

# **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 18 October 2004**

**REPORT ON: Future of Stobsmuir Park**

**REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts**

**REPORT NO: 700-2004**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Committee in respect of the seasonal facilities at Stobsmuir Park and recommend the way forward for both the seasonal facilities and the wider development of the park.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that on the basis of the consultation that the putting and the use of the boats are continued but that performance is closely monitored in subsequent years.
- 2.2 That the Director of Leisure and Arts is remitted to continue to review Stobsmuir Park and meet with a stakeholder group with the objective of bring back to this Committee, a Master Plan which provides a long term vision and action plan for Stobsmuir Park.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The joint income generated from the seasonal facilities i.e. boats and putting in 2004 was £2,271. The projected expenditure for the upkeep of boats, directly associated maintenance works and the staffing of the facilities is £9,500. Leisure and Arts Department will contain any budget deficits for these services within the overall 2004/05 Revenue Budget.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Any proposals that will ensure local needs are met locally and that access to facilities, services, goods and people is not achieved at the expense of the environment and accessible to all. Opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are willingly available to all.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 6.1 Reference is made to Item 8 of the Leisure and Arts Services Committee of 19 April 2004 when proposals for the Future of Stobsmuir Park were considered. It had been outlined that there had been a steady decline in the seasonal use of both boat hire and putting greens and feedback would be sought from the community and stakeholders in respect of the continuation of these services. During 2004 which was one of the wettest summers recorded the usage of both the putting green and the boating pond and Stobsmuir Pond did not meet the budgeted income target of £6,500 with only £1,706 being raised from the boat use and £565 being raised through putting. Without a doubt the wet weather has had an affect on the usage numbers.
- 6.2 The Department sought views from stakeholders on the future of the facilities. A survey was conducted by the Stobsmuir Forum at the Baxter Park "Celebration in the Park" on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2004. From the survey there was no support for the boats hire and putting green to

be closed and, in fact, strong support for their continuation. In addition there was a number of suggestions in respect of how a higher profile for the boats can be achieved thus enhancing performance.

In addition there was a number of other suggestions that emerged from the survey which provide wider improvement proposals and generally an initial stakeholder meeting with representatives from the Stobsmuir Forum and Dundee Play forum were extremely positive.

It is recommended that the Department continue to meet with the stakeholder group with the objective of bringing forward proposals for a longer term Master Plan for Stobsmuir Park to a future Leisure and Arts Services Committee albeit that there is no allowance for any works in the existing Capital Plan at this stage and any proposal would have to demonstrate a long term 5-10 year use of the park's development.

It is therefore proposed that the services at Stobsmuir Park i.e. the putting and the boats continue noting that measures will be taken to enhance promotion of the service and that the situation will be monitored closely.

## **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

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23 SEPTEMBER 2004**