

**CENTENARY FIELDS**

**CULTURE & LEISURE (COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY )**

**AGENDA ITEM: 3**

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**Reason for this Report**

1. To advise Cabinet of any representations or objections received in response to the proposal to dedicate Grange Gardens and Alexandra Gardens as Centenary Fields.

**Background**

2. At its meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018, Cabinet considered a proposal to dedicate the sites above under an initiative being promoted by Fields In Trust ( FIT ).
3. The Centenary Fields Initiative calls on all landowners including all local government tiers to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity to honour the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War I 1914 – 1918 and specifically encourages participants to nominate green spaces that contain a war memorial that have some significance to World War I.
4. The report advised that as the Council would be technically disposing of the land under section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 by entering into a Deed of Dedication for each site, it was required to give public notice of its intentions and to consider any objections before finalising its decision.
5. Following confirmation of the boundaries of each of the sites and in consultation with local ward members, the proposal to enter into a Deed of Dedication in respect of each of the sites was advertised in the Western Mail on the 8 February 2019 and again on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The closing date for the receipt of objections was the 8th March 2019.

**Issues**

6. The advertisements have generated interest with requests for further information / clarification totalling eighty-six for Alexandra Gardens and

eight for Grange Gardens. No formal representations or objections were received.

7. It is proposed that the deeds be completed by the end of May 2019 and ceremonies are held to mark the installation of the commemorative plaques at each site celebrating the dedications.
8. Post dedication, the Council will continue to be responsible for the management and maintenance of the sites and any buildings located on them, such costs will continue to be met from existing service area budgets. In placing the sites in trust, the Council will be required to seek the consent of FIT in respect of any proposal/development/disposal that does not match the permitted use of the site as stated in the deed.
9. The use of the proposed sites will be continuous and there will be no restrictions of access or use as a consequence of the dedication.

### **Local Member Consultation**

10. Local Ward Members have been consulted on the proposals and are supportive of the dedications.

### **Reason for Recommendations**

11. On the basis of no objections being received to the proposals, Cabinet is requested to give authority to the relevant Officers to complete the dedication of the sites named in this report as Centenary Fields.

### **Financial Implications**

12. The report seeks approval to complete the dedication of the sites named in this report, following public consultation and outlines that any costs associated with the dedication will be met from existing revenue budgets of the directorate. Under the terms of the dedication, the Council will retain the freehold and all maintenance responsibilities of the sites. In addition, the Council will need to seek consent of FIT in respect of any proposal/development/disposal that does not match the permitted use of the site as stated in the deed.

### **Legal Implications**

13. The Council is required to advertise a disposal of public open space land pursuant to section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to consider any objections. The Council has power to dispose of land at an undervalue of up to £2m for wellbeing purposes.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet is recommended to authorise the Director of Governance and Legal, in consultation with other appropriate service area officers and Fields in Trust, to complete the dedication of the sites named in this report as Centenary Fields.

<b>SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<b>Neil Hanratty</b> <b>Director Economic Development</b> 12 April 2019
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*The following background paper has been taken into account :*

*Cabinet Report December 2018 – Centenary Fields*