

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Hazlehead Grove Nursery Working Group
DATE	12 February 2014
DIRECTOR	Peter Leonard
AUTHOR	Steven Shaw, Environment Manager
TITLE OF REPORT	Proposals for site division
REPORT NUMBER:	

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Working Group with information about the Hazlehead Grove Nursery and to outline proposals for site division.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Working Group recommends approval of the report to the next meeting of the Housing and Environment Committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications for this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The Corporate Management Team (CMT) will have oversight of this project through the Programme Management Office (PMO).

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The Hazlehead Grove Nursery site spans in total approximately 7.3 hectares.

Following discussion with Environmental Services staff it has been suggested that approximately 1.2 hectares should be set aside and used as operational and social enterprise space. This will include:

- working nursery
- greenhouses and polytunnels
- frame yard
- potting shed
- staff facilities

- staff car parking
- depot / both for Hazlehead staff
- spoil heap

This nursery space will accommodate the business venture with social enterprise but will also be used as an educational space for schools and community groups.

The remainder of the site is to be divided in to useable plots i.e. school garden, community garden, wildlife area, picnic area etc. No decision has been made to date on what the plots will be used for or the size of each plot to be made available.

Pathways and set boundaries are all now mostly lost or overgrown so the shape of plots can be changed to suit what is required of them. Natural boundaries do exist in the form of tree belts and hedges and these do give the site evenly split and dividable plots. These boundaries give the site a very natural and countryside feel.

To allow work to progress the site has been split into plot sizes that the Working Group can envisage.

The main part of the site has been split into 8 plots of approximately 5000M2 or roughly the size of a football pitch. There is obviously scope for these plots to be further split depending on what they may be used for.

The North / East corner of the site is seen as the most suitable for an education space / school garden. This area covers approximately 1.3 hectares. This is a very large area of ground and may be too big for the schools alone. This area was chosen for its proximity to the nursery and also is an area that is almost at a stage were works can begin.

The current green waste area of around 0.5 hectares remains. The long term plan for the service's green waste is currently under review.

It should be noted that the site in general has not been worked for 20 plus years and because of this much of the area is very wet and the trees planted 20 years ago for use elsewhere in the city have been left to grow and are now mature.

Staff suggest to help with the drainage issue that a pond / wildlife area be created. This could be used as a natural drainage and water retention area and also be a popular visitors site.

Parts of the site are also full of spoil that would require to be removed to allow for the plots to be worked properly.

## 6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

7 REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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