

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 28th OCTOBER 2013

REPORT ON: CREATION OF A MOUNTAIN BIKE SKILLS TRAIL IN TEMPLETON WOODS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

REPORT NO: 369-2013

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for the creation of a Mountain Bike Skills Trail in Templeton Woods and for the appointment of the specialist contractor Architrail Ltd to undertake the detailed design and construction.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that committee approves the:

- construction of the Mountain Bike Skills Trail; and
- acceptance of the tender submitted by the specialist contractor Architrail Ltd for £55,000 to design and construct the Mountain Bike Skills Trail.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Director of Corporate Services advises that the costs of £63,500 can be met from allowances within the 2013/14 capital plan for Environmental/Paths for All and from funding agreed from the Legacy 2014 Active Places fund to 50% of costs up to a maximum of £27,500 for this project.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Reference is made to Article III of the Environment Committee of 29th October 2012 when approval was given for Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2012-2017 and to the approval of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and Public Open Space Strategy.

4.2 The provision of Mountain Bike Skills Trail was an action in the Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2005-2010, carried forward to the Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2012-17. Its development contributes to Action 4I "Cycling and its benefit need to be promoted - Capitalise on opportunities for promotion such as infrastructure improvement and Cyclathon, cycle tours, bike week, cycle training schemes and mountain bike trails."

4.3 The project has received extensive consultation including users, Dundee Local Access Forum, Active Schools Co-ordinators, cycling clubs and Ancrum Outdoor Centre during the development of a Feasibility Study and Design Proposal in 2012. Five locations were included in the consultation

- Douglas BMX park,
- Caird Park old 9-Hole Golf Course (2 locations)
- Clatto Park
- Templeton Woods

Templeton Woods was selected as the most appropriate location at the final consultation meeting. The proposed facility fits with the Camperdown Park Masterplan.

4.5 The site situated within Templeton Woods has been assessed as having minimal impact on other users of the woods. It is located in a plantation which has limited use by walkers, and

which has suffered significant storm damage. There are several paths which allow easy access around the perimeter of the plantation.

4.6 An invitation to tender was prepared and posted on the Public Contracts Scotland portal in line with the conditions of funding required by shareholders who administer the Legacy 2014 Active Places fund and the Council's procurement procedures. The design and construction of such an exciting, durable and risk assessed skills trail is specialist engineering. Two valid tenders were received which has been evaluated on a quality price basis.

4.7 Tenders were received and evaluated as follows:-

Contractor	Tender	Quality Score	Price Score	Overall Quality: Price Scores
Architrail Ltd	£55,000.00	19.00	28.86	47.86
Bandry Builders Ltd	£52,995.20	12.75	31.14	43.89

It is recommended that the tender received from Architrail Ltd be accepted.

4.8 In addition to the tendered amount, the Environment Department will remove storm damaged trees to allow the construction to take place at an estimated cost of £8,500. This work will be carried out by the Environment Department's Forestry Section.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached to this report.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, Director of City Development and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2012-2017

Ken Laing
Director of Environment

Gary Robertson
Head of Environmental Management

14th August 2013

APPENDIX 1 – Creation of a Mountain Bike Skills Trail in Templeton Woods

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Facility

Templeton Woods is currently used for Mountain Biking, by enthusiasts, families and groups from Ancrum Outdoor Centre and Discovery Junior Cycling Club. The sport is very popular, but a Mountain Bike Skills trail would be a new facility for Dundee, complementing BMX and skate park facilities across the city. The trail location is served by the Green Circular so many users will be able to cycle straight from home without the need of a car.

Mountain Biking requires the development of skills and confidence. The skills trail will be enjoyable for all Mountain Bikers but will help “inexperienced” to “improving” cyclists develop techniques so they can move on to tougher terrain at Tentsmuir, the Sidlaws or purpose built Mountain Bike Trail Centres. The grade of the proposed trail makes it ideal for a wide range of users including families and Ancrum Outdoor Centre groups

The development of a trail has featured in successive Outdoor Access Strategies and contributes to the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. The trail will comprise of a narrow, compacted stone dust path, winding through trees within a wooded plantation, which is currently little used, and has substantial storm damage. At intervals there will be challenges, made out of stone. These are of standard design, mirroring natural challenges found on trails. More difficult challenges will have easy alternatives. All challenges are graded to national standards to make sure riders are aware of what is ahead.

Health and Safety

Mountain Biking is an exciting activity, and injuries are readily avoidable. Use of the skills trail will develop skills in cyclists helping them to avoid serious injury on unmanaged tracks.

A generic safety check sheet has been provided as part of the Design Proposal. Ancrum Outdoor Centre staff include well qualified Mountain Bike instructors and they have agreed to complete regular safety checks. Users will be advised to wear cycle helmets and use good quality, well maintained mountain bikes.

Signage will be included in the design and signs will explain the dangers and skills required, and a nationally agreed colour coded grade difficulty system will be used.

Challenges installed will follow design standard in other similar urban edge skills trails. Using an experienced trail designer and builder will ensure the suitability of the construction and the durability of the built challenges.

Maintenance

A maintenance plan has been prepared. Consultation with local Mountain Bikers has identified a potential group of 20 volunteers who would be willing to help maintain the trail, and the Countryside Rangers who help lead practical volunteer tasks at Templeton Woods have agreed to lead. The tender documents request experience with working with volunteers, and it is intended to invite potential volunteers to the construction site in agreement and supervision of the contractor to learn about trail construction. Parks Operations have offered occasional support such as delivery of materials for maintenance for use by volunteers.

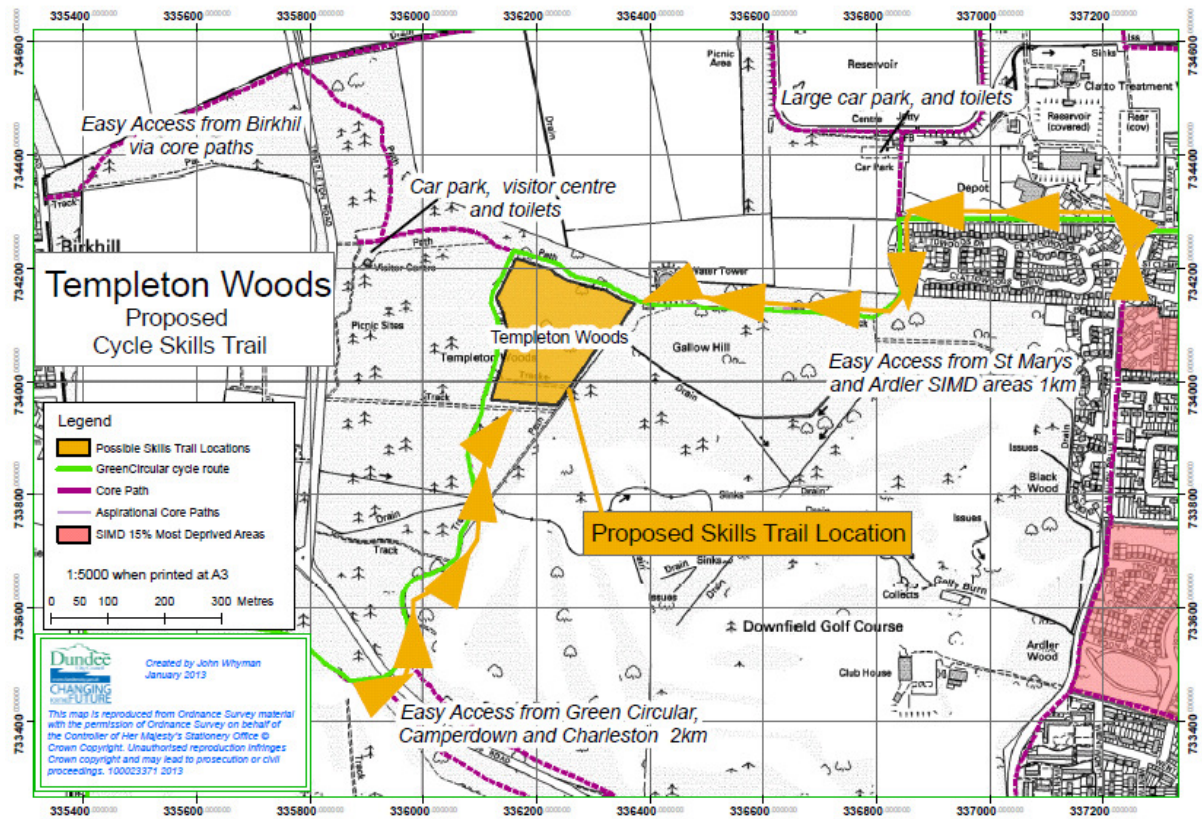
Monitoring

Visitor counters on Green Circular 200 metres away will monitor changes in numbers of cyclists using Templeton Woods after the trail construction is completed.

Photos of similar facilities



Location Map



Equality and Diversity Rapid Impact Assessment Tool

Part 1

Date of assessment 05/08/13	Title of document being assessed 369-2013 - Creation of a Mountain Bike Skills Trail in Templeton Woods
1) This is a new policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed (If yes please tick box) <input type="checkbox"/>	This is an existing policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed? (If yes please tick box) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2) Please give a brief description of the policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed.	The purpose of the report is to receive approval for capital expenditure for the creation of a Mountain Bike Skills Trail in Templeton Woods.
3) What is the intended outcome of this policy, procedure, strategy or practice?	More people cycling and enjoying Templeton Woods. Young people increasing their physical activity and thus their health.
4) Please list any existing documents which have been used to inform this Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.	Dundee City Council Outdoor Access Strategy 2012-2017
5) Has any consultation, involvement or research with protected characteristic communities informed this assessment? If yes please give details.	Consultation has been carried out with Dundee cycling groups, Dundee Local Access Forum, Dundee Association of Mental Health and Active Schools Co-ordinators
6) Please give details of council officer involvement in this assessment. (E.g. names of officers consulted, dates of meetings etc)	John Whyman, Outdoor Access Officer
7) Is there a need to collect further evidence or to involve or consult protected characteristics communities on the impact of the proposed policy? (Example: if the impact on a community is not known what will you do to gather the information needed and when will you do this?)	No

Part 2

Which protected characteristics communities will be positively or negatively affected by this policy, procedure or strategy?

NB Please place an X in the box which best describes the "overall" impact. It is possible for an assessment to identify that a positive policy can have some negative impacts and visa versa. When this is the case please identify both positive and negative impacts in Part 3 of this form.

If the impact on a protected characteristic communities are not known please state how you will gather evidence of any potential negative impacts in box Part 1 section 7 above.

	Positively	Negatively	No Impact	Not Known
Ethnic Minority Communities including Gypsies and Travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with a disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 3

<p>1) Have any positive impacts been identified? (We must ensure at this stage that we are not achieving equality for one strand of equality at the expense of another)</p>	<p>If yes please give further details</p> <p>Yes. The Mountain Bike Skills Trail will be free to use and easily accessible. Other MTB trails are many miles away, requiring a car and bike carrier, and excludes those on low incomes. The trail will appeal to young people and families, helping them stay more active and healthier without expense.</p>
<p>2) Have any negative impacts been identified? (Based on direct knowledge, published research, community involvement, customer feedback etc. If unsure seek advice from your departmental Equality Champion.)</p>	<p>If yes please give further details</p> <p>Yes. The nature of a Mountain Bike Skills Trail will exclude many people with disabilities who cannot ride a bicycle or who may need additional support.</p>
<p>3) What action is proposed to overcome any negative impacts? E.g. involving community groups in the development or delivery of the policy or practice, providing information in community languages etc. see Good Practice on DCC equalities web page</p>	<p>Please give further details</p> <p>Alternative trails are and forest tracks are readily useable by people with disabilities, and families with buggies.</p> <p>The trail will have easy and harder challenges to be appealing to as wide a range of cyclists as possible.. The Green Circular and other more abilities paths in Templeton Woods will continue to provide interesting access routes without being affected by the construction of the trail.</p>
<p>4) Is there a justification for continuing with this policy even if it cannot be amended or changed to end or reduce inequality without compromising its intended outcome? (If the policy that shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination you must stop and seek legal advice)</p>	<p>If yes please give further details</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>5) Has a 'Full' Equality Impact Assessment been recommended? (If the policy is a major one or is likely to have a major impact on protected characteristics communities a Full Equality Impact Assessment may be required) Seek advice from your departmental Equality Champion.</p>	<p>If yes please give further details</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>6) How will the policy be monitored? (How will you know it is doing what it is intended to do? e.g. data collection, customer survey etc.</p>	<p>An automatic counter records numbers of cyclists and walkers in Templeton Woods, and volunteers/students carry out regular visitor surveys there.</p>

Part 4

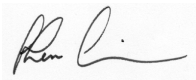
Name of Department or Partnership: Environment Department

Type of Document

Human Resource Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy/Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Change Papers/Local Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guidelines and Protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

• **Contact Information**

Manager Responsible		Author Responsible	
Name	Peter Sandwell	Name	John Whyman
Designation	Environmental Asset Manager	Designation	Outdoor Access Officer
Base	353, Clepington Road	Base	353, Clepington Road
Telephone	434798	Telephone	434769
Email	peter.sandwell@dundeecity.go.uk	Email	john.whyman@dundeecity.gov.uk

Signature of author of the policy:	N/A	Date
Signature of Director:		Date 11/09/13
Name of Director / Head of Service:	Ken Laing	
Date of next policy review:	N/A	