

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 30 June 2003

REPORT ON: Skate Board Parks

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts

REPORT NO: 461-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Elected Members of the possible sites for outdoor skate parks and future development proposals.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Remit to the Director of Leisure & Arts to consult with the City Centre Skateboard Group on the potential City Centre Sites as outlined in Section 6.8.
- 2.2 Remit to the Director of Leisure & Arts to consult with Local Community Groups regarding Community Skateboard Parks in Linlathen and a site in the West of Dundee as outlined in Section 6.12.
- 2.3 Remit to the Director of Leisure & Arts to bring forward a report to Committee on the outcome of the consultation.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There is £150,000 available from the Quality of Life Fund in 2003/2004. This is allocated £100,000 for the City Centre, £20,000 each for a skate park in the East and the West of the City and £10,000 for development costs.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The new outdoor skate parks will be available to all and be provided free of charge

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 Reference is made to Article II of the Policy & Resources Committee of 20 January 2003 where the Quality of Life Funds for 2003/2004 were agreed.

6.2 Design Principles

The overriding design principle will be the creation of an exhilarating environment that attracts the boarders and bladers to use it rather than an area they are forced to go to because nothing else is available. It will have junior areas for primary school children and beginners to practice safely before moving on to larger pieces of equipment and more complicated tricks. The design will provide a balance between a safe and welcoming facility but also one that does not restrict the fun factor that comes from young people having something exciting to do that is free from adult control. Drawing on the experience from other Councils' development of skate parks the emphasis in the design will be on quality lighting, robust concrete construction, good levels of accessibility for users and emergency services and the establishment of a maintenance regime that includes clearing of litter and dangerous substances/articles as well as regular health and safety checks.

6.3 City Centre Skate Park

6.3.1 Potential initial sites for the City Centre outdoor skate park were identified in conjunction with the City Centre Skateboard Group as being:

- Sensation Plaza
- Area adjacent to the northern access ramp of the Tay Bridge
- Base of Tayside House

See Appendix A for locations.

6.3.2 Sensation Plaza lies to the east of Sensation Science Centre and to the south of Dundee Contemporary Arts. This is the site most favoured by the City Centre Skaters Group. The area is away from any major traffic ways but still close to the City Centre. It is not overlooked by any residential properties. The land is owned by Sensation and initial discussions with the Board were not favourable due to worries about safety and security and adverse effects on admissions to the Centre.

6.3.3 The area adjacent to the northern access ramp of the Tay Bridge provides an open large area away from residential areas yet still within the area of the City Centre and bus routes. The close proximity to the main road would require fences or barriers to be built to protect users from traffic. However the land is owned by the Tay Bridge Board and initial discussions were not positive. The site is also within the land zoned for the Central Waterfront proposals.

6.3.4 The eastern base of Tayside House, directly south of Shore Terrace provides an area of ground close to the City Centre, in City Council ownership, adjacent to bus routes and the youth centre at The Corner. It is adjacent to a main bus route although the road is not open to through traffic and some residential properties are in the vicinity. Its area is 750m² which limits future potential for expansion. The site is also within the land zoned for the Central Waterfront proposals.

6.3.5 Each of the above three sites is unlikely to be deliverable due to either the owners' unwillingness to progress proposals or in the case of the Central Waterfront sites the long term Central Waterfront Development proposals would preclude development.

6.3.6 As all the potential City Centre sites have associated problems two secondary sites are suggested that although outwith the City Centre still have potential to function as a location for a skate board park that would attract the majority of City Centre skateboard users.

- Dudhope Park
- Middle Street

See Appendix A for locations

6.3.7 As a result of the above it is recommended that a further consultation is undertaken with the City Centre Skateboard Group to

- confirm that none of the initially identified sites are available
- explore the secondary sites which have been identified with a view to a preferred and deliverable site being agreed.

6.4 Neighbourhood Skate Park

6.4.1 There is a level of identified demand from the following local groups of young people for neighbourhood skating facilities

- Linlathen
- Whitfield
- Mid Craigie
- Ardler/St Mary's
- Balgay/Lochee
- Blackness
- Kirkton

There may well be further latent demand from other local groups in the City

6.4.2 Initially money is available for two neighbourhood sites. However Quality of Life monies could potentially be made available in 2004/2005 – 2005/2006 to enable a future programme to be established. There is also the potential to explore the availability of external funding

6.4.3 It is therefore proposed that consultation and development work is undertaken with all existing youth groups and contact is made with young people in other local neighbourhood areas with a view to further exploring demand for a network of neighbourhood skateparks/local outdoor sports and activity areas across the City.

6.4.4 In 2003/2004 it is proposed to progress one site to the East of the City and one to the West of the City. It is proposed that a development in Linlathen is progressed in the East of the City as a pro-active skateboard youth group exists, that has well developed ideas of designs and has already undertaken research and looked into potential external funding in association with the City Council. In the West of the City none of the groups have yet developed proposals. It is therefore proposed to meet with the groups in Ardler, Lochee, Blackness and Kirkton to consider the potential for early development with a view to a preferred site being recommended to a future committee.

6.5 Phasing

6.5.1 The phasing of the project in 2003/2004 would be:

1	Determine sites and skate park groups for Phase I	Beginning June 2003
2	Progress designs with skate park groups	end June 2003
3	Tender contracts	July to August 2003
4	Tender report to Committee	September 2003
5	Contract Build	October 2003 – January 2004

6.5.2 It is further recommended that the Quality of Life funding in 2003/2004 is considered as Phase I of Outdoor Skate Park provision and proposals are developed to create a network of neighbourhood skate/or multisports parks. This would be progressed in close consultation with youth groups who wish to develop neighbourhood skate parks/multi sport facilities and they would be encouraged to source additional external funding.

7.0 CONSULTATION

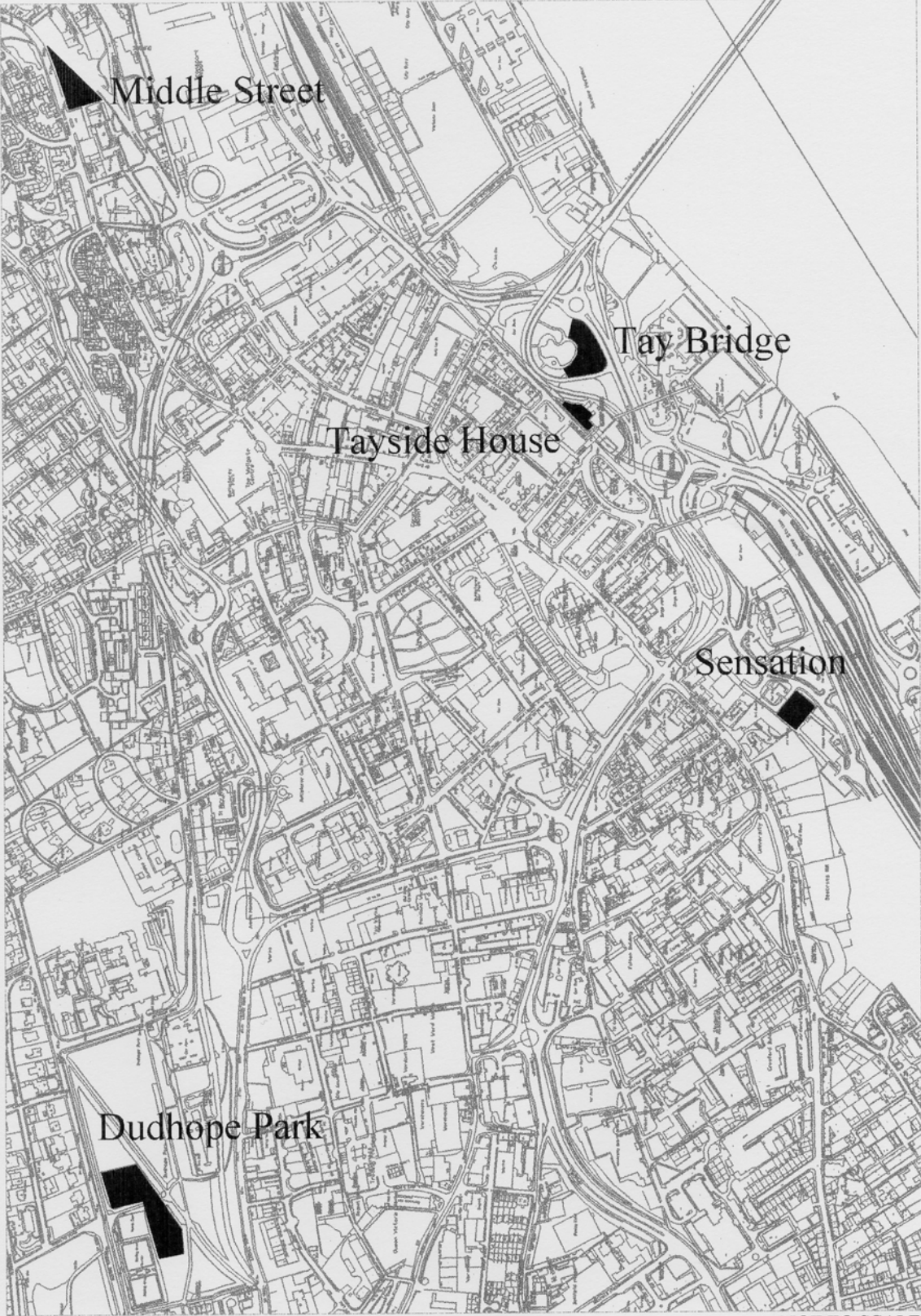
7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Corporate Planning, Director of Support Services and Acting Director of Neighbourhood Resources and Development and Director of Planning & Transportation have all been consulted on the contents of this report and are in agreement.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Article II Policy and Resources Committee 20 January 2003

STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & ARTS
12 JUNE 2003

Appendix A



NOT TO SCALE