

**PERTH COMMON GOOD FUND****7 MAY 2014****PERTH SHOW RELOCATION TO MAIN SOUTH INCH****Report by Depute Director (Environment)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report seeks the approval of the Perth Common Good Fund Committee to relocate the Perth Show onto the main South Inch following an interim arrangement which was successful in 2013.

**1. BACKGROUND/ MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 Perth Show is an important annual event attracting large numbers of people to the city. It has traditionally operated on the Lesser South Inch under a Licence to Occupy granted by the Council and has been a suitable venue for many years. However, the recent increase in wet weather being experienced throughout the year has resulted in difficult ground conditions for this type of event. The combination of soft ground and heavy use of this area had a detrimental effect on the soil structure leading to increased problems with drainage. This has, on occasion, resulted in additional measures being required to either protect areas of soft ground or reinstatement when damage has occurred, both of which are costly. Neither of these measures are sustainable in the long term with the risk that the event is cancelled.
- 1.2 Following discussions with the Perth Show organisers, an operational decision was made by The Environment Service in 2013 to comprehensively renovate the Lesser South Inch to address some of the long term damage to the site and alleviate the poor drainage characteristics. The work had to be done over the summer months to allow the ground to be prepared effectively and for seeding to establish before the winter season. It was, therefore, agreed that the Perth Show could relocate to the main South Inch on a trial basis for that summer, with a follow up review of the operational issues once the event had been held.
- 1.3 The renovation of the lesser South Inch has been completed and the relocation of the Perth Show onto the main Inch was seen to be successful. In the follow up review, it was noted that there were some relatively minor operational issues which arose, such as damage to one of the pitch surfaces from quad bike rides. In addition, there was a requirement for a water supply as well as some complaints about speeding vehicles. Overall, however, the success of the relocation has resulted in the organisers formally requesting a permanent relocation onto the main South Inch from 2014.

**2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 Following the success of the trial relocation to the main Inch in 2013, it is proposed to allow this to be a more permanent change. The renovations to the lesser South Inch mean that this open space area will be available for

other large events such as circuses and as an alternative venue for Perth Show, should this be required due to ground conditions for example. In allowing this, revisions would be needed to the plans produced by the Show organisers to address the operational issues which arose during the trial. This would include requiring the Show organisers to pay for a discreet and robust permanent water connection which would be available for use during the show.

- 2.2 Council Officers will continue to liaise with the Show organisers to ensure all of the operational arrangements are in place to allow the event to take place safely and without major damage to the main Inch if the Committee approve the relocation of Perth Show. This will include the option to relocate to the Lesser South Inch should this be required due to weather, ground conditions, or other logistical issues for the use of this area. Care will also be needed to ensure the public retain full and safe access to the other facilities on the South Inch including the new play area.

### 3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Perth Show be allowed to relocate onto the main South Inch on a permanent basis. This would be covered by a new Licence to occupy the site which would be prepared following the Committee decision. It is also recommended that final operational decisions on the location of the event on an annual basis, in response to weather or ground conditions or any other operational reason, would be delegated to The Environment Service.

- 3.2 The Committee is asked to approve:

- (i) That the Perth Show be allowed to relocate onto the main South Inch from, and including, the 2014 season, and
- (ii) Final operational decisions on an annual basis are delegated to the Executive Director (Environment).

#### Author(s)

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#### Approved

Name	Designation	Date
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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>None</b>
Workforce	<b>None</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>None</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>None</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>Yes</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>Yes</b>
Risk	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>None</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The proposals contribute to priorities (iii) and (v) in relation to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

#### Corporate Plan

1.2 The proposals contribute to priorities (iii) and (v) in relation to the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

## 2. Resource Implications

### Financial

- 2.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from this report on the basis Perth Show fund the water connection. The conditions regarding use and reinstatement of the main Inch will be the same or similar to the Licence to Occupy the Lesser South Inch. The Head of Finance has been consulted, and has indicated agreement with the proposals.

### Workforce

- 2.2 The proposals in this report have no workforce implications for the Council.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 The proposals in this report have direct land and property implications, which are addressed within the report.

## 3. Assessments

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- Assessed as **not relevant**.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.
- The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

### Sustainability

- 3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act,

the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

The proposals have been assessed in terms of the requirements to manage the Council's Greenspace assets in a sustainable long term way. The relocation of Perth Show to the main South Inch has a positive impact in making the event more sustainable in the long term.

#### Legal and Governance

- 3.5 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted. The proposals will require a Licence to Occupy to be granted to Perth Show.

#### Risk

- 3.6 There is a risk to the Council arising from this proposal. Some people may disagree with the relocation of Perth Show onto the main South Inch but this was not evident during the trial period. There is a risk to the future of Perth Show if there is not some operational flexibility to allow either the main or Lesser South Inches to be used. There would also be a risk to the future of Perth Show if the venues do not provide the facilities required to make the Show commercially viable.

### **4. Consultation**

#### Internal

- 4.1 The Heads of Legal Services, Democratic Services, Planning and Regeneration, Property and Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### External

- 4.2 There was consultation with the Perth Show organisers and consultation with the relevant agencies and Emergency Services during the trial period last year.

### **5. Communication**

- 5.1 There will be communication about the location of Perth Show through the Show organisers.

### **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There were no background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report.

### **3. APPENDICES**

None

