

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 9th JANUARY 2012

REPORT ON: CAMPERDOWN PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

REPORT NO: 13-2012

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update committee on the progress made to date in implementing the 2004, Camperdown Country Park Development Plan and to seek approval for proposals to refresh this plan and to undertake some early action works.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The committee are asked to note the progress to date in implementing the Camperdown Country Park Development Plan and to:
- approve the appointment of the City Engineer to prepare a refreshed Development Plan along with a five year action plan for Camperdown Park to a maximum value of £15,000; and
 - authorise the director of the Environment Department to undertake the early action works identified to the sensory garden, inclusive play area and duck pond at a total cost of £73,000.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Director of Finance advises that costs of £88,000 associated with these proposals can be met from allowances within the Environment Department's 2011/12 capital budget.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Camperdown Country Park is the largest public park in Dundee and owes its name and fame to the Victory of Admiral Adam Duncan and the Fleet in 1797 at the Battle of Camperdown, off the Dutch Coast. The park which is home to no fewer than 190 species of trees including many fine oaks, elms, weeping ashes, sycamore and opened to the public in 1947.

Camperdown incorporates within its boundaries, Camperdown Country Park, Templeton Woods, a haven for wildlife and a great location for woodland activities along with Clatto Reservoir, Dundee's Centre for outdoor water sports.

- 4.2 Camperdown Country Park provides a significant mix of attractions for a range of users from young children to the elderly. The park and its environs is recognised as being a major regional facility and is listed in Historic Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.

- 4.3 Reference is made to item 1 of the Leisure and Arts Service Committee of 23 August 2004 when approval was given to the Camperdown Country Park Development Plan, Report No. 295-2004. Since then good progress has been made in implementing a number of the recommendations and improvements identified within the original report. Appendix 1 provides a detailed review of progress to date.
- 4.4 Since the preparation of the original development plan in 2004, many of the key objectives identified remain valid today. However a number of changes have taken place during the intervening period, including the creation of the Dundee Leisure trust and the cessation of the Fun Fair operated by Hornes Enterprises. It is therefore considered appropriate to now undertake a review and refresh of the original development plan.
- 4.5 It is proposed to appoint the City Engineer to work in conjunction with staff from within the Environment Department to undertake the refresh of the Development Plan and to bring forward a five year costed and programmed action plan. An allowance of £15,000 has been made for this work.
- 4.6 The objectives of this exercise will be to:
- ensure the park's assets are fully optimised;
 - identify potential commercial and funding opportunities; and
 - develop proposals for the separation of visitors from operational activities.
- 4.7 The Director, Leisure and Communities is currently working with the Friends of Camperdown House and representatives from Leisure and Culture Dundee to develop options for the future operation and management of Camperdown House. This piece of work will be taken forward in tandem with the review of the Camperdown Park Development Plan and will be brought to committee for approval during 2012.
- 4.8 There are two early action projects which have been identified and which are proposed to be carried out within the current financial year. These works will be undertaken by the Environment Department. The first project is the refurbishment of the sensory garden and inclusive play area, and an allowance of £48,000 has been made for carrying out this work.
- 4.9 The second project is to undertake environmental improvements to the Duck Pond. The proposed improvements will provide environmental interpretation, expand the biodiversity of the pond area and improve access for visitors. A further allowance of £25,000 has been made for carrying the work to the duck pond.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Finance, Director of City Development and Director, Leisure and Communities have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Ken Laing
Director of Environment Department

7th December 2011

Gary Robertson
Head of Environmental Management

CAMPERDOWN PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

REVIEW OF PROGRESS TO DATE

Improvements undertaken at Camperdown Park since 2004

Camperdown Wildlife Centre

- A new and bigger bear enclosure and 'broch' were created in 2005, the broch as a viewing room and creative interpretation point.
- An improved otter enclosure and new bat enclosure were added in 2007.
- The completion of the new purpose built Visitor Centre at Camperdown Wildlife Centre providing a café, retail area and Education Room, which caters for a variety of functions, opened in Spring 2011.

Camperdown House

- The completion of repairs to Camperdown House roof and the re-opening of the House to the public for the 2011 Dundee Flower & Food Festival.

Events

- The promotion of Camperdown Park as a major events venue. Events include the 2006 Radio 1's Big Weekend, the continuation of the park to host the Annual Flower and Food Festival and Easter Funday, various fun runs and charity events and ad hoc events.

Camperdown Park - Natural Environment

- The continued upgrading of the Park's path network for walking, cycling and the introduction of improved signage and way works.
- The continued management of the grey squirrels through the Dundee Red Squirrel Project and the promotion of red squirrels in the Park.

Camperdown Golf Course

- Ongoing improvements to the golf course
- The development of an updated website.

Transport

- Two new parking areas have been developed in the Park, one at the North Gate and one west of the main lawn.
- The resurfacing of sections of Camperdown main drive.