

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13 FEBRUARY 2014**

**REPORT ON: REDESIGN OF PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE STANDARDS**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

**REPORT NO: 105-2014**

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To outline proposals to reduce future maintenance costs associated with the regular ground maintenance operations.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is recommended that the planting and maintenance standards across the city be redesigned to reduce the future maintenance costs whilst minimising the impact on visual amenity and improving biodiversity.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The redesign of planted areas will result in a reduction in maintenance costs of £25k in 2014/15 with further savings in future years.

### **4 BACKGROUND**

4.1 The current maintenance programme across the City requires a strategic review to be undertaken, as only minor amendments have been introduced in recent years. This review will consider grass cutting regimes, redesign of planted areas, provision and maintenance of planters and the introduction of greater biodiversity through for example the use of wildflower meadow.

4.2 The review has commenced looking at high amenity bedding areas and shrub beds and reductions in labour and material costs can be achieved with minimal or no compromising of the visual amenity.

4.3 The saving in 2014/15 will be as a result of the reduction of one FTE staff member which will be achieved through the VER process

### **5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

### **6 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

**7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

**Ken Laing**  
**Director of Environment**

**JANUARY 2014**

**Gary Robertson**  
**Head of Environmental Management**

**JANUARY 2014**