

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 22 FEBRUARY 2018
REPORT ON: FUTURE OF THE BOWLING GREEN PROVISION IN THE CITY
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
REPORT NUMBER: 68-2018

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report details future proposals regarding the approach to municipal Bowling Green provision in the city.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the bowling greens at Whitfield and South Road Park which have very low usage are closed with effect from 1 April 2018 and that alternative uses are investigated for these assets.
- 2.2 Seek alternative uses of the space at Whitfield and South Road in consultation with the community for the greens affected.
- 2.3 That consultations are held with the clubs operating from the five remaining greens together with the community and key stakeholders regarding a sustainable future of the greens.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The closure of the two bowling greens with effect from 1 April 2018 would result in annual revenue savings of approximately £24,000.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 There are currently seven Council managed bowling greens in the city located primarily within public parks. In addition there are a further eleven privately owned facilities. A location plan showing provision of all council and privately bowling greens is provided in appendix 1.
- 4.2 The use of all municipal green in the city has remained low with the green at Whitfield and South Road being particular low. Against an estimated annual cost of maintaining each green of £12,000 excluding the building costs where applicable, the total income for all greens in financial year 2016/17 was approximately £4,000.
- 4.3 Against this background it is recommended that the greens at Whitfield and South Road are closed with effect from 1 April 2018 and that a consultation exercise is held with the community to identify an alternative use for these assets.
- 4.4 The remaining greens have clubs associated with each location. However the income received for each green against the cost of the maintenance still remains disproportionate. It is recognised that the facilities have benefits to the bowling community in terms of health and wellbeing. Hence it is recommended that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services is remitted to review the future of these remaining greens and consult with key stakeholders in respect of the future of the greens including consideration of possible community transfers.
- 4.5 Over the last few decades the popularity of bowling as a sport on municipal greens has gradually declined and resulted in a significant underutilisation of the available council facilities.

A number of unsustainable greens have closed in recent few years. However other successful uses for these assets have emerged including:-

- Victoria Park –transferred as a community garden and growing area to Yusuf Youth Initiative (YYI)
- Dudhope Park – initially transferred to Dundee Therapy Garden offering garden tuition for former uniformed services. The site has been transformed into a thriving facility which includes raised borders, a large poly tunnel and office facilities to suit all abilities. The charity actively engaged with Dudhope Community and the gardens are open at certain times for the public.
- Fairmuir Park -where one of the greens has now been integrated into the park to form functional community space with seating within a landscaped area which includes fruit trees.
- Baxter Park – where in partnership with the Friends of Baxter Park, the space has been transformed and is now a location for a well-used Multi Use Games Area thus ensuring opportunities for sports and physical activity for youths at all levels

5 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.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 All members of the Council Management Team have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

Elaine Zwirlein

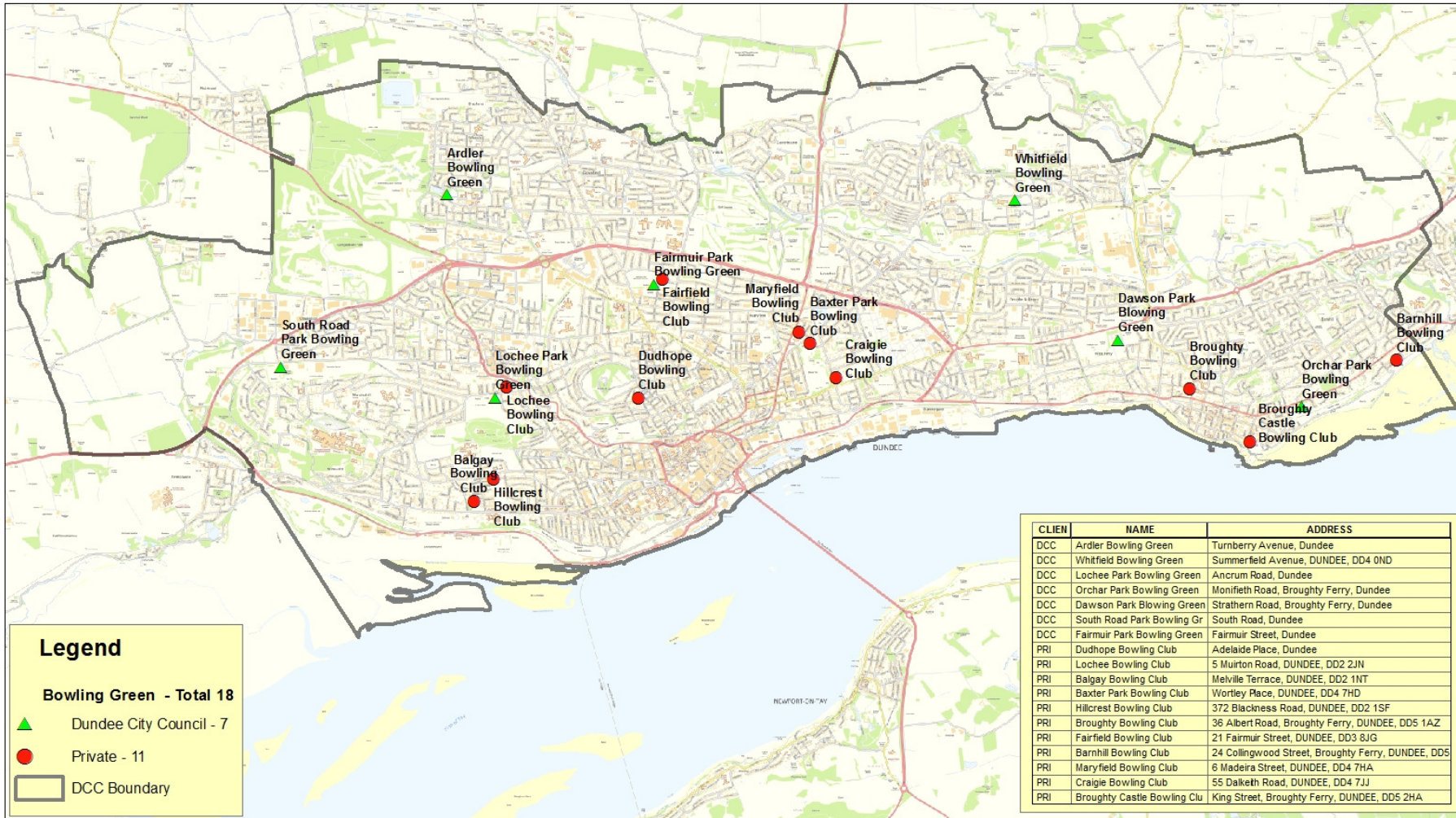
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Gary Robertson

Head of Environment

February 2018

Appendix 1



Legend

Bowling Green - Total 18

- ▲ Dundee City Council - 7
- Private - 11
- ▭ DCC Boundary

CLIEU	NAME	ADDRESS
DCC	Ardler Bowling Green	Turnberry Avenue, Dundee
DCC	Whitfield Bowling Green	Summerfield Avenue, DUNDEE, DD4 0ND
DCC	Lochee Park Bowling Green	Ancrum Road, Dundee
DCC	Orchar Park Bowling Green	Monifieth Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee
DCC	Dawson Park Blowing Green	Strathern Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee
DCC	South Road Park Bowling Gr	South Road, Dundee
DCC	Fairmuir Park Bowling Green	Fairmuir Street, Dundee
PRI	Dudhope Bowling Club	Adelaide Place, Dundee
PRI	Lochee Bowling Club	5 Muirton Road, DUNDEE, DD2 2JN
PRI	Balgay Bowling Club	Melville Terrace, DUNDEE, DD2 1NT
PRI	Baxter Park Bowling Club	Wortley Place, DUNDEE, DD4 7HD
PRI	Hillcrest Bowling Club	372 Blackness Road, DUNDEE, DD2 1SF
PRI	Broughty Bowling Club	36 Albert Road, Broughty Ferry, DUNDEE, DD5 1AZ
PRI	Fairfield Bowling Club	21 Fairmuir Street, DUNDEE, DD3 8JG
PRI	Barnhill Bowling Club	24 Collingwood Street, Broughty Ferry, DUNDEE, DDS
PRI	Maryfield Bowling Club	6 Madeira Street, DUNDEE, DD4 7HA
PRI	Craigie Bowling Club	55 Dalketh Road, DUNDEE, DD4 7JJ
PRI	Broughty Castle Bowling Clu	King Street, Broughty Ferry, DUNDEE, DD5 2HA



Committee Report No: 68-2018

Document Title: Future of the Bowling Green provision in the city

Document Type: Service

New/Existing: Existing

Period Covered: 01/04/2018 - 31/03/2019

Document Description:

The report details future proposals regarding the approach to municipal Bowling Green provision in the city.

Intended Outcome:

It is recommended that the bowling greens at Whitfield and South Road park which have very low usage are closed with effect from 1 April 2018 and that alternative uses are investigated for these assets. Alternative uses of the spaces at Whitfield and South Road will be sought in consultation with the community for the greens affected. It is also recommended that consultations are held with the clubs operating from the five remaining greens together with the community and key stakeholders regarding a sustainable future of the greens.

How will the proposal be monitored?:

Regular consultation will be undertaken with all relevant community groups and bowling clubs. A report will be taken back to Committee at the end of the Bowling season (November). Future income and season ticket subscription will also be monitored to inform future decision making.

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A. Equality and Diversity Impacts:

Age:	Negative
Disability:	No Impact
Gender Reassignment:	No Impact
Marriage and Civil Partnership:	No Impact
Pregnancy and Maternity:	No Impact
Race/Ethnicity:	No Impact
Religion or Belief:	No Impact
Sex:	No Impact
Sexual Orientation:	No Impact

Equality and diversity Implications:

While there is a very low usage at the affected bowling greens, this will nonetheless potentially affect a small number of users in terms of access to leisure. Membership information shows that those who qualify for a concession charge are likely to be affected.

Proposed Mitigating Actions:

It is anticipated that the re-use of the closed facilities will generate opportunities for the wider community, including the current users. The re-use of the existing assets will be designed to be inclusive and promote health and wellbeing for all.

Is the proposal subject to a full EQIA? : No

While there is a very low usage at the affected bowling greens, this will nonetheless potentially affect a small number of users in terms of access to leisure. Membership information shows that those who qualify for a concession charge are likely to be affected.

B. Fairness and Poverty Impacts:

Geography

Strathmartine (Ardler, St Mary's and Kirkton):	No Impact
Lochee(Lochee/Beechwood, Charleston and Menzieshill):	Not Known
Coldside(Hilltown, Fairmuir and Coldside):	No Impact
Maryfield(Stobswell and City Centre):	No Impact
North East(Whitfield, Fintry and Mill O' Mains):	Not Known
East End(Mid Craigie, Linlathen and Douglas):	No Impact

The Ferry: No Impact

West End: No Impact

Household Group

Lone Parent Families:	Not Known
Greater Number of children and/or Young Children:	Not Known
Pensioners - Single/Couple:	Not Known
Single female households with children:	Not Known
Unskilled workers or unemployed:	Not Known

Serious and enduring mental health problems:	Not Known
Homeless:	Not Known
Drug and/or alcohol problems:	Not Known
Offenders and Ex-offenders:	Not Known
Looked after children and care leavers:	Not Known
Carers:	Not Known

Significant Impact

Employment:	Not Known
Education and Skills:	Not Known
Benefit Advice/Income Maximisation:	Not Known
Childcare:	Not Known
Affordability and Accessibility of services:	Not Known

Fairness and Poverty Implications:

Implications are unknown at this time. The end use of these sites would have to be determined in consultation with the community.

Proposed Mitigating Actions:

There are potentially many benefits arising from the re-use of the identified bowling greens. For example, if it were transformed into a Community garden then education and skills benefits would be realised. It is proposed that any new facilities would be affordable and accessible to all.

C. Environmental Impacts

Climate Change

Mitigating greenhouse gases:	Positive
Adapting to the effects of climate change:	No Impact

Resource Use

Energy efficiency and consumption:	Positive
Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling waste:	No Impact
Sustainable Procurement:	No Impact

Transport

Accessible transport provision:	No Impact
Sustainable modes of transport:	No Impact

Natural Environment

Air, land and water quality:	No Impact
Biodiversity:	Not Known
Open and green spaces:	No Impact

Built Environment

Built Heritage:	No Impact
Housing:	No Impact

Is the proposal subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Proposed Mitigating Actions:

There are potential environmental benefits arising from the re-use of the identified bowling greens, i.e. transformation into a Community garden.

Environmental Implications:

Depending on the future uses of the sites, there may be a positive impact in the reduction of energy consumption and the mitigation of greenhouse gases, (i.e. reduction in grass cutting.)

D. Corporate Risk Impacts

Corporate Risk Implications:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are 'business as normal' risks. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant loss. There is comfort that the risks inherent within the activity are either transferred to another party, shared equally and fairly between the Council and another party or are negligible.

Corporate Risk Mitigating Actions:

N/A