

REPORT TO: Leisure Services Committee of 21 May 2001
REPORT ON: Paths for All Implementation Programme 2001/2002
REPORT BY: Director of Leisure & Parks
REPORT NO: 296-2001

1. **Purpose of Report**

To gain Committee approval for the proposed programmes of work to implement the Paths for All Initiative in the year 2001/2002.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee agree the proposed programme for the Paths for All Initiative as itemised for 2001/2002.
- 2.2 That the Committee agree the expenditure of £3,500 for the employment of Scottish Participatory Initiatives from Dunbar to undertake training and a pilot study on community consultation for the Paths for All Initiative.

3. **Financial Implications**

Total proposed expenditure on implementing the Paths for All initiative in 2001/02 is £141,000 with contributions from Scottish Enterprise Tayside of £16,000, Scottish Natural Heritage of £14,000, Paths for All Partnership of £10,000, Landfill Tax Credits of £23,000, Sports Lottery of £11,000 giving a net cost to the Council of £67,000. This expenditure is included within the current approved financial plan for the financial year 2001/2002.

4. **Local Agenda 21 Implications**

The principles of sustainable development, as promoted by Dundee 21, will be at the heart of the Paths for All Initiatives and will encourage healthy lifestyles, promote sustainable transportation and increase community participation. Innovative techniques will minimise environmental impacts, etc.

5. **Equal Opportunities Implications**

Opportunities will be created for people of all ages and abilities to undertake walking, cycling and horse riding activities. Specific consideration will be given to people with disabilities to ensure integrated barrier-free access to all the Paths for All network.

6. **Main Text**

6.1 **Background**

Dundee's Public Open Space Strategy was approved in May 1999, highlighting the importance of walking, cycling and horse riding for recreation and utility uses. The Strategy's Action Plan recommended that a Feasibility Study be undertaken in order to progress the citywide Paths for All Initiative.

A Paths for All Feasibility Study was undertaken and reported to Committee on 20 September 1999 to the Leisure Services Committee and on 30 August 1999 to the Planning & Transportation Committee where it was agreed.

This report proposes the first phase of implementation in the financial year 2001/2002.

The need for a comprehensive network of routes to serve the Dundee population has been acknowledged for some time and will be progressed by this report and by the Local Transportation Strategy.

6.2 Proposed Programme for the Paths for All Initiative

The list of proposals for the expenditure of the Leisure & Parks Department Capital allocation of £67,000, is broken down into physical and activity areas.

Physical Proposals:

- *Net Work Enhancements*

Approximate costs £57,500 with contribution from other agencies of £30,000. This covers improvements to existing pathway network infrastructure. It would also include signage and interpretation boards.

- *Links to Social Inclusion Partnership Areas*

The proposal is for £10,000 for the Kirkton Social Inclusion Partnership Area with contribution from other agencies of £5,000 and £25,000 for the Mid Craigie and Linlathen Social Inclusion Partnership Area with contributions from other agencies of £5,000. This proposal is to provide links to the cycle and walking pathway networks that have been developed in the Social Inclusion Partnership Areas of Kirkton and Mid Craigie/Linlathen, as part of their Regeneration Programmes. The links will be from the neighbourhood networks to the Green Circular Path, and to local amenities, industrial areas for job opportunities, and to amenities such as schools, health centres and shops.

- *Cycling for All in Camperdown Country Park*

The proposal is for expenditure of £45,000 with contributions from other agencies of £34,000 to develop an accessible pathway network around Camperdown Country Park based on the requirements of cycles for use by the disabled located at the Crows Nest/playground area.

Activities:

- *Scottish Countryside Access Network*

It is proposed that Dundee City Council renew membership of the Scottish Countryside Access Network at a cost of £35.00. It is also requested that Dundee City Council's Access Officer becomes a member of the Scottish Countryside Access Network Committee. Scottish Countryside Access Network is the recognised professional body for access professionals in Scotland. The advantage of Dundee City Council's Access Officer, being a Committee Member, would be the more regular contact with Access issues and other professionals from other organisations in regard to the development of Access issues. This is particularly relevant at the present time due to the Scottish Executives Land Reform Bill and its suggested impact on Access, specifically in association with local authority activities.

- *Camperdown Country Park – Templeton Woods Community Consultation*

It is proposed to undertake community consultation on the proposals for the development of the path network in Templeton Woods. This is seen as a pilot to refine the community consultation process for the Paths for All Initiative, and the lessons learned from this activity will be rolled out into the whole community consultation process across Dundee. It is proposed to employ consultants at a cost of £3,500 to undertake training and an initial community consultation event.

The Committee is asked to agree expenditure of £3,500 to the Scottish Participatory Initiative as a specialist consultant as they are the only consultancy in Scotland undertaking this type of work and training. The training provided by the consultants for the public consultation, will be provided to Dundee City Council's Access Officer, Officers of the Leisure and Parks Department, and other relevant Officers of the City Council up to a maximum of 20.

Reports on the acceptance of tenders for the various works will be submitted to future Leisure Services Committees

7. **Consultation**

The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance, and Director of Planning & Transportation have all be consulted on this report.

8. **Background Papers**

Planning & Transportation Committee – Item XI 30 August 1999.
Leisure & Parks Committee – 20 September 1999 – Agenda Item I, Paths for All Initiative Feasibility Study
Dundee's Public Open Space Strategy – Dundee City Council 1999

9. **Signature** Director of Leisure & Parks

Date