

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

**Date:** 25 November 2019

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

**Subject:** **WERNETH LOW JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT REVIEW BETWEEN HYDE WAR MEMORIAL TRUST AND TAMESIDE COUNCIL.**

**Report Summary:** To inform Members of progress made on the review of the 1979 Werneth Low Joint Management Agreement anticipating proposals for a new agreement between the parties.

**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:** There are no direct financial implications.  
(Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)

**Legal Implications:** The management agreement will need to be reviewed and subject to governance including a report to Cabinet.  
(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.

**Background Papers:** Background papers and information can be obtained by contacting Nicola Marshall, Greenspace Development Manager.

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## **1. REVIEW OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

- 1.1 The Werneth Low Joint Management Agreement has been in place since 1979. It was originally signed up to by Hyde War Memorial Trust, Tameside Council and Greater Manchester Council. The Agreement set out the details of creating and managing the Country Park. Ever since its inception the principles of the Management Agreement have guided the Werneth Low Joint Management Committee.
- 1.2 The Management Agreement was due to expire in 2020 so representatives from Tameside Council and Hyde War Memorial Trust agreed that the Agreement needed to be reviewed to ensure that it was fit for purpose. A sub-group of the Werneth Low Joint Management Committee was set up to start the review of the Agreement. It was agreed at the time that the sub group would consist of the following:  
Frank Gradwell – Hyde War Memorial Trust  
June Evans – Hyde War Memorial Trust  
Peter Ainger – Hyde War Memorial Trust  
Cllr John Bell – Tameside Council  
Cllr Peter Robinson – Tameside Council  
Cllr Jim Fitzpatrick – Tameside Council  
Nicola Marshall – Officer, Tameside Council  
Nick Sayers – Officer, Tameside Council
- 1.3 This representation has changed slightly in that Cllr Bell has since retired as a Councillor but is now on the sub-group as representative of Hyde War Memorial Trust.
- 1.4 The sub group had an initial meeting in January 2019. At this meeting the group established that the two parties still in existence were keen to see the continuation of the joint management of the Country Park. Both parties agreed the general principles of continuing to manage the Country Park for the benefit of local residents and wildlife and in compliance with the HWMT Deed of Trust 1921 and Charity Commission New Scheme of 1976.
- 1.5 After further discussions a meeting was convened in September 2019 to conduct a line by line consideration of the Joint Management Agreement, and this has been shared with members of the sub group.
- 1.6 The sub group agreed that the next steps are for each organisation to get legal advice on an updated Agreement and to carry out their own consultation and governance procedures.
- 1.7 A verbal update on progress from each party will be provided at the March meeting with a view to bringing a written report to the July meeting.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 As stated on the front cover of the report.