

**REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 25 AUGUST 2014**

**REPORT ON: FIELDS IN TRUST - QUEEN ELIZABETH FIELD CHALLENGE AND CENTENARY FIELDS**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

**REPORT NO: 318-2014**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek approval from committee for the nomination of various council owned parks and open spaces as Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth Challenge Fields or Centenary Fields.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The committee are asked to approve the nomination of;

- Dawson Park and Camperdown Park as Queen Elizabeth Challenge Fields; and
- The Law as a Centenary Field.

2.2 That the Director of Environment and Head of Democratic and Legal Services enter into discussions with Fields in Trust to ensure the necessary legal agreements are completed.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no additional financial implications from these actions and the open spaces will continue to be maintained from within existing revenue budgets.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 Reference is made to report 227-2011 Pitch Strategy 2011/2016 that was approved by the Leisure and Arts Committee of 9 May 2011. Within the Pitch Strategy a number of 11-a-side football pitches were proposed as being suitable for nomination as a Queen Elizabeth Field, through the organisation Fields in Trust.

4.2 It was the intent at the time that these nominations would be subject to a public voting process prior to adoption of Fields in Trust. This process was reconsidered by Fields in Trust and the council has been asked to consider nominating larger areas rather than individual pitches within the city, to be adopted as a Queen Elizabeth Challenge Field. Camperdown Park and Dawson Park have been identified as suitable for nominations as Queen Elizabeth Challenge Fields.

4.3 More recently, the council have been approached by Fields in Trust in partnership with Poppyscotland who are seeking to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity, in honour of the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in the First World War. Poppyscotland is the leading charity supporting ex-servicemen and women and their families in Scotland. Since 1922, it has operated the Scottish Poppy Appeal, making available to the public the nation's symbol of remembrance

4.4 The council have been asked to consider nominations of at least one recreational space to be added as a centenary field. The Law has been suggested as a Centenary Field because of its association with the city's war memorial.

4.5 The key benefits of the schemes to the council are:

- A clear commitment by the council to the conservation of its public parks and important areas of open space.
- Access to direct improvement grants from the Fields in Trust funding programme.
- A commemorative plaque and through association with the scheme assistance in accessing other external funding through demonstrating partnership working and a commitment to conserving our parks and open space.
- Access to tool kits and technical advice on park improvements and development proposals.

4.6 A condition of the adoption of sites for both schemes is the requirement to enter into a legal agreement with Fields in Trust. This will result in Fields in Trust becoming a legal consultee in respect of any proposed change of use from their current function for public leisure activity or sports.

## **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, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the content of this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None

**KEN LAING**  
**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**  
14<sup>th</sup> August 2014