



Author/Lead Officer of Report: Lisa Firth – Head of Parks & Countryside

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Report of: Laraine Manley, Executive Director Place

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Decision: 12th December 2018

Subject: Fields in Trust (Centenary Fields) – World War 1 Dedication.

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-

Yes No

- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000

- Affects 2 or more Wards

Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to?

Culture, Parks and Leisure

Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to?

Economic and Environmental Wellbeing

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?

Yes No

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given?

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?

Yes No

If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-

Purpose of Report:

In recognition of commemorating the centenary of the ending of World War 1, in December 2017 Cabinet approved 300 new memorial trees to be planted in Sheffield's parks to create a permanent lasting war memorial for the city and guaranteed that they be replanted in perpetuity.

The first of the war memorials have been created by planting 100 trees across 36 of the city's parks and woodlands and it is proposed to dedicate the surrounding green spaces as Centenary Fields (in trust), meaning they will continue to be managed as public parks and recreation grounds in perpetuity.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet to proceed with applications for Centenary Fields in Trust for those parks which are not held on charitable trust. A separate report will be presented to Cabinet as charity trustee in respect of the charitable parks.

In addition, Stocksbridge Town Council has asked Sheffield City Council, as landowner, to dedicate Stocksbridge Clock Tower Gardens as a Centenary Field and this report seeks approval to support this request.

The 27 sites are listed at Appendix 1.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet give approval and authority to:

- (a) proceed with an application to designate the parks listed at Appendix 1 to this report, as a Centenary Field in conjunction with the Fields In Trust charity, to provide further protection to ensure that they will continue to be managed as public parks and recreation grounds in perpetuity.
- (b) authorise the Chief Property Officer in consultation with the Director of Culture and Environment, to negotiate the terms of the documentation needed to dedicate the land; and to agree the parameters of the dedication area where the full site will not be dedicated.
- (c) authorise the Director of Culture & Environment together with the Director of Legal Services to take all necessary action and complete the documentation needed to dedicate the land.
- (d) subject to recommendations a- c being concluded, the sites will be formally dedicated as Centenary Fields in a ceremony to be arranged during 2019.

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: Paul Schofield
		Legal: David Sellars
		Equalities: Annemarie Johnston
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	EMT member who approved submission:	Laraine Manley
3	Cabinet Member consulted:	Cllr. Mary Lea
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: Lisa Firth	Job Title: <i>Head of Parks & Countryside</i>
	Date: 03/12/2018	

1. **PROPOSAL**

- 1.1 In protecting green spaces as Centenary Fields, Sheffield City Council will be creating a lasting legacy to mark the centenary of WW1 by commemorating the sacrifice of those who lost their lives in the conflict and ensuring that their communities benefit now and in the future from protected green spaces and safeguarding the city's reputation as The Outdoor City.

Sheffield already has two designated Fields in Trust at Weston Park and Ochre Dike Recreation Ground. The council now wishes to extend this protection further by protecting the sites of the war memorial trees planted in other parks and green spaces. In some cases, it might not be appropriate to dedicate a full site as a Centenary Field, for instance at Parkwood Springs where the redevelopment of the old ski village is planned. In such instances a part of the site will be protected, to take in to account the wider plans for the sites.

The non-charitable parks are listed in Appendix 1 and are the subject of this report. A separate report will be presented to Cabinet as charity trustee in respect of the charitable parks.

Centenary Fields is a national initiative being led by Fields in Trust (the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association, a registered charity) and the Royal British Legion. Further information about the programme is given in Appendix 2 to this report. The Centenary Fields programme 2014-18 aims to protect at least one green space in every local authority area across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to commemorate the centenary of World War I. By seeking to designate this number of sites, Sheffield will have the highest number of Centenary Fields of any of the English core cities outside of London (London has 150 protected green spaces across all boroughs and Leeds, the nearest core city has 22).

This commitment recognises the Council's significant commitment to not only the commemoration and remembrance of the city's sacrifice in World War 1 and subsequent conflicts, but also the importance of maintaining and retaining good quality green space for the people of Sheffield.

The Council will work collaboratively with Fields in Trust in terms of the detailed deeds of covenants for each site and each designation will be designed to best fit with the needs of the site. This will ensure the Council retains appropriate flexibility to provide a wide range of leisure and ancillary facilities for each site, now and in future, whilst making sure the quality and quantity of the green space is not compromised.

A request from Stocksbridge Town Council has also been received to dedicate the Stocksbridge Clock Tower Gardens as a Centenary Field. The Clock Tower War Memorial was built to honour the memory of 107 young people, a nurse, sailors and soldiers, who died in the First World War.

Ownership of the site transferred from Stocksbridge Urban District Council to Sheffield City Council in 1974 as a result of the reorganisation of local government under the Local Government Act 1972 and so the City Council, as landowner, is required to dedicate the site. The Stocksbridge Clock Tower Gardens is included in the list at Appendix 1 so that Cabinet may agree to the Town Council's request.

Each Centenary Field will be provided with signage to indicate its designated status. The Centenary Fields programme is also complementary to the local authority's Armed Forces Community Covenant policy commitment.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 Maintaining high quality parks and open spaces for people to use and enjoy contributes to the Corporate Plan priorities of Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities, and better Health and Wellbeing. This protection will ensure the council's commitment to high quality green spaces can be delivered for current and future generations.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 Public consultation is not required as part of this process but by way of best practice, discussion has taken place with:
- Sheffield Armed Forces Covenant Group
 - The Parks Friends Groups
 - Local Councillors
 - Members of the public via a campaign with Sheffield Star
 - Members of the public via posters in and around the parks

All feedback has been positive.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

- 4.1.1 There are no equality of opportunity implications arising from this decision.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 Nominating these parks as 'Centenary Field' sites does not commit the City Council to any further additional investment for access and maintenance over and above what is currently being committed and achieved today. The parks will continue to be maintained by Sheffield City Council within its normal core revenue budget allocation for their upkeep and management.

4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 To enable a Centenary Fields application to be formally completed, Cabinet are advised of the following legal implications:

- (a) Entering into a Deed of Dedication as a 'Field In Trust' **amounts to a disposal of an interest** by the Council of property interests in accordance with s123 of the Local Government Act 1972 as it places restrictions on the Council's land for the benefit of others and affects the Council's ability to deal with the land freely in the future. The Council may not dispose of the property or erect any structures on the land without the formal consent of Fields In Trust.
- (b) By completing the dedication the Council will agree to restrict the use of the land on the terms required by the dedication. The Council will maintain the nominated parks, so far as is consistent with its duties as a local authority, and it will have due regard to any advice given from time to time by the Fields In Trust on the management and running of the property.

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 Sheffield City Council has been directly approached by Fields In Trust to nominate suitable sites within the City's boundary to be part of this national initiative. The City Council does not have to nominate a site but this report provides the City the opportunity and option to now do so.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 By planting the new war memorial trees in parks, the Council has created a number of sites that ideally match the national Centenary Field designation criteria. In making such designations the Council's commitment to maintaining the newly planted war memorial in perpetuity for future generations is reinforced. Nominating these sites does not further increase the Council's current revenue commitment for maintenance or require any new capital investment.

Appendix 1 Parks & Green Spaces

1. Bingham Park
2. Bolehill Recreation Ground
3. Chapeltown Park
4. Charnock Recreation Ground
5. Cholera Monument
6. Concord Park
7. Crookes Valley Park
8. Ecclesall Woods
9. Ecclesfield Park
10. Grenoside Recreation Ground
11. Herdings Park
12. Hollinsend Park
13. Longley Park
14. Manor Fields Park
15. Meersbrook Park
16. Middlewood Park
17. Millhouses Park
18. Mortomley Park
19. Mosborough (Hillside)
20. Mount Pleasant Park
21. Parkwood Springs
22. Parson Cross Park
23. Rivelin Valley Park
24. Stannington Park
25. Stocksbridge Clock Tower Gardens
26. Tinsley Green Recreation Ground
27. Whirlow Brook Park

Appendix 2 Overview of Centenary Fields

Further information on Centenary Fields and Fields in Trust can be found at the following link

<http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Centenary-Fields>

or, by visiting the Fields in trust website at www.fieldsintrust.org.

The Centenary Fields programme was launched in 2014 by Fields in Trust President HRH The Duke of Cambridge.

Working in partnership with The Royal British Legion the programme aims to protect parks, playing fields and other recreational spaces in perpetuity to honour the memory of the millions who lost their lives in World War I. Landowners across the UK are encouraged to dedicate war memorial playing fields and recreation grounds, memorial gardens, parks or recreation grounds that contain a war memorial and other valued green spaces that have some significance to World War I as Centenary Fields.

Local Authorities

By dedicating land through the Centenary Fields programme local authorities and other landowners can ensure valuable green space is protected as a living remembrance to those who fought and lost their lives in World War I. This dedication is aligned with the spirit of the Armed Forces Community Covenant and will be recognised by the local community as a clear commitment to the importance of these spaces now and in the future.