

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Policy & Resources Committee, 15 August 2005

REPORT ON: Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy – Discovering the Liveable City

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

REPORT NO: 484-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To gain Committee approval for the adoption of the Outdoor Access Strategy

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the committee approve the acceptance of this strategy.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The financial implications of this strategy can be contained within existing budgets and external grant applications.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The proposal to undertake an Outdoor Access Strategy for the City will be advantageous to walkers, cyclists and horse riders throughout the City. Providing access to routes for walking, cycling and horse riding is sustainable, as it results in less people having to travel by private transport to work or for recreation.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed Outdoor Access Strategy will aim to enhance the provision of routes throughout the City which will offer affordable sustainable transport alternatives. This will especially benefit people without access to a car.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 Reference is made to Agenda Item VII of the Leisure & Arts Services Committee of 19 November 2001 where approval was given to the commissioning of consultants to undertake Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy.
- 6.2 The consultants completed the production of the strategy – "Discovering the Liveable City" which has been aligned with Dundee's Community Plan five main themes of Healthcare, Learning & Working, Community Safety, Building Stronger Communities and Caring for the Environment. The audit undertaken of provision showed that while there is a good strategic route in the Green Circular and a number of local networks, the city-wide network as a whole lacks cohesion. Also that the path network has the potential to be a tool in helping to deliver on a much wider policy agenda and assist in Dundee's Community Planning aims of improving health and providing a more sustainable functional transport network for the city.
- 6.3 The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 – Part 1, which came into force on 9th February 2005, gives people the statutory right of responsible access to open spaces in Scotland. It gives local authorities new duties and powers to aid its implementation. Within 3 years of commencement of Part 1 of the Act every local authority must draw up a plan for a system of core paths, which are "sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area". Core path plans should provide the basic framework of routes for the exercise of access rights and can include any form

of path or waterway.

- 6.4 Section 25 (1) of the Land Reform (Scotland Act) 2003 states that “each local authority shall establish for its area a body, to be known as the “Local Access Forum”. The Dundee Access Forum has been established with 17 members and will help in developing the core path plan, resolving user disputes and act as a sounding board for new ideas and a source of advice on specialist subjects such as cycling, walking and horse riding.
- 6.5 The Outdoor Access Strategy and it’s associated Action Plan aims to fulfil the City Council’s requirements under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and implement projects such as the construction of new routes to connect green spaces, provide enjoyable routes for commuting and leisure, enable access in and between communities and providing access for all types of user ages and abilities. It also promotes processes such as promoting access for all, building a sense of pride and ownership of routes in local communities, encouraging healthy lifestyles and ensuring access is thought about in the first stages of any new developments.
- 6.6 The Committee is asked to approve the adoption of the Outdoor Access Strategy. It is proposed that its implementation will be taken forward by the corporate Outdoor Access Group with a 5 year action plan.
- 6.7 A copy of the Outdoor Access Strategy is available in the Councillors’ Lounges.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Deputy Chief Executive (Finance), Head of Communities, 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 None

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29 JULY 2005

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