**Delegated Decision** 

29<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Licence to Occupy: Langley Park Wetlands, Langley Park

Ordinary Decision/Key Decision No.

# Report of Regeneration and Local Services, Corporate Property and Land

# Anna Wills, Interim Strategic Manager

## Electoral division(s) affected:

Esh and Witton Gilbert

### **Purpose of the Report**

1 To request approval of the grant of a Licence to Occupy Langley Park Wetlands (as banded in red on the plan attached in Appendix 2) between the County Council of Durham and Stobillee Wetlands Association.

#### **Executive summary**

2 To approve the granting of a Licence to Occupy for the subject asset between the County Council of Durham as Owner and Stobillee Wetlands Association as Occupier.

#### Recommendation

3 It is recommended that approval be granted for the Licence to Occupy for the subject asset between the County Council of Durham and Stobillee Wetlands Association.

### Background

- 4 A request has been received from Stobillee Wetlands Association to occupy the site known as Langley Park Wetlands, which is situated on the outskirts of the village of Langley Park in the County of Durham.
- 5 The subject asset is at present not formally occupied by a party and is not maintained by a Service within the Council. There are Allotments adjacent to the site, however, Allotments do not maintain the Wetlands nor does Clean and Green although assistance is informally provided on occasion.



- 6 Stobillee Wetlands Association will occupy the site in order to enable the continuity of the Wetlands for members of the public and provide community activities.
- 7 The term of occupation is to be for one year.
- 8 The Licence Fee is to be One Peppercorn. This is because Stobillee Wetlands Association are to maintain the subject asset and are a not for profit organisation providing community activities.
- 9 The proposal of the Association to occupy the Wetlands has the support of Local Members as well as members of the public who frequently use the Wetlands.
- 10 Stobillee Wetlands Association as occupier will be fully responsible and liable for their use of the site. They will reinstate the site to its current condition upon the termination of the Licence to Occupy.
- 11 In order to protect the Council's interests and enable a reasonable and realistic termination, should occupation by the Council be required, a Licence to Occupy is being granted.
- 12 There are currently ongoing investigations to determine whether another type of agreement can be put in place, however, a decision is yet to be made.

## Options

13 N/A

### Main implications

14 N/A

### Conclusion

15 To approve the granting of the Licence to Occupy for the subject asset between the County Council of Durham and Stobillee Wetlands Association.

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Plan(s):	Site plan attached.	

# **Appendix 1: Implications**

## **Legal Implications**

N/A

## Finance

N/A

# Consultation

Councillor Kevin Shaw as Portfolio Holder together with Local Councillors Arnie Simpson and Bev Coult were consulted via email (see Appendix 3) on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and no objections or conflicts of interest were received.

# Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

N/A **Human Rights** 

N/A

**Crime and Disorder** 

N/A

# Staffing

N/A

## Accommodation

N/A

## Risk

N/A

## Procurement

N/A

