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**To:               INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD**

**On:               7 NOVEMBER 2018**

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**Report by:     DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

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**Heading:       REINSTATEMENT OF NATURALISED AREAS INTO A REGULAR GRASS CUTTING SCHEDULE**

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## **1.       SUMMARY**

- 1.1     The Council at its meeting on 3 May 2018 discussed a motion on the Council's grass cutting service. The Council agreed "to review the maintenance of grassed areas with a view to reinstate naturalised areas into a regular grass cutting schedule".
- 1.2     Since the motion of 3 May 2018 a review of naturalised areas has been carried out by Environment & Infrastructure, with the review outlining proposals for reinstatement and the associated financial implications.
- 1.3     The current grass maintenance regime and introduction of naturalised areas was implemented following a Review of StreetScene Services, which was carried out between June 2010 and April 2012. This review delivered savings of £2.1 million, achieved through revised service specifications for Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance, and introducing "4 on/4 off" shift patterns for the StreetScene workforce.
- 1.4     The naturalisation of grass areas in 2012 applied to 112 grass panels. The creation of a naturalised area involved cutting a 2 metre strip at the edge of the panel (where ground conditions allowed) and ceasing the cutting of steep slopes.
- 1.5     From the original 112 naturalised areas, the review has identified 97 of these naturalised areas have either been or can be reintroduced into a regular grass cutting schedule. The 15 locations that are not recommended for reinstating to a regular grass cutting scheme are due to complexity of cutting the grassed area in a safe manner; these are also detailed in Appendix 1.

- 1.6 The costs associated for the removal of the naturalised areas and reinstating into a regular grass cutting schedule would require additional annual resources of approximately £140,000 per annum and a one off investment in grass cutting machinery.
  - 1.7 Returning naturalised areas to scheduled maintenance will require initial preparatory works over the winter period of 2018/19, estimated at a cost of £50,000.
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## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board:

- 2.1 Notes the review of existing naturalised areas has been completed.
  - 2.2 Considers the reinstatement of 97 of the 112 areas into a scheduled grass cutting frequency, as set out in Appendix1 of this report.
  - 2.3 Subject to recommendation 2.2 being agreed, approves the recurring revenue costs for the Council of up to £140,000 per annum to reinstate the naturalised areas as part of regular grass cutting schedules.
  - 2.4 Subject to recommendation 2.2 being agreed, approve a one-off revenue cost of £50,000 in 2018/2019 to prepare the naturalised areas for return to a regular grass cutting schedule.
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## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The current grass maintenance regime and introduction of naturalised areas was implemented following a Review of StreetScene Services, which was carried out between June 2010 and April 2012. This review delivered savings of £2.1 million. These savings achieved through revised service specifications for Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance, and introducing “4 on/4 off” shift patterns for the StreetScene workforce.
- 3.2 The naturalisation of grass areas since 2012 applied to 112 grass panel areas. The creation of a naturalised area involved cutting a 2 metre strip at the edge of a panel (where ground conditions allow) and ceasing the cutting of steep slopes.

#### 4. **Review of Naturalised Areas**

- 4.1 The naturalisation of grassed areas in 2011/2012 was applied to 112 grass panel areas. Of the 112 areas which were naturalised in 2012, 52 were reintroduced during 2013 and 2014 into a regular grass cutting schedule. The review focused on the 60 remaining naturalised areas at this current time; a summary of the review of 60 areas is as follows:
- 38 areas (63%) can be re-introduced to normal scheduled maintenance,
  - 7 areas (12%) can be introduced in part (some of the area naturalised) or at reduced cutting frequency
  - 15 areas (25%) are not recommended due to complexity of cutting in a safe manner due to site conditions
- 4.2 In summary, of the 112 naturalised areas, 97 would be reinstated into a regular grass cutting schedule as set out in Appendix 1. Only 15 (13%) would remain unmaintained due to ground conditions and complexity to maintain, also set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The StreetScene resource required to maintain the 97 naturalised areas as part of a regular grass cutting schedule would be an additional resource cost on the Council that is not currently budgeted for. The recurring costs would be £140,000 per annum.
- 4.4 Returning areas to scheduled maintenance will require initial preparatory works over the winter & spring period, estimated to cost circa £50,000. Additional grass cutting equipment and service vehicles are required to deliver this change and address the complex nature of the areas. The one-off capital costs associated with the combination of transport vehicles and cutting machinery would be £150,000, taken from within the vehicle replacement programme for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

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#### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – The reinstatement of naturalised areas into regular grass cutting schedules will cost up to £140,000 of additional revenue resources per annum. There is a one off cost of £50,000 to prepare for restoring to a regular grass cutting schedule and one off capital to support the maintenance of £150,000, from the Vehicle Replacement Programme.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** – None
4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** - None

6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – Testing and a full procurement exercise would be required to deliver the required machinery to achieve this change
10. **Risk** – None
11. **Privacy Impact** – None
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None

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**List of Background Papers - none**

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## Proposed Specification Reductions on Grass Areas

### REINSTATED DURING 2013/14

Manse Crescent, Houston  
 Linburn Road, Erskine  
 Power Station/play area, Erskine  
 Barwood/Power Station, Erskine  
 Barwood park, Erskine  
 Parksail/Low Parksail, Erskine  
 Braemar Road, Inchinnan  
 Ingleston Drive, Bishopton  
 Conniston Est play area, Bishopton  
 Leslie Ave triangle, Bishopton  
 Hill @ Craigston Estate, Bishopton  
 Deanpark Burnside, Renfrew  
 Afton/Tweed play area, Renfrew  
 Dee Avenue play area, Renfrew  
 Esk Avenue, Renfrew  
 11 Esk Avenue, Renfrew  
 14 Esk Avenue, Renfrew  
 Nith Drive lock ups, Renfrew  
 30 Nith Drive, Renfrew  
 36 Nith Drive, Renfrew  
 Almond Avenue & adj No.23, Renfrew  
 Leander Cres/Dochart Ave, Renfrew  
 Walnut Crescent, Johnstone  
 Leander Cr/Crammond Ave, Renfrew  
 Glasgow Rd/Hallidale Crescent, Renfrew  
 Hallidale/Morrison Cres, Renfrew  
 Afton Dr/Morrison Cres, Renfrew  
 Glasgow Rd/Morrison Cres, Renfrew  
 Tirry Ave/Morrison Cr, Renfrew  
 Teith ave/Nethy Way, Renfrew  
 Deanpark Rd/Esk Ave, Renfrew  
 Cockleshill Park, Renfrew  
 Montgomery Ave / Arkleston Rd, Paisley

Spruce Avenue, Johnstone  
Elm Drive, Johnstone  
Auchengreoch Road, Johnstone  
Candren Burn - Meikleriggs Drive, Paisley  
Garry Drive/Lochearn Crescent, Paisley  
Candren Burn - Moorhouse Avenue, Paisley  
Meikleriggs Dr/Rosewood Avenue, Paisley  
Garry Drive/Lochinver Crescent, Paisley  
Brediland/Crosbie Dr/Magdalen Way, Paisley  
Hillcrest Avenue/Craigmount Avenue, Paisley  
Burnfoot Cres/Nethercraigs Drive, Paisley  
Banking facing 27 Stanely Road, Paisley  
Rear Denewood Avenue, Paisley  
32-42 Barterholm Rd/Espedair Street, Paisley  
Hunterhill Park, Paisley  
Wenlock Road/Auldbar Terrace, Paisley  
Todholm Terrace, Paisley  
Todholm Crescent, Paisley  
Barshaw Park Cow Park, Paisley

#### **RECOMMEND FULL REINSTATEMENT**

Opposite Tweedie Hall, Linwood  
Mill Lade, Perimeter Rd, Linwood  
Perimeter Rd, Linwood  
Rear of Lomond View, Erskine  
Ferry lodge path & bridge, Erskine  
North Barr Avenue, Erskine  
Rashieholm-Rashie Glen, Erskine  
Erskine Park Inward Inv. Site, Erskine  
Mains Dr/Newshot Dr, Erskine  
St. Annes PS, Erskine  
Centreholm/Mainshill, Erskine  
Park Way/BT exchange, Erskine  
panels @ Low Parksail, Erskine  
Police Station/New Erskine Church, Erskine  
Campbell Street, Renfrew  
Rear of 57 / 67 Methuen Road, Renfrew  
Merlin / Montgomery / Newton, Paisley

Park Rd Bowling Green, Johnstone  
Willow Dr Garage Site, Johnstone  
Holly / Juniper Place, Johnstone  
Larch / Chestnut / Maple, Johnstone  
Tannahill Crescent, Johnstone  
Tannahill Crescent, Johnstone  
Burnside / Meadowside, Elderslie  
Kilbarchan Park, Kilbarchan  
Foxbar Rd/Abbotsford Cres/Spencer Dr, Paisley  
Lochaline Ave lockups, Paisley  
Glenfield Rd garage site, Paisley  
Glenfield Road forest banking, Paisley  
Hartfield Terrace/St.Ninians Road, Paisley  
Glenshira Ave/Glanarklet Dr, Paisley  
Rear 43-49 Ladykirk Crescent, Paisley  
Cardell Rd (opp Community Centre), Paisley  
Marnock Terrace, Paisley  
Brodie Park, Paisley  
Barshaw Park dog exercise area, Paisley  
Barshaw Park rear of dog exercise area, Paisley  
Barshaw Park rear of hospital, Paisley

#### **RECOMMEND REINSTATEMENT IN PART**

Blythswood Road, Renfrew  
Montgomery Ave/Road, Paisley  
Auchenlodment Rd, Johnstone  
Brediland/Talisman/Foxbar Rd, Paisley  
Shaw Place, Linwood  
Glenfield Road forest, Paisley  
Saucelhill Park, Paisley

#### **DO NOT RECOMMEND REINSTATEMENT**

Carlisle Quay, Paisley  
Linwood Sports Centre Pitch & Putt, Linwood  
Freeland Drive, Inchinnan  
Station Road Playing Field, Langbank  
Peters garage, Bishopton  
Spateston Underpass to hotel, Johnstone  
Spateston Road, Johnstone  
Wee Wood, Johnstone

Howwood Park, Howwood  
Main Rd opposite Howwood Inn, Howwood  
Burnside Gardens, Kilbarchan  
Candren Road, Paisley  
Newark/Mossneuk/Nethercraigs, Johnstone  
Glenburn Road, Paisley  
Morar Drive Playing Fields, Paisley