

**Report To:** **WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Date:** 21 February 2024

**Reporting Officer:** Nicola Marshall - Greenspace Development Manager

**Subject:** **WERNETH LOW JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

**Report Summary:** To inform Members of progress towards the signing of a new Joint Management Agreement.

**Recommendations:** That the report be noted.

**Links to Community Strategy:** To ensure that the Country Park is an attractive and environmentally friendly place to visit.

**Policy Implications:** The activities in the Country Park are in accordance with Council policy priorities.

**Financial Implications:** The funding for the projects is met by the Operations and Greenspace revenue budget.  
**(Authorised by the Section 151 Officer and Chief Finance Officer)**

**Legal Implications:** It is important that the Joint Management Committee is kept informed of activities undertaken in the Country Park.  
**(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

**Risk Management:** Activities in the Country Park are kept under review in order to ensure any potential risks are dealt with adequately.

**Access to Information:** Background papers and information can be obtained by contacting Nicola Marshall, Greenspace Development Manager



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## **1. WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

- 1.1 Both the Council and the Trust acknowledge that it is an appropriate time to review the Joint Management Agreement.
- 1.2 Two previous Working Group meetings were held however these ceased at the start of the pandemic in 2020 as people had other priorities. In the meantime, the previous Greenspace Officer, who was also a private tenant of the Trust, retired and left the Trust's residential accommodation.
- 1.3 Both parties had agreed that they wanted to enter into a new Joint Agreement and that the general principles of wanting to maintain a country park were still important to all concerned.
- 1.4 Since the initial meetings there have been changes in membership of Hyde War Memorial Trust so it was at the February 2023 meeting that a new Joint Management Agreement working group would be established.
- 1.5 The membership of the Working Group was to comprise of Trustees from Hyde War Memorial Trust and elected Councillors. The Greenspace Manager would support the meeting by providing background papers.
- 1.6 The Working Group then met in March 2023 to review the draft agreement and the Trust subsequently shared this with their Legal Team. There were then some delays with both parties in terms of time to work on the project and other priorities however the Trust's advisors then submitted a revised draft Agreement.
- 1.7 The Working Group then met on 13 December 2023 to review the amendments; the latest version of the Joint Management Agreement is now ready to be reviewed by both parties' legal teams with a view to getting it agreed as soon as possible.
- 1.8 A further update will be provided at the June 2024 Joint Management Committee meeting.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 As set out at the front of the report.