
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date: 07/06/2012
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources	Report No: R247/12/AF/GF
Contact Officer:	Gordon Fisher	Contact No: 01475 712495
Subject:	Proposals for Management of Public Spaces	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Committee proposals for the ongoing management of Public Spaces specifically Clyde Square, the Civic Space at "The Nymph" the Civic Space at "Ginger", and the Civic Space at the Comet.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Authority has been granted for the management of Clyde Square however no such authority exists for the other spaces mentioned above. Requests for the use of the spaces in Greenock have already been received and there has been interest in the Port Glasgow space although no specific requests as yet have been made.
- 2.2 It is considered that the management of all of these spaces should be dealt with in the same manner, and there should be a single point of contact for all enquiries.
- 2.3 The authority already granted for Clyde Square relates to non profit making community or charitable groups only, and use by profit making organisations is not allowed. It has been identified that there may be revenue generating opportunities for these areas and this report seeks to address this issue.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that:
1. authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources to deal with applications for consent for the use of Clyde Square, The Nymph and Ginger areas, Greenock and the Comet area in Port Glasgow in accordance with the general policy guidelines set out in this report and to refuse or grant subject to appropriate conditions except in any instance where the Corporate Director considers consultation with members is appropriate, in which case he would consult with the Convener and Vice Convener of the Environment & Regeneration Committee and a member of the Minority groups, and
 2. the categories of groups considered to be suitable to use the spaces be expanded to include commercial activities, for which a charge will be levied.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Council has allowed the use of Clyde Square for many years by community and charitable groups. Authority for this was granted by the then Corporate Resources Committee at their meeting of 7th May 1996. Specifically

“that authority be delegated to the Director of Central Services to deal with applications for consent for the use of Clyde Square, Greenock in accordance with the general policy guidelines set out in this report and to refuse or grant subject to appropriate conditions except in any instance where the Director considers consultation with members is appropriate, in which case he would consult with the Convener and Vice Convener of the committee and a member of the Minority groups.”

The proposal is that this committee and the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources be substituted in the above clause, and The Nymph, Ginger and the Comet areas be included. Cathcart Square is not included in this report, but similar guidelines can be utilised for that area in due course.

4.2 Groups previously considered as suitable were designated as:

1. Charitable events
2. Musical entertainments (bands and choirs)
3. Campaign type events such as stalls with literature, petitions for signature etc.

Activities generally refused consent in the past included:

1. Commercial activities
2. Activities promoting religious sects.

It is now proposed to encourage commercial operators to use these spaces and the Council will gain additional revenue from charging for the use of these spaces. This has not been considered in the past and it is deemed appropriate that specific authority be now sought to permit this use, and to make a charge. The amount of the charge will be assessed in line with the use proposed and timescale, opportunities put out to tender where deemed appropriate and any proposed charge will be subject to the same consultation provision as for users.

4.3 Standard conditions currently attached to a consent are:

1. that the event will not impede the general public or cause obstruction
2. that the organisation will accept responsibility for any damage arising from the event
3. the organisation will take all reasonable care to avoid any damage to the paved surface
4. the organisation will comply with the requirements of the police (who are copied in to correspondence)

4.4 The above will still apply to the first type of occupier, however as it is proposed to encourage the use of the spaces by commercial operators and generate revenue for the Council, additional requirements are required for those as below:

1. The organisation will be required to obtain and exhibit all necessary consents, permits and licences from relevant departments within the Council and other statutory bodies such as police and fire authorities.
2. A risk assessment will be exhibited.
3. Insurance cover relevant to the activity will be obtained and exhibited.
4. Any other reasonable requirements of the Council will be adhered to.

It is not possible to give a definitive list of requirements given the variety of activities which might request the use of these spaces. A contact list of parties to be consulted will be supplied.

4.5 Existing enquiries include the use of the Nymph area by Discover Inverclyde at Cruise ship visits for an Information booth and perhaps welcoming entertainment, the Inverclyde Voluntary Carers group for an exhibition in the Ginger space, and a German Christmas market in Clyde Square. Tribeca and the Square have applied in the past to site tables in Clyde Square and specific consent was granted, although it did not proceed.

4.6 Consideration should be given to formally naming the spaces.

5.0 CONSULTATIONS

5.1 Financial Services – One Off Costs

There are no specific costs associated with this proposal.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed spend This Report	Virement From	Other Comments

Financial Services – Annually Recurring Costs / (Savings)

Whilst it is hoped that revenue will be generated from the use of the spaces, this is likely to be intermittent and it is not deemed appropriate to provide estimates at this time.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From	Other Comments

5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has been consulted on the contents of this report.

5.3 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted and is in agreement with the recommendations of this report.