

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Policy and Resources Committee - 13 February 2006

REPORT ON: Core Path Planning

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure & Communities, Director of Planning & Transportation

REPORT NO: 71-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To gain Committee approval for the implementation of the Core Path Planning procedures as required by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003: Part 1.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 approves the procedures and timescales outlined for Core Path Planning.
- 2.2 approves the commencement of the Core Path Planning Process.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The total cost of the project will be £600 in 2006/07, £2,200 in 2007/08 and £1,500 in 2008/09. This expenditure will be met from the Leisure & Communities Department's Revenue Budgets in the appropriate years.
- 3.2 Further expenditure may be incurred if a Public Enquiry becomes necessary. This would be the subject of a further report.
- 3.3 A further report will also be submitted once the network has been identified and this will outline any associated maintenance costs.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Core Path Planning will be advantageous to all users of non-motorised forms of access. The Core Path Plan will help to improve and encourage access to green and open spaces.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Core Path Planning process will seek the views of, and be developed for, all people in the City.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 Reference is made to Article 4 of the Policy and Resources Committee of 15 August 2005 when approval was given for Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy.
- 6.2 Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy outlined the main steps involved in the Core Path Planning Process. This report seeks approval for the commencement of this process in Dundee. The Core Path Network in Dundee will provide the public with "the basic framework of routes sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area." Once the Core Path Plan has been formally adopted it will be

advantageous to publicise and signpost the Core Path Network to encourage people to use it to access their local green spaces, shops, work places and recreational facilities. The network will also facilitate links to neighbouring local authorities and will become part of the national Core Path Network.

According to the Scottish Executive's Draft Guidance, the system of core paths should provide for a variety of recreational uses, such as walking, cycling, and horse riding as well as functional (transport) uses and for all ages and abilities.

A draft Core Path Plan should be prepared on the basis of informal consultation. This draft plan will then be subject to a formal consultation period, similar to that of a Local Plan. Once adopted, the Core Path Plan should be included in subsequent Local Plans.

The statutory duties related to Core Path Planning are to:

- draw up a plan for a system of core paths to give public reasonable access throughout area by 9th February 2008
- give public notice of core paths plan
- allow public inspection for not less than 12 weeks
- consult the local access forum
- consult representatives of those who live, work, carry on business, engage in recreational activities, on land subject to proposed core paths
- consult Scottish Natural Heritage and others as thought fit
- invite objections and representations
- adopt plan if no objections are made, or are made and withdrawn
- hold a local inquiry if objection not withdrawn
- adopt the plan and give public notice
- keep plan and maps available for public inspection
- send a copy of documents to Ministers
- review and amend the plan

Throughout, and following the planning and adoption of the Core Path Plan, ongoing maintenance and management of Core Paths will be important. Within the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 the Council is given powers to assist them in asserting and protecting access routes and keeping them open and free from obstruction.

The Core Path Plan may be reviewed and amended. Core Paths may be diverted or removed from the plan without the need to carry out the full consultation process. The Council should note the amendments to the plan and give public notice of the amendments. New paths may be included in a Core Path Plan after consultation.

Proposed Timescale

- 6.3 It is proposed that the Core Path Planning process holds consultations alongside Local Community Plan consultations in 2006. The informal consultation process will be completed by October 2006. The data compiled from the consultations will then be analysed and added to the corporate GIS. A second round of informal consultations will be undertaken in 2007. Data from the second round of consultations will be analysed and the draft plan will then be drawn up and published with a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The proposed completion date for publishing the draft plan is December 2007. The draft plan must be published and ready for formal consultation by 09 February 2008.

Consultation Process

- 6.4 Informal Consultations
In drawing up the draft core path plan it is considered best practice to take into account the views of all sections of the community. It is proposed that wherever possible the Core Path Planning Consultations coincide with Local Community Plan consultations. The Core Path Plan will also take into account the views of user groups and special interest groups.

The Local Access Forum will be involved throughout the process and will be consulted on the draft plan informally as well as formally.
There will be a second round of consultation. This will be predominantly internet based with local drop in days to make comments on the plan.

6.5 Formal Consultations

Once the draft plan has been published it is then the duty of the Council to carry out formal consultations. The draft plan should be available for public inspection for at least 12 weeks and the Local Access Forum, representatives of the various stakeholders, and Scottish Natural Heritage should be formally consulted.
If there are no objections to the plan and a public enquiry is not required then the draft plan will be sent to Ministers for approval.

6.6 The Scottish Executive will be monitoring the progress and expenditure on Core Path Planning alongside the other duties of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003: Part 1.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Deputy Chief Executive (Finance), Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) and the Director of Dundee Contract Services have all been contacted on the contents of this report and are in agreement.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Article 4 of the Policy and Resources Committee of 15 August 2005.

**STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
10 JANUARY 2006**

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