

**ITEM No ...4.....**

**REPORT TO:** NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE – 27 SEPTEMBER 2021

**REPORT ON:** SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH – FEASIBILITY STUDY

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

**REPORT NO:** 263-2021

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek committee approval to permit the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) to progress a feasibility study which considers a new community use of the former bowling green at Dawson Park.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the committee permits SAMH to conduct a feasibility study, allowing them to explore the potential development of the former bowling green and associated buildings, (see appended plan) at Dawson Park, with the view to it being developed into multi-use spaces which benefits the wider community.

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no immediate capital or revenue implications for Dundee City Council arising from the proposed feasibility study.

3.2 SAMH are applying to 'Awards for All' for funding to support the feasibility study which will allow a fuller appraisal of the buildings and former bowling green. This would also include the development of a phased project plan to inform SAMH further on their scope to consider managing this site and introduce additional mental health support activities at this location.

**4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 Reference is made to Article (II) of the Minute of the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee on 5th March 2020, Report Number 98-2020 which remitted the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to engage with relevant parties to identify alternative funding models or uses for the remaining five bowling greens within the city.

4.2 SAMH are the main group who currently run Duntrune Community Garden, situated within Dawson Park. Continuing restrictions brought about by Covid-19 have placed even greater value and demand on outdoor activities, alongside a greater awareness of and emphasis on, mental health and wellbeing. In light of this, the Bowling green provides an opportunity for expanded SAMH's facilities, providing an ideal location for further community development of mental health support and positive new use for this location which is currently under utilised.

4.3 The completion of this initial feasibility study will allow SAMH to evaluate if they are able to make a commitment to expanding their current activities at Duntrune Community Garden and any subsequent requests of the council to permitting an alternative use of this facility.

4.4 Upon completion of the feasibility study, SAMH would require to formally request approval of the council at a later date.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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/iia](http://www.dundee.gov.uk/iia)

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

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

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

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Executive Director Neighbourhood Services

Tony Boyle  
Head of Environment

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021



