

ITEM No ...8.....

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 12 FEBRUARY, 2018

REPORT ON: INTRODUCTION OF VOLUNTARY OUTDOOR SMOKE-FREE PLAYGROUNDS IN THE CITY, COUNTRY, HERITAGE & NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 39-2018

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for implementation of a voluntary code to make play areas in Dundee parks smoke-free.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- Note the content of the report, including the health benefits of extending outdoor smoke-free areas.
- Agree for officers to progress the introduction of voluntary compliance smoke-free areas, focusing primarily towards fenced or partially fenced children's play areas in the City, Country, Heritage and Neighbourhood parks as listed (appendix 1).
- Agree for officers to review the current Smoking at Work Policy.
- Authorise expenditure on signage.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The estimated cost of additional signage including installation, will be approximately £6,000. Allowance for this expenditure has been made in the provision for Parks and Open Spaces within the recreation, culture and arts and heritage section of the General Services Capital Plan 2017-22.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Workplaces and substantially enclosed public areas in Scotland have been smoke-free by law since July 2006.

4.2 In December 2016, the Scottish Government introduced the Smoking Prohibition (Children in Motor Vehicles) Bill that makes it an offence for an adult to smoke in a car whilst a child is present. A 'child' is defined as anyone under the age of 18. Smoking may still take place in outdoor spaces, including in children play areas.

4.3 Children become aware of cigarettes at an early age. Three out of four children are aware of cigarettes before they reach the age of five, irrespective of whether or not their parents smoke. Additionally, if young people see smoking as a normal part of everyday life, they are more likely to become smokers themselves. In Scotland each year it is estimated that smoking:

- kills around 10,000 people (one fifth of all deaths)
- is linked to 128,000 hospital admissions
- costs NHS Scotland more than £300 million

4.4. There is no risk-free level of exposure to second-hand smoke (SHS). There have been significant reductions in the exposure to SHS since the introduction of smoke free legislation in 2006 and social norms and knowledge are changing. There remains, however, a requirement to promote smoke free environments further.

4.5 The Scottish Government's Tobacco Control Strategy 2013 required all local authorities to ban smoking around their buildings and grounds by 2015 and ordered them to examine where else this prohibition could be extended. Local authorities have been asked to focus on outdoor areas likely to be frequented by children, such as play areas and public parks, so that youngsters are not exposed to smoking behaviours outside.

4.6 In 2011, Inverclyde City Council were the first to introduce a voluntary ban to create smoke-free zones in play parks. Almost 90% of people who responded to the Council's Citizens' survey showed support to make all children's outdoor play areas smoke-free.

5. RATIONALE

5.1 One in four adults currently smoke across Tayside, which is the highest across Health Boards in Scotland. The highest concentration of smokers live within Dundee, where the most deprived areas experience higher inequalities.

5.2 Smoke-free play parks could be part of a whole range of local tobacco control measures e.g. provision of stop smoking support and enforcement of smoke-free legislation and tobacco sales regulation, designed to protect children from tobacco-related harm. Smoke-free areas would bring about several benefits:

- decreasing the opportunity for children to see adults smoking around them
- creating an environment in which smoking is not seen as the norm thus potentially motivating smokers to cut down or to quit
- protecting the environment and saving local authorities money by reducing tobacco-related litter
- offering further protection from the harmful effects of SHS

5.3 Reducing the number of people who smoke tobacco and ensuing that people do not begin to smoke, will help make savings to the Council in the long term, by ensuing that people stay healthier and independent for longer.

5.4 Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside is committed to reduce smoking prevalence in adults, young people and pregnant women as part of the Tayside Tobacco Control Plan 2016-2019 with a range of initiatives and services in place to address the challenges faced.

6. ENFORCEMENT AND SIGNAGE

6.1 Appropriate user friendly signage under the 'Take Pride in Your City' campaign is proposed to support the initiative. A smoke-free play area poster competition will run during March across all primary schools in Dundee. Primary children (P5) will be invited to design a poster that will educate and encourage local people not to smoke in children's play area. The competition will also give local children the chance to think creatively about environmental and social issues associated with smoking in play areas. The winning poster design will be selected by a judging panel and will be used to identify voluntary smoke-free areas. It is anticipated that the signage will be introduced in the spring 2018.

6.2 Smoke-free play areas will be introduced as a voluntary code so that the authority will not be open to legal challenge. It is not intended that the smoke-free playgrounds initiative is perceived as a smoking ban. The scheme will be promoted as a polite request for adults to voluntarily refrain from smoking in play areas.

7. MONITORING

7.1 The Council will be monitoring the smoke-free play areas listed in (appendix 1) throughout the year, including listening to public feedback. Once evaluation is complete, councillors can consider whether the initiative has been effective and decide whether to extend to other locations.

8. FUTURE PLANS

- 8.1 It is envisaged that adopting smoke-free play areas in the city this will be part of a staged approach to developing further smoke-free areas if successful. For example, the V&A and Waterfront Development area are prime destinations for implementing healthy living zones. There are also many events staged in the year such as, the Flower & Food Festival, Bonfire Night and music events at Slessor Gardens which are attended by a vast amount of children and families. The plan would be to encourage as many events and locations as possible to become smoke-free where children can grow up and play in areas that are free from smoke.

9. REVIEW THE SMOKING AT WORK POLICY

- 9.1 The Head of Human Resources and Business Support together with the trade unions, will consider the impact on our workforce and begin consultation on a change to the current Smoking at Work Policy to support this change in focus and behaviours and in accordance with our commitments under Healthy Working Lives and our developing Health and Wellbeing Framework.

10. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. A copy of the Impact Assessment is available on the Council's website at: www.dundee.gov.uk/ia
- 10.2 The proposal for a voluntary code for smoke-free play areas will have a positive impact in relation to improving health as it will reduce the level of exposure to smoking amongst young children.
- 10.3 The voluntary ban would be universal and applies equally to anyone using the children's playgrounds. Smoking is the leading cause of health inequalities and action to protect children by reducing the uptake of smoking in children and young people will make a positive contribution to reducing these inequalities that currently exist within society.

11. CONSULTATIONS

- 11.1 The Council Management Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 11.2 In addition, each of the Local Community Planning Partnerships in the City have been consulted and are in support of the plan to introduce smoke-free play parks.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Creating a tobacco free generation – a tobacco control strategy for Scotland. Available: <http://www.gov.scot/resource/0041/00417331.pdf>

McCullagh, J. (2011) *Implementation of a voluntary code of smokefree practice to children's play areas in local authority housing and parks – briefing paper.*

Tayside Tobacco Control Plan 2016-2019

DAVID R MARTIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE: 12/02/2018

ELAINE ZWIRLEIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

DATE: 12/02/2018

Appendix 1 – City, Country & Heritage Parks

Hierarchy of Parks and Public Open Spaces

Country Parks

Greater Camperdown Country Park (including Clatto country Park and Templeton Woods)

The City Recreation Parks

Caird Park

Dawson Park- Play area

Baxter Park- Play area

Greater Balgay Park, (including Balgay Hill, Lochee Park and Victoria Park) - Two Play areas

South Rd Park- Play area

Broughty Ferry Esplanade and beach (including Castle Green- Play area Windmill Garden and Barnhill Rock Garden)

The City Heritage Parks

Dighty Linear Park

The Law

Stobsmuir Ponds- Play area

Riverside Nature Park

Reres Hill

Dudhope Park- Play area

Trottick Ponds Nature Area

Duntrune Community Garden

Neighbourhood Parks

Magdelene Green - Play area

Orchar Park - Play area

Finlathon Park - Play area

Whitfield Green - Play area

Fintry Park - Play area

Fairmuir Park - Play area

