

6 GARDENING LEAVE (AN171-2014)

Reference is made to Article VII of the minute of the City Development Committee of the 22 April 2013 which remitted the Director of City Development and the Director of Environment to identify a suitable site to accommodate the charity Gardening Leave within the City. Gardening Leave was established in 2007 and seeks to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of serving and ex-service personnel using horticultural therapy within a safe environment. The charity is developing horticultural therapy initiatives throughout the UK and is keen to locate in Dundee.

Negotiations have been ongoing in relation to the ground of the former bowling greens within Dudhope Park including the associated building. This site is ideally located and provides an excellent space for the charity in meeting its requirements.

The existing building contains a small operational base used by the Environment Department as well as public toilets. The operational requirements of the Environment Department are being transferred as part of the Department's rationalisation programme of operational properties and will, therefore, become surplus to requirements. The public toilets at this location are in need of upgrading in-line with similar upgrading of toilets undertaken within other public parks and it is recommended that an alternative location is identified for public toilet provision within the park.

Members are requested to approve the principle of transferring the former bowling greens and associated building at Dudhope Park and to remit the Director of City Development to enter into lease negotiations with the charity for the site, details of the provisional agreement to be reported to a future Committee. In addition, the Director of City Development will bring back proposals for the relocation and upgrading of the public toilets within the park.