Glasgow City Council

Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

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Briefing Note on the Petition "Keep Our Kibble Palace Free"

Purpose of Report:

To provide information on the Petition "Keep Our Kibble Palace Free".

Recommendation:

It is the Council's recommendation that NRS continue with plans to introduce an entrance fee at the Kibble Palace.

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To provide information on the Petition – Keep Our Kibble Palace Free.

2. Background

2.1 In response to the Council's financial forecast identifying a spending gap for financial year 2023/24 of £50M, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability were required to submit saving proposals of £13.1M.

2.2 As part of NRS' 2023/24 budget proposals, the Council approved the introduction of a charge to enter the glasshouse at Glasgow Botanic Gardens (GBG).

3. Charging for Glasshouse

3.1 The entry fee approved is £3 per adult and £1.50 per child and is expected to generate £185,000 additional income per year based on an estimated annual footfall of 100,000.

3.3 Research carried out on behalf of this service indicates that several similar attractions across the United Kingdom charge an admission fee to their botanic garden facilities.

4. Health and Well Being

4.1 The benefits of accessing and utilising greenspace for exercise, social interaction and general health and wellbeing are vitally important and well documented.

4.2 Free access to the extensive Botanic Gardens which includes an arboretum, extensive lawn areas, children's garden and play areas and the provision of a café offer, will remain in place. In addition, there are further investments within the Gardens with the restoration and expansion of the wildlife pond which forms part of the nature/ecological education aspect which is key at this location.

4.3 Glasgow has an extensive, free to access, network, of over ninety parks and country parks across the city. These locations have unique features and offer the visitor a positive experience whether that is passive recreation, exercise, wildlife watching, educational or volunteering opportunities.

4.4 In Glasgow there are also 5 nationally important 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSIs) designated by Scottish Natural Heritage, 11 Local Nature Reserves and over 90 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).

5. Recommendation

5.1 It is the Council's recommendation that NRS continue with plans to introduce an entrance fee at the Kibble Palace.