

ITEM No ...5.....

REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2016
REPORT ON: DUNDEE HOWFF CONSERVATION GROUP
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
REPORT NO: 354-2016

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to work in partnership with the Howff Conservation Group in developing a conservation plan and allocation of funding for phase 1 of the multi phase project to allow the complete recording and mapping of the graveyard.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- remits the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to work in partnership with Howff Conservation Group, in seeking external funding; and
- authorises a contribution of up to £8,250.00 from Dundee City Council to allow phase 1 of project to be carried out.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services advises that £8,250.00 to undertaking the proposed improvements can be met from allowances for Parks and Open Spaces within the Recreation, Culture, Arts and Heritage section of General Services Plan 2016-21. Neighbourhood Services is working in partnership with the above organisation to secure the full amount of funding in relation to phase 1 of this multi-phase project.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Neighbourhood Services was approached by the Howff Conservation Group in relation to the taking forward of a conservation plan for the graveyard. This site is classed by Historic Environment Scotland as category 'A' Listed. It is also known as one of the most historical graveyards in Scotland. It has been noted over many years that the sandstone memorials on site are decaying.

4.2 The group are looking at a multi phase project to conserve and preserve the stones in the Howff. Before a memorial stone risk assessment can be produced, the full recording of the site must take place. This funding application will be for phase 1 only and future funding will be sought via public accessible grants. Detailed below is Phase 1 (recording).

The process of recording includes:-

- Mapping the site including recording every single stone, the Blackness mausoleum, wardens lodge, paths, trees, boundary walls and gates. This will then produce the most detailed and accurate map since 1832;
- Recording the 1,750 stones with detailed forms;
- Forensic Photography of each memorial with the images detailing the current condition of each stone; and
- Building an external website that will hold the majority of this information which will be free to use by the public and which will be funded for 5 years.

- 4.3 The group of volunteers already do numerous works in the cemetery including providing tours to interested members of the public from the UK and overseas, conduct training days in relation to stone recording and photography, litter pick and weeding days.
- 4.4 The Committee is asked to approve officers working with the group to develop a conservation plan and develop future interpretation which will enhance visitor experience and add to the city's historical reputation.
- 4.5 Further consultation will be required including Heritage Lottery, key stakeholders and community groups in order to take further actions forward. Progress of which will be report to subsequent committee.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

Elaine Zwirlein
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Gary Robertson
Head of Environment

25th October 2016