

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: REVIEW OF THE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY AND PARKS DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Meeting: EXECUTIVE
Date: 21 OCTOBER 2014
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2014 the Executive established a Policy Development Panel with the remit to review the Falkirk Council Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan, it instructed officers to progress an update of the Parks Development Plan, within the context of the review of the Falkirk Council Open Space Strategy, with a view to presenting a consultative draft review to the Executive by December 2014.
- 1.2 A scoping exercise has been carried out to establish a work programme for the Policy Development Panel and it has become clear that presenting a consultative draft review to the Executive by December 2014 will not be possible if the consultative draft review is to be fully informed by the findings and recommendations of the Policy Development Panel.
- 1.3 Details of the scoping exercise outcomes are attached in an appendix to this report. This document sets out a timetable for the activity of the Policy Development Panel and proposes that a consultative draft Open Space Strategy incorporating a Parks Development Plan is presented to the Executive in early 2015 with a finalised draft Strategy being presented for approval following consultation in the summer of 2015.

2. UPDATE

- 2.1 TGP Landscapes have been appointed by Estates Services to prepare a Masterplan for Zetland Park. The initial inception meeting took place in early September with regular steering group and stakeholder meetings scheduled throughout the autumn. The consultant has already met the Friends of Zetland Park and future stakeholder engagement/consultations are arranged for October. Completion of the masterplan is expected in December 2014.
- 2.2 Falkirk Community Trust is in the process of drawing up forward planning documents for all the parks they manage. Heritage and sports teams have been working together with a specially recruited project officer since last autumn on a masterplan for Kinneil Estate including the museum and house. The community consultation is complete and a finished document is expected before the end of the year.
- 2.3 Muiravonside Country Park (incorporating Newparks Farm) is currently undergoing a forward planning exercise which started with a series of community consultation events at Easter which informed the creation of a co-ordinated suite of project proposals designed to restructure and reinvigorate the site. The community have commented on these plans and are getting involved with their delivery through volunteering, fundraising and development of specialised projects. Funding bids are being prepared to try to secure the resources to deliver the proposals and these will be submitted before the end of the financial year in tandem with the production of a management plan document for the site outlining the history, current situation and aspirations for the site.

2.4 A similar management plan for Callendar Park is currently being planned with research due to commence this winter in preparation for community engagement. The plan will cover the whole park and take into account relationships between the land and the house as well as neighbouring land use.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Policy Development Panel recommends that the Executive approves the re-scheduling of the presentation of the consultative draft review of the Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan noting the timetable as set out in the appendix to this report.

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Director of Development Services

Date: 10 October 2014

Contact Officers: Danny Thallon Ext. 4927

APPENDIX

Policy Development Panel: Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan

Scoping Report

The terms of reference of the Policy Development Panel are: to review the Falkirk Council Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan.

A consultative draft Open Space Strategy incorporating a consultative draft Parks Development Plan will be completed and approved for public consultation by the Executive in February 2015. Following public consultation a finalised Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan will be completed and approved by the Executive in June 2015.

The Policy Development Panel will be led by the portfolio holder Councillor Adrian Mahoney supported by Councillor John McLuckie and Councillor Jim Blackwood with two places available for opposition Members.

The Panel will be supported by the following officers, with other officers as necessary:-

Danny Thallon, Planning Officer (Development Planning) – Development Services
David Crighton, Estates Manager – Corporate and Neighbourhood Services
Claire Mennim, Team Leader Parks and Sustainability – Falkirk Community Trust
Antonia Sobieraj, Committee Services Officer – Chief Executive Office

The proposed timetable of Panel meetings will be as follows:

	Purpose of meeting	Date/Venue	Attendees	Public/Private Meeting
1.	Scoping. Establishing and agreeing the detailed scope for activities within agreed timeframes/ meetings.	10 October	PDP Members	Private.
2.	Background and Context. Summary of the scope and content of the 2010 Open Space Strategy and 2008 Parks Development Plan. Presentation of the findings of the 2013 open space audit and accessibility analysis. Discussion of key strategic choices	23 October. 14:00-16:00	PDP Members	Public.
3.	Members' Seminar.	3 November. 13:30-15:30	Elected Members.	Public.

	<p>Presentation of the findings of the 2013 open space audit and accessibility analysis.</p> <p>Discussion of key strategic choices.</p> <p>Opportunity to raise local open space related issues.</p>	Municipal Buildings Committee Suite.		
4.	<p>Workshop for external stakeholders.</p> <p>Presentation of the findings of the 2013 open space audit and accessibility analysis.</p> <p>Discussion of key strategic choices.</p> <p>Workshop to discuss required content of the Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan.</p>	<p>14 November.</p> <p>09:30-11:30</p>	<p>PDP Members.</p> <p>Organisations including:- Scottish Natural Heritage; Central Scotland Green Network Trust; Greenspace Scotland; Sportscotland; NHS Forth Valley; Callendar Estates; Scottish Canals; “Friends of” Groups; Community Councils.</p>	Public.
5.	<p>Reporting.</p> <p>Of Workshop, Seminar and Citizens’ Panel findings.</p>	<p>27 November.</p> <p>14:00-16:00</p>	PDP Members.	Private/ Public.
6.	<p>Scrutiny.</p> <p>Of Consultative Draft Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan.</p> <p>Meeting for members to discuss the consultative draft strategy and make changes before presentation to the Executive.</p>	January 2015.	PDP Members.	Private.
7	<p>Executive.</p> <p>Meeting to seek Executive approval to commence public consultation on the consultative draft Open Space Strategy and Parks</p>	January/ February 2015.	Executive Members.	Public.

	Development Plan.			
8	Reporting. Of public consultation findings.	April/May 2015.	PDP Members.	Private/ Public.
9	Conclusion. Final meeting for members to discuss and determine recommendations based on previous sessions and the evidence provided.	April/May 2015.	PDP Members.	Private.
10	Recommendations. Present findings and recommendations to the Executive.	May/ June 2015.	Executive Members.	Public.