

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2004**

#### **DUNLOP AND LUGTON PARK ASSOCIATION – REQUEST TO LEASE DUNLOP PARK AND APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

##### **Report by Director of Community Services**

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

- 1.1 To report the outcome of negotiations with Trade Unions regarding the transfer of the Dunlop Park to community management.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2003 the Committee approved, in principle, the transfer of management responsibility for the Dunlop Park to the Dunlop and Lugton Park Association (DLPA). At the meeting the Director of Community Services was remitted to consult with the appropriate Trade Unions and report back to the Committee with progress on this project in due course.

### **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Trade Union representatives raised issues with the proposal to transfer grounds maintenance work from the Council's Grounds Maintenance DSO to an external organisation, and were concerned with the potential effect on the DSO workforce. Despite these concerns it was possible to negotiate a compromise proposal which offered to retain some work in-house while transferring some to the DLPA and also offering some financial support to the group.
- 3.2 The proposal, which would be reflected in the Service Level Agreement between the Council and the DLPA, would see the Council carrying out grass cutting and football pitch maintenance while the DLPA takes responsibility for shrub maintenance, litter collection and other minor tasks.
- 3.3 The DLPA have accepted this proposal in principle and are now keen to move forward with their project and complete the Service Level Agreement and Lease with the Council.

The proposal has benefits to the DLPA as they have no access to large scale grass cutting equipment at present, however they do have volunteer labour necessary to carry out their horticultural tasks.

- 3.4 The agreement would require the Council to carry out grass cutting and pitch maintenance, and also providing a revenue grant of £1,000. The initial agreement would be for 3 years with inflation added to the revenue grant. The works and revenue grant would be funded from existing budgets.

#### **4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- 4.1 The revenue grant of £1,000 can be met from existing Community Services budgets.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The agreement with the DLPA will be underpinned by a Council Lease and Service Level Agreement which will now be finalised by appropriate Council officials.

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Nil

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 A satisfactory compromise proposal has been agreed by the Trade Unions and the DLPA and this project can now be implemented.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to:-
- i) approve the request from the Dunlop and Lugton Park Association to lease Dunlop Park;
  - ii) approve the request for revenue funding of £1,000 per year, to be paid on a pro-rata basis related to the date of commencement of the lease;
  - iii) remit to the Director of Development Services and Head of Administration and Legal Services to negotiate an appropriate concessionary lease for approval by the Corporate Governance Committee;

- iv) remit to the Director of Community Services and the Head of Administration and Legal Services to negotiate an appropriate Service Level Agreement to include the retention of certain grounds maintenance works by the Council and further revenue support;
- v) remit to the Director of Community Services to report back on progress with this project in due course; and
- vi) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford  
**Director of Community Services**

WS/JAG/KH  
21<sup>st</sup> January 2004

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Letter to Manual and Craft Workers Convenor dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2003
2. Letter from Manual and Craft Convenor dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2003
3. Letter to Mr Gerry Reid of Dunlop and Lugton Park Association dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2003

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers should contact John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services, on 01563 576264.

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