

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE –23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2005**

### **REVIEW OF COUNCIL BOWLING GREENS**

#### **Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group which has reviewed Council Bowling Green facilities to the Committee for consideration and approval.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A Member/Officer Working Group was established in August 2004 to review the Council's golf course and bowling green facilities. This report presents the Working Group's recommendations with regard to bowling greens for consideration.

#### **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Working Group noted that the Council took direct responsibility for four bowling greens in 1996, these were the facilities at Howard Park, Kay Park, Bonnyton and Bellfield. Since 1996 the Kay Park green has transferred to the Kay Park Bowling Club, the Howard Park green is maintained by the Council but staffed by the Howard Park Club and the Bellfield Green is maintained by the Council but managed by the Bellfield Club.

The Council currently spends around £26,400 per year supporting the Howard Park and Bellfield Bowling Greens. There are 37 bowling greens in East Ayrshire and while some lease facilities from the Council and sometimes apply for local committee grant funding, most receive no financial assistance from the Council. The Working Group therefore concluded that there should be greater consistency in support for bowling greens and developed proposals for interim support to the two clubs which would be affected by any decision to move to a position in which the Council would lease facilities to the clubs but would no longer offer financial or in kind support.

- 3.2 The approach recommended by the Working Group is:-

- i) The Council withdraws the bowling green maintenance service from the Bellfield and Howard Park Bowling Green with effect from the 2005 season.

- ii) Bellfield and Howard Park Bowling Clubs are invited to take full responsibility for the respective bowling greens and ancillary facilities.
- iii) The clubs would retain all income from ticket sales but would take responsibility for bowling green and ancillary facility maintenance.
- iv) Each club would be required to offer rinks to the public at reasonable cost.
- v) In order to facilitate the transfer of responsibility, the Council will offer a revenue grant to the two clubs as undernoted:-
  - a) Howard Park Bowling Club – a two year funding package of up to £4,000 in year one and up to £2,000 in year two.
  - b) Bellfield Bowling Club – a one year funding package of up to £2,000.

(The amounts detailed above are subject to the clubs providing the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services with a projection of their annual costs)

- vi) That the arrangement be underpinned by a lease to cover buildings, facilities and the provision of rink time to Members of the public and a Service Level Agreement to cover the use of the grant.

3.3 Howard Park Bowling Club have been consulted regarding this proposal and indicated, in principle, that the club would be prepared to take responsibility for the bowling green in Howard Park subject to detailed negotiations.

3.4 Discussions with Bellfield Bowling Club with regard to the lease of the new pavilion and existing bowling green are ongoing.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Savings of approximately £10,000 will be generated by this proposal.

#### **5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Nil

#### **6. POLICY/COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The move to community management of bowling facilities is directly in line with Community Plan: Promoting Community Learning Aim 1-1 “Support local organisations to manage their own facilities” and will assist in meeting the target of increasing the number of community facilities leased to the local community (Page 11 Promoting Community Learning Action Plan: East Ayrshire Community Plan).

6.2 Staffing issues resulting from this report will be addressed through the Council's approved procedures.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 The Working Group considered the Council's support for bowling green facilities in some detail and has made recommendations that would introduce a more consistent approach to support for bowling across East Ayrshire.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) note the recommendations of the Working Group;
- ii) request the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to submit a further report to an early meeting of this Committee; and
- iv) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford  
**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**  
WS/JAG/KH  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2005

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

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