

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 20 June 2005

REPORT ON: Greater Balgay Master Plan

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts

REPORT NO: 385-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To outline the proposed Master Plan for the future management and development of Greater Balgay and seek approval to progress the key elements of the Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Approve the principal contents of the Greater Balgay Park Master Plan and remit the Director of Leisure & Arts to progress the implementation of the Master Plan as outlined in this report over the next 10 years.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Any financial implications will be contained within existing Leisure & Arts Revenue Budgets and/or future Capital Plans.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Greater Balgay Masterplan will provide sustainability for the area by planning its future improvements within realistic timescales and budgets while taking into account the environment and biodiversity of the area.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 To ensure all citizens, and in particular the disabled, have access to a clean, safe and free public area.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 The Leisure and Arts Department is in the process of drawing up Master Plans for all its major City Parks as a mechanism to provide forward planning for their future development. Camperdown Country Park Play Complex, Castle Green Master Plan and Dawson Park have already been approved by Committee and Greater Balgay Master Plan is submitted as the next in the series. This supports the aims of the Department to provide customer focus, facility management, increased linkage with local communities, enhanced leisure opportunities and recreational value for the City's Parks.

Greater Balgay consists of Victoria Park, Balgay Hill, Balgay Cemetery and Lochee Park.

- 6.2 The proposed Master Plan has been developed to provide a planned phased programme of improvement works in the Greater Balgay area over the next ten years. It is designed to allow annual improvement works to progress without causing disruption to existing provision or causing any duplication of provision. The proposals build on the existing improvement to planet trail, signage and park entrances and will be complimented by new parks furniture and has involved extensive consultation with the Greater Balgay Stakeholders Group.
- 6.3 Each element of the Master Plan will be reported to Committee as each is designed in detail, funding identified and tenders received for construction. The key elements of the plan include:-

- **Restoration of historical footpath, bridge and landscape** -The cast iron bridge has suffered from both vandalism and corrosion over the years. Survey works carried out on the condition of the structure and foundations have identified an outline cost of £250,000 to reinstate the structure to its former glory and ensure that it is fully functional. Leisure & Arts Department and the City Engineer are currently consulting with Historic Scotland and other external bodies in respect of external funding for the restoration project. Any proposals will be brought back to this Committee for consideration.
- **Interpretation** – initial signage has been incorporated and future proposals include additional interpretation panels relating to natural heritage and historical aspects of the site.
- **Development of planetarium and Parks Centre** – an initial outline plan and cost identified a design with an initial estimate of £970,000 for the planetarium extension which would also form a small Parks Centre. Progression of this project will be dependent on external grants.
- **Creation of arboretum at Victoria Park** - following consultation with park users it is proposed that a small and modest tree collection is planted, which will provide interest and add to the attractive setting but not compromise existing open areas.
- **Other improvements include:-**
 - Improvements to tennis courts to form multi-sports areas
 - General enhancements to road and path infrastructure
 - Potential of Heritage trail including the cemetery
 - Programme of events to be extended
 - Community engagements, encouragement and support to voluntary groups in undertaking landscape improvement projects in partnership with the Department.

6.4 It is therefore recommended that the basis of the Master Plan be agreed and that the Leisure & Arts Department continues to actively engage with the community in improving the Parks both in the short and longer term.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE and ARTS
27 May 2005

