



Subject:	Families at the Waterworks
Date:	6 February 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Stephen Walker, Portfolio and Programme Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is update Members on the existing management arrangement with the Families at the Waterworks and to seek the necessary authority from Members as outlined in the body of the report.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that Members <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Agree to extend the existing agreement on a month by month basis, not to exceed March 2019 without seeking further consents;2. Agree to review and revise the existing agreement, in consultation with the relevant fisheries authority and The Families;

	<p>3. To note the need for works to the waterways under the Reservoirs legislation; to note that an environmental assessment is underway and agree that these works be aligned; and</p> <p>4. Note that the Families at the Waterworks, if successful, will be seeking an appropriate licence agreement to locate the building on Council land within the existing compound. A further committee paper will be brought forward as required.</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Committee is reminded that the Council entered into a Facilities Management Agreement with the Families at the Waterworks on 1 st January 2005; this agreement set out the respective responsibilities of 'The Families' and the Council. The agreement was for an initial period of 6 years and could be extended for a further 6 years, terminating 31 December 2017. There is no provision in the agreement to extend further.
3.2	'The Families' have had a management agreement with the Council in relation to the use of the upper pond for fishing for the past 12 years; they populate and restock the upper pond with fish as necessary. The group sought and secured funding for a container through the former Department of Culture Arts and Leisure and received consent from the Council in March 2013 to install the container for which the Council assumed ownership and responsibility. Council subsequently agreed to provide power and water connections to the container in 2015. The Families continue to make use of the facility and seek to encourage greater use on a cross community basis and inter-generationally, however the existing level of facilities are inadequate to meet the aspiration of the group.
3.3	Representatives of 'The Families' have met with Council Officers and advised that they are seeking additional funding through the Alpha fund to enable them to add to the existing storage facilities and provide a space which would support them in delivering educational programmes to local groups who may wish to learn more about fishing and related activities. These discussions are ongoing and a report will be brought to Committee in due course to seek the necessary approvals.
3.4	Members may be aware that there have been ongoing issues regarding the presence of invasive species and weeds within the top pond. Despite attempts and annual maintenance to manage the problem it remains an issue. Members will also be aware that recent reservoir legislation requires the Council to carry out works to ensure that these waterways

	<p>remain safe and fit for purpose. While the Council undertakes some works on a routine basis, an Hydraulic Assessment was carried out in 2016, this included the upper and lower ponds at the Waterworks, and Alexandra Park. These works are currently on the capital programme as an emerging project, further work is required and will be undertaken. It will be necessary to drain the ponds to undertake these works and it is proposed that treatment of the invasive species be undertaken at that time. A separate piece of work to assess the extent and nature of the invasive species is currently underway and will identify an appropriate solution to the problem.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.5 None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>3.6 None</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None