

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 MARCH 2020

REPORT ON: BOWLING GREEN PROVISION IN DUNDEE

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 98-2020

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report proposes relevant stakeholders are engaged in identifying alternative uses or funding models for Dundee City Council's 5 remaining municipal bowling green sites.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Remit the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to engage with relevant parties to identify alternative funding models or uses for the remaining 5 bowling greens within the City.

2.2 In the event that discussions with above parties do not identify alternative uses for these bowling greens, that any remaining bowling greens are subject to closure.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications assumed as a result of this report for financial year 2020/21. If alternative uses or funding models are identified during 2020/21 there will be savings from 2021/22 onwards, these savings would be achieved on a pro-rata basis in line with any agreed timescale for the reprovisioning or closure of the remaining greens.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 Reports considered at the Policy and Resources Committee in February 2015 (82-2015) and 2018 (68-2018) agreed the closure of 4 bowling green sites at Baxter Park (South), South Road Park, Victoria Park and in Whitfield. Additionally, the bowling green at Dudhope Park was also closed a number of years ago and one of 2 bowling greens at each of Lochee Park and Fairmuir are no longer maintained as bowling greens. There are five remaining bowling green sites.

4.2 The 5 remaining municipal Bowling Green sites, each containing one bowling green, are located in:

- Dawson Park
- Orchar Park
- Ardler
- Fairmuir
- Lochee Park

4.3 As previously reported, the usage of bowling greens has been in decline for some time and has continued in the intervening period, indicated by the income of £2,733 (2019/20 year to date) across all sites compared to £3,945 in (2018/19). This is the equivalent to approximately 60-70 season tickets per annum.

4.4 In contrast to the income generated by the bowling greens, the management, maintenance and associated costs for the 5 remaining bowling green sites amounts to approximately £60,000 per annum, or £12,000 per bowling green.

4.5 In the long term, the disparity between bowling green income and expenditure is not sustainable when set against the apparent decline of the sport on municipal greens. However, there are

11 privately run bowling clubs with associated social facilities in Dundee. The bowling green in the northern part of Baxter Park is currently leased from Dundee City Council by a private club.

- 4.6 Although the bowling greens as referred to in 4.1 above have closed, sustainable uses for the assets have emerged. A community growing space has been established by the Council in Lochee Park and the assets at both Victoria and Dudhope Parks have been leased to third sector organisations and are also run as growing projects. A MUGA (multi use games area) has been established at Baxter Park and a new garden area has been developed at Fairnair by Dundee City Council. Discussions are also underway to include a community garden at Whitfield, along with other community facilities.
- 4.7 As the examples above suggest, alternative uses and funding models have already been developed. The alternative uses have a community focus ensuring that local people are involved in re-purposed bowling greens, as well as other funding models which ensure that the sport continues in public open spaces (Baxter Park).
- 4.8 An engagement exercise with key stakeholders will be established during 2020/21 to explore alternative uses and funding models for the 5 remaining bowling greens. Should this exercise not identify alternative uses or funding models then these sites would be subject to closure in future.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. A copy of the Impact is attached to this report.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its contents.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

8 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 8.1 None.

Elaine Zwirlein
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Tony Boyle
Head of Environment

26 February 2020

Committee Report No: 98-2020

Document Title: Bowling Green provision in Dundee

Document Type: Service

New/Existing: Existing

Period Covered: 01/04/2020 - 31/03/2021

Document Description:

The report details future proposals regarding municipal bowling green provision in Dundee

Intended Outcome:

The report recommends that relevant stakeholders are engaged in identifying alternative uses or funding models for Dundee City Council's 5 remaining municipal bowling greens. There are 11 privately run Bowling Green Clubs in the city (one of which is in Baxter Park under a lease agreement). The decline in bowling activity and the subsequent drop in income makes the current situation unsustainable. Income is approximately £3,000 per year in contrast to a £60,000 maintenance cost.

How will the proposal be monitored?:

The proposal will be monitored and the outcome reported to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services in due course.

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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 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 alternative uses and other funding models will generate opportunities for the wider community, including current users. If alternative uses are identified, the reuse of the existing assets will be designed to be inclusive and promote health and wellbeing for all. For instance several decommissioned bowling greens are already being used for growing projects by both the Council and external organisations - Dundee Therapy Garden - Dudhope Park, Fruit Bowls - Lochee Park. Yusuf Youth Initiative - Victoria Park. Discussions are underway to reuse the closed Whitfield facility as a community asset including growing. However, engagement may identify opportunities to continue the sites as bowling greens under other funding models.

Is the proposal subject to a full EQIA? : No

While there is very low usage at the 5 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. However, an engagement process will be undertaken to ensure that all impacts are considered.

B. Fairness and Poverty Impacts:

Geography

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

Household Group

Lone Parent Families:	Not Known
Greater Number of children and/or Young Children:	Not Known
Pensioners - Single/Couple:	Negative
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

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C. Environmental Impacts

Climate Change

Mitigating greenhouse gases:	Not Known
Adapting to the effects of climate change:	Not Known

Resource Use

Energy efficiency and consumption:	Not Known
Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling waste:	Not Known
Sustainable Procurement:	Not Known

Transport

Accessible transport provision:	Not Known
Sustainable modes of transport:	Not Known

Natural Environment

Air, land and water quality:	Not Known
Biodiversity:	Not Known
Open and green spaces:	Not Known

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:

The alternative uses or funding models for the bowling greens is yet to be determined but it may result in environmental benefits particularly through, biodiversity and food growing for instance.

Environmental Implications:

If alternative uses are identified there will small environmental benefits resulting from the reduction in intensive maintenance of the bowling greens, in terms of the reduction of mowing frequency and therefore saving finite resources and reducing emissions.

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: