

## **8 GARDENING LEAVE (AN55-2013)**

The Lord Provost has been approached by the charity, Gardening Leave, requesting assistance from Dundee City Council. Gardening Leave was established in 2007 and seeks to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of serving and ex-servicemen using horticultural therapy in walled gardens. The charity is developing horticultural therapy initiatives throughout the UK.

Many of Gardening Leave's clients suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the privacy and security which walled/enclosed gardens provide is an ideal environment for this type of therapy. In Dundee, a number of veterans who would directly benefit from this service have been identified by the Charity.

Gardening Leave has therefore requested assistance from Dundee City Council to find a suitable site where a horticultural therapy project can be established. Gardening Leave require that this site is an enclosed garden which is easily accessed by public transport. The site should be private but with access to more public areas, enabling interaction with the wider community. There is also a need for an indoor area with catering facilities for project participants.

Approval of the request from Gardening Leave would be in line with the Council's support for the Armed Forces Community Covenant which was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee in March 2012. The Covenant commits the Council to promote take-up of services such as access to leisure facilities and health and social care services, including mental health support, to armed forces personnel and veterans.

The Committee is asked to note the content of this Agenda Note and remit the Director of City Development and the Director of Environment to identify a suitable site and enter into formal negotiations with Gardening Leave, regarding the leasing of a site and associated building and report back to Committee for approval in due course.