

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 25 AUGUST 2008

REPORT ON: DUNDEE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2008 - 2011

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
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REPORT NO: 348-2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the Dundee Public Open Space Strategy 2008 - 2011.
- 1.2 To seek the approval of the Committee to formally adopt the Dundee Public Open Space Strategy as required under Scottish Planning Policy SPP11.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the adoption of the Strategy to provide a framework for the management of Dundee's Public Open Space over the period 2008 - 2011.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Strategy provides the direction and overview for existing actions concerning the management of the City's public open spaces. The Strategy therefore seeks to integrate the existing work of the various stakeholders, thus achieving best value for the Council and citizens of Dundee.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 Reference is made to Report number 681/1998 of the Leisure Services Committee of 21 September 1998 when the committee approved the adoption of the Public Open Space Strategy. The original Dundee Public Open Space Strategy was well received and was promoted widely as an example of best practice.
- 4.2 Since the production of the initial Strategy and Action Plan there have been significant changes in national policy and legislation affecting the management of greenspaces. These include the publication of Planning Advice Note PAN65 by the Scottish Executive and the passing of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act in 2003. The creation of Greenspace Scotland, an agency specifically devoted to promoting Scotland's Greenspace, has also had a significant impact in raising the profile of the urban greenspace agenda.
- 4.3 Scottish Planning Policy, SPP11, published in 2007, has strengthened the legislative context of greenspace management within Scotland. In addition it links open space issues with physical activity. Local Authorities now have a statutory responsibility to produce Public Open Space Strategies and undertake the production of Greenspace Audits. Greenspace Scotland have produced best practice guidance on quality management of greenspace for Scottish Local Authorities and this has been utilised within the Strategy. The Committee is asked to adopt the Public Open Space Strategy to fulfil the requirements of SPP11 and as a framework for the management of public open spaces in Dundee over the period 2008 - 2011.

- 4.4 As a result of these policy changes the Public Open Space Strategy and Action Plan have been revised by group led by the Council's Greenspace Development Officer. The Public Open Spaces Working Group has comprised officers from Council Departments and external stakeholder representatives including Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.
- 4.5 In tandem with the development of the Strategy, the partnership have undertaken a quantitative GIS audit of all greenspaces within the City based on the Scottish Government's PAN65 Typology. The next step of undertaking qualitative audits is now also taking place across the city with pilots being undertaken in Ardler and Coldsides.
- 4.6 A copy of the Strategy is attached as Appendix 1. It utilises five key outcomes to form the basis for its ongoing monitoring and evaluation. The strategic outcomes are as follows:
- Dundee's open space encourages and supports healthy lifestyles by providing opportunities for recreation, relaxation and fun for people of all ages and abilities.
 - Dundee's open space provides a network of diverse, attractive and inspiring greenspaces which add colour and life to the City including the urban environment.
 - Dundee's public open spaces are safe, accessible and meet the current and future needs of local communities.
 - Dundee's open space contributes to the economic prosperity of Dundee by helping to attract investment and tourism.
 - The management of the City's public open space delivers quality and is cost effective, efficient and provides best value for citizens of Dundee.
- 4.7 The Public Open Spaces working group will continue to oversee the implementation of the Strategy and to co-ordinate the work of the various Departments and stakeholder groups. The overall progress will be monitored against the strategic outcomes of the strategy and through Dundee City Council's Strategic Monitoring Database. It will also be reported to the Dundee Partnership for the Environment on a regular basis.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Anti-poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The above assessment has been produced for the Dundee Public Open Space Strategy. A copy of the SEA has been sent to the Group Leaders and to Bailie Borthwick.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

The Strategy has been developed through a working group of the various stakeholders and organisations involved. The Draft Strategy has also been subject to a six week period of statutory public consultation as required by the SEA gateway process.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Report Number 681/1998

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