions of the area.

Management Statement

Currently, officers are trying to interpret an old management plan for the country park. This plan is detailed with a lot of information that is dated and does not reflect the current condition of the country park. The primary focus of the management statement will be to protect the area of the park reserved for biodiversity. This is the area the ecology study will be commissioned for and the area of the park that requires the bank repairs.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

These are detailed in the report above.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Consider the quote supplied by Frank Lucas for the commission of an enhanced phase 1 survey.
2. Agree to focus officer attention on the creation of a management statement for the south section of the country park.