

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE       | Council   |
| DATE            | 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2011  |
| DIRECTOR        | Gordon McIntosh   |
| TITLE OF REPORT | City Garden Project – Request for nominations to the Council's Project Monitoring Group |
| REPORT NUMBER:  | EPI/11/070  |

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Council of the timetable for key decisions and arrangements for short-listing design proposals, relating to the City Garden Project.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council:

- i.) Nominates five members to sit on the Project Monitoring Group, comprising 2 Lib Dem members, 1 SNP members, 1 Labour member and 1 Conservative member – one of which should be nominated as the Chair.
- ii.) Agrees that the Project Monitoring Board reports back to Council via EP&I Committee
- iii.) Instructs the Chair to convene an inaugural meeting of the Project Monitoring Group before 24 March 2011.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This will have no financial impact on the Council.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Apart from the input of member and officers time, there will be no other implications associated with the recommendations included in this paper.

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

At their meeting on Wednesday, 6th October, 2010 (Item 13, Ref: EPI/10/240), Council was presented with a report outlining an indicative timetable for the City Garden project. Council agreed to a) note the timetable for key decision points of the City Garden project; and b) note the proposed arrangements for short-listing design proposals relating to the City Garden project.

Council also asked for quarterly progress reports to be provided to Council and agreed to establish a cross party Project Monitoring Group, to oversee the project's progress and ensure that Council's interests, and that of the majority of Aberdeen citizens, are protected as the project progresses.

In response to Council's request for quarterly progress report, a Bulletin report has been included within the Business Statement for this Council Meeting.

This report therefore deals specifically with the request to establish a cross party Project Monitoring Board.

Although Council requested the establishment of such a Board, however, no clear decision was taken as to the composition and membership of this Board – other than a suggestion that it should mirror the cross party Project Monitoring Board established to oversee the Marischal College Project.

The composition of the Marischal Project Monitoring Board comprises 2 Liberal Democrat members, 1 SNP member, 1 Labour member, 1 Aberdeen Conservative member and 1 external member

However, the majority of the existing City Garden Project Management Board comprises external representatives (with only two Council members – John Stewart (Chair) and Kevin Stewart).

Therefore, it is suggested that there is no need for external representation on the Council's Project Monitoring Board for the City Garden Project.

Accordingly, Council is asked to nominate five members to sit on the Council's proposed Project Monitoring Board, comprising;

- 2 Lib Dem members
- 1 SNP member
- 1 Labour member
- 1 Conservative member

The Project Monitoring Board would be supported by Senior Officers from EP&I who would prepare agendas, report on progress in relation to each of the project's main strands and answer relevant questions.

It is recommended that the first meeting of the Project Monitoring Board be held before 24 March and that future meetings be held within 10 days of each City Garden Project Management Board, or six weekly - whichever is the shorter period.

## 6. IMPACT

### Corporate

This project is seen as a critical project with regard to the future attractiveness, vitality and connectivity of the City Centre and links to both the **Single Outcome Agreement** and **Community Plan 2008**, which outline a vision for Aberdeen City which wealthier, greener and safer and delivers the following National Outcome's:

- 1 We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe
- 2 We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
- 10 We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services
- 12 We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and enhance it for future generations.
- 13 We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity
- 15 Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

The project also contributes to the City's **Vibrant, Dynamic & Forward Looking: policy document**, since a fully functioning and well utilised City Gardens represents a vital piece of social, cultural and leisure infrastructure that can contribute to the delivery of the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Future's '**Building on Energy - An Economic Manifesto for Aberdeen City and Shire**'. This in turn supports the strategic vision of Aberdeen City and Shire, which is to be recognised as one of the most robust and resilient economies in Europe with a reputation for opportunity, enterprise and inventiveness that will attract and retain world-class talent of all ages.

### Public

This report, like all reports pertaining to the City Garden Project will be of interest to the general public.

It is anticipated that the project will have a positive impact in terms of the Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment, as a direct result of linkages to the Economic Development theme of **Vibrant Dynamic and Forward Looking** and it's expected impact on the future sustainable development of the Aberdeen City and Shire economy, by making a major contribution to Aberdeen's business and social infrastructure that supports local businesses and provides a venue for major social, leisure and cultural events for all Aberdeen citizens.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None applicable.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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