

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE –14 JANUARY 2013

REPORT ON: THE DUNDEE LAW MASTER PLAN

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

REPORT NO: 17-2013

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the committee on progress made in developing a Dundee Law Master Plan and to seek approval for the progression of the actions identified.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that committee:

- Note the contents of the report;
- Authorise the Director of Environment to bring forward detailed design proposals and costs; and
- Seek external funding in order to implement the identified actions.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The committee are advised that there are no financial implications at this stage.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The last major improvement work to Dundee Law followed a study completed in 1990, over recent years the local community and the Environment Department have identified the need for environmental and maintenance improvements to ensure that the Law remains one of Dundee's major tourist attractions and continues to meet the needs of the local community.

- 4.2 A working group was established to create a master plan; the key features on the Law were identified, along with a list of improvements required. Draft proposals were prepared and a series of public consultations were undertaken. The key outcomes of the consultations established that the public have a high regard for the Law and that both the local community and visitors to the Law identified a number of key elements that they like.

- The uniqueness of the Law
- The views, people enjoy seeing the changing face of Dundee
- Peace and quiet
- The history of the Law
- That it is central, easy to access and provides a good climb
- Leisure opportunities

- 4.3 The consultation also identified concerns and suggested improvements to the Law, these include.

- The improvement and upgrading of the existing path network.
- Repair of potholes and improvements to the road surface.
- Reduce the hazards of speeding traffic.
- Improvements to the maintenance of the Law, including reduction in litter.
- That the toilets are open more and that they are kept cleaner.
- Improved interpretation of the history and natural history of the area, including the development of a heritage trail.
- The area is made more accessible in the evenings, improving the security, increase visits made by community wardens.
- Noting the approaching anniversary of the start of the First World War, improvements should be made to the area surrounding the war memorial.
- Improved seating.
- Improved control of dog fouling.

The general consensus of the consultations confirmed that people did not want the Law to be over developed.

4.4 Following the consultation, the outline proposals identified for the Law have been confirmed, the principal actions are (see Appendix 1):

- A programme of improvements to the road leading to the top of the Law.
- A condition survey of all the footpaths on the Law, which will result in a costed action plan, with the development of a heritage trail and improvements to the path infrastructure.
- The development of a woodland management plan, for submission to the Forestry Commission, for possible future funding. This plan will encourage the planting and management of appropriate trees, including suitable fruit trees and bushes. Care will be taken to ensure that any tree planting does not obscure the view of the Law.
- Improvements to the war memorial, including the screening or removal of the gas cylinder cage, required to house the cylinders used for lighting the memorial.
- A review of the operation and provision of the toilets on the Law.
- Continued improvements to the security of the allotment sites on the Law.
- Support for local community or allotment groups to develop the Old Piggeries allotment site. If this objective is not achievable then alternative uses for the site should be explored.
- The development and improvement of the entrance to the Law, works will involve the opening up of views across the city. Improvements to the landscape surrounding the old pump house on Law Road and improvements to the car park on the approach to the Law, including stabilising work to the bank as required.
- Replacement of the whale sculpture at the entrance to the Law.
- Support for developing a local friends group.
- The adoption of the Green flag standard, assessments will look at the following criteria.
 - A welcoming site
 - Healthy, safe and secure
 - Clean and well maintained
 - Sustainability
 - Conservation and heritage

- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management

The Green Flag assessments will lead to the developing and monitoring of an action plan and the production of a management plan for the Law.

- 4.5 It is proposed that funding applications be brought forward by Environment and Communities Departments for external funding through the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Forestry Commission.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, Director of City Development and Head of Democratic and Legal Services has been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

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Ken Laing
Director

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Gary Robertson
Head of Environmental Management

Date **12th December 2012**

Dundee Law - Environmental Improvements

Appendix 1

