

## ITEM No ...6.....

**REPORT TO:** NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE - 20 AUGUST 2018  
**REPORT ON:** DOUGLAS COMMUNITY PARK  
**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES  
**REPORT NO.** 133-2018

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To inform the Committee of the progress of Douglas Community park proposals.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of this report and seeks approval to remit to the Head of Democratic and Legal Services for Dundee City Council to enter into a Partnership Agreement with Douglas Community Spaces Group (DCSG).

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services has confirmed there is no additional capital or revenue implication to the Council for three years upon completion of the park. Any anticipated future maintenance costs will be contained within existing budgets.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

4.1 Our Place is an exciting place-based initiative from the Big Lottery Fund. It provides funding for community groups and voluntary sector organisations in the identified Our Place areas and aims to empower local people and organisations to build stronger connections and relationships within communities, bringing about lasting, positive change in their neighbourhoods.

4.2 Work began within the community in Douglas in August 2014. Through the Big Lottery Fund (BLF), Community Enterprise (working with Community Renewal and the Dundee Social Enterprise Network), was commissioned to guide the community in the development of ideas that could benefit local people and that could be funded through the Our Place programme. Following extensive community consultation over the following 12 months, a vision was drawn up in August 2015, setting out the aims and aspirations of the community. Three principal themes were identified:

- A Community in Control
- Young People and Families
- Safe Attractive Open Space

4.3 DCSG was established as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) to develop and deliver a Community Park to provide a new landscaped space for the whole community to come together, grow, play, exercise and relax. The community's long-term hope is that the success of the park will instigate a process of improvement of further green spaces throughout Douglas by raising the aspiration, knowledge, skills, support and resources of local people.

4.4 Neighbourhood Services' Landscape Design Team have been working with DCSG to develop proposals and have, on their behalf, submitted a Stage 1 application for the development of the former Douglas Primary School ground to create Douglas Community Park. Douglas was identified as a priority Our Place Area and the Stage 1 Our Place grant was confirmed by the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) on the basis of a grant application submitted by the Council supporting and working in partnership with the DCSG. The site was identified as an appropriate place for the park, having been used for community gala days for many years, and being centrally located next to Douglas Community Centre.

4.5 Further development work supported by the Big Lottery and Neighbourhood Services will result in a Stage 2 application being submitted by Neighbourhood Services on behalf of the Douglas Community Spaces Group to the Big Lottery. A partnership agreement is being drafted outlining roles and responsibilities for

each party at each stage in the development and delivery of the project to ensure that the parties work collaboratively to deliver the grant approved project. It will also regulate the procurement process to be undertaken and how payments are made. This will be submitted with the Stage 2 application. Pending a successful Stage 2 application, the Council will enter into a grant agreement with the Big Lottery Fund, leading to funding being awarded by the Big Lottery for construction of the park. The outcome of the construction tender will be reported to a later Committee, recommending an award to the preferred bidder.

- 4.6 DCSG have recently extended the existing lease until 2035 from the Council in order to develop and manage the proposed park. The lease extension was approved by City Development Committee on 23rd January 2017; AN10-2017 (article no.14 refers) . In collaboration with DCSG, a five year maintenance plan for the park will be included in the Partnership Agreement. Subject to a successful stage 2 application, DCSG propose to appoint a Development Officer, who will assist and develop the group's capability to manage and maintain the park in the future. However, it is proposed that Neighbourhood Services continues to provide support to DCSG including maintenance of the park, with the aim of transferring all maintenance responsibility to DCSG in the future. The Partnership Agreement will also consider future maintenance of the park should DCSG be wound up in the future and responsibility for the park reverts back to the Council.

## **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. A copy of the Impact Assessment is available on the Council's website at [www.dundee.gov.uk/ia](http://www.dundee.gov.uk/ia).

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its contents.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

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24<sup>th</sup> July 2018