

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 17 November 2003
REPORT ON: Proposed Transfer Of Demonstration Garden At Duntrune To Dawson Park
REPORT BY: Director Of Leisure and Arts
REPORT NO: 767-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval to take forward the proposal to transfer the Horticultural Demonstration Garden at Duntrune Terrace, Dundee to Dawson Park, Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Director of Leisure and Arts is remitted to take forward the proposal of transferring the Demonstration Garden at Duntrune to Dawson Park.
- 2.2 In respect of the existing location, that once the transfer is complete that the land is declared surplus to requirements and the Director of Economic Development is remitted to dispose of the land.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

- 3.1 There would be no additional revenue implications from this proposal.
- 3.2 An outline capital cost for alterations to the building, construction of fence and infrastructure for water, electricity and paths etc is £160,000. This expenditure will be included in the Council's 3 Year Capital Plan.
- 3.3 The Department are advised by the Director of Economic Development that there is a potential capital receipt for the disposal of the ground estimated at £400,000.

4.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 4.1 The proposal will allow for improved access and assist in the integration of allotments for disabled currently sited at Dawson Park.

5.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposal will ensure that resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised whilst surrounding features in the park are improved. It will also make sure that opportunities for cultural, leisure and recreation are readily available to all and that places, spaces and objectives can combine beauty with utility.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Duntrune Demonstration Garden is currently situated on a site in Duntrune Terrace. The garden provides the venue for horticultural demonstrations and general horticultural advice over the year and has operated at the site for approximately 29 years.

The average annual attendance is approximately 1,200 visitors per year and annual revenue costs are approximately £36,000. The facility also provides materials for special events such as the City of Dundee Spring Garden Show and the Dundee Flower and Food Festival as well as some products for the Wildlife Centre.

The current provision in terms of facilities i.e. toilet and catering accommodation for presentations

is basic and limited. Short term action is required to improve toilet facilities and restoration works, for health and safety reasons, are required on the substantial wall which surrounds the facility. The anticipated cost of these works is £6,000 although this estimate is for a chemical toilet only.

There is potential to increase the public access to a level of interest in a demonstration garden facility. The ability to achieve this on the current site is limited due to the potentially adverse impact on local residents of significantly greater numbers and the low visibility of the residential site.

6.2 Dawson Park currently caters for the general public and while having interesting horticultural features the principal focus is sporting activities, the park caters for general team sports such as hockey, rugby, football, bowling and tennis. Within the park there is also a play park, changing and general pavilion and allotments for the disabled.

The addition of a Horticultural Demonstration Garden at Dawson will:

- enhance the existing parkland through the provision of the demonstration garden and offer the opportunity of greater use of the facility.
- improve the quality of the existing parkland by expanding demonstrations and treatments to existing park features e.g. bowling greens, existing flower beds and the planting of species trees for demonstration. The constraints of Duntrune could not allow for these opportunities.
- Maximise the use of existing resources including accommodation, toilets and car parking thus providing at low cost quality facilities not formerly available at Duntrune.
- Improve the quality of Dawson Park generally by having a permanent presence in the Park and to increase usage.
- Tie in service with existing allotment for the disabled.

6.3 It is proposed that the initial capital cost of the works would be funded from capital receipt from disposal of Duntrune.

Initial outline costs which includes amendment to the building to form a small park centre, security fencing and hedges, modest sized greenhouse etc and services infrastructure is £160,000.

In addition there may be potential for external funding and it is recommended that the Director of Leisure and Arts be remitted to identify opportunities for further development.

7.0 **CONSULTATION**

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

8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ARTS
31 OCTOBER 2003