

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Policy and Resources Committee - 11 September 2006
REPORT ON: Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy – Progress of Action Plan Update 2006

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities
Director of Planning and Transportation

REPORT NO: 506-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the progress of Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy Action Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approve the report and updated action plan attached as an appendix to this report.

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 Outdoor Access Strategy aims 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 Article IV of the Policy and Resources Committee of 15 August 2005 when approval was given for Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy.
- 6.2 The Outdoor Access Strategy and its associated action plan was drawn up in 2005 to fulfil the City Council's requirements under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy aims to provide access for all people despite age or ability implement project based and process based work to improve and promote outdoor access in Dundee.
- 6.3 The action plan showed how Dundee City Council proposed to take forward its vision for access in Dundee. Projects in the action plan are under the five strategic themes from The Dundee City Council Community Plan and The Dundee City Council Plan 2003 – 2007. The projects on major initiatives including health, education, tourism, social inclusion, environmental issues and sustainability.

- 6.4 Over the past year work has progressed on the projects in the action plan and the majority are completed or are underway. A summary report and an updated version of the action plan are attached as an appendix to this report.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Deputy Chief Executive (Finance) and Director of Dundee Contract Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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21 AUGUST 2006

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21 AUGUST 2006

APPENDIX

OUTDOOR ACCESS STRATEGY ACTION PLAN REPORT 2006

OUTDOOR ACCESS STRATEGY ACTION PLAN REPORT 2006

Taking the strategy forward: Action Plan Update 2006

The action plan developed for Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy 2005 showed how Dundee City Council proposed to take forward its vision for access in Dundee. Projects in the action plan take forward the five strategic themes from The Dundee City Council Community Plan and The Dundee City Council Plan 2003 – 2007. The projects within the plan help the council to deliver on major initiatives including health, education, tourism, social inclusion, environmental issues and sustainability. Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy aims to provide access for all people, despite age or ability. An update on the Action Plan is provided below.

A. Implementing the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

Dundee's Local Access Forum was established in 2005 and has met regularly throughout the year. The Forum has invited speakers such as Planning and Communities Officers to gain information which will be useful to them when assisting with the Core Path Planning process. The Forum were also keen to hear about the access improvements to Dundee's Woodlands through the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme and Challenge Fund. A sub-group has also been formed to look at specific issues relating to horse riders.

Committee approved the outline procedures for the Core Path Planning Process in Dundee in February 2006. The informal consultation process is underway and is on target for achieving a draft plan by February 2008.

The Countryside Rangers Service, Urban Rangers and Access Officer have been promoting the Scottish Outdoor Access Codes through events such as the 'know the Code' walk and handing out leaflets.

Suggestions have been made to the Legal Division for the updating of management rules to come in line with the legislation. Further meetings will be held to ensure that the deadline for updating bylaws and management rules is February 2007 is met.

B. City Network Routes - Dundee's Greenways

The City Engineers have completed a feasibility study, providing estimated costs for developing Dundee's Greenways. This has allowed projects to be ready for external funding bids when they have become available. This led to a successful funding application to Fresh Futures - Transforming Your Space Lottery Fund to implement projects B2 and B4, creating new walking and cycling routes in the west of Dundee. These projects are now nearing completion by August 2006. A link from the Green Circular at Riverside to Ninewells Hospital has also been completed. The Outdoor Access Strategy Group will continue to seek funding to roll out the rest of the programme of proposed works.

C. Green Circular

Additional signage was installed along the Green Circular route in March 2005, however recent audit reports undertaken by the Countryside Rangers shows that

the signage is still not adequate. A signage review has taken place and areas where updates are required have been identified, including an update of the information boards along the route. Several sections of the Green Circular route have been upgraded in the last year, including a large section of the route alongside Grassy Beach which was funded by Sustrans in 2005 and in 2006. The Green Circular map will be updated in 2006 to include new routes.

From April 2006 a maintenance budget of £9,000 will be allocated to the Leisure & Communities department. The Parks Operations will undertake maintenance in parks and will instruct DCS to carry out work in areas out with parks. Maintenance work required will be based on recommendations made in the audit reports.

D. Parks and Green Spaces

The Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS) and Woodlands in and Around Towns (WIAT) Challenge Fund from the Forestry Commission have allowed a huge amount of work to be progressed regarding access in woodland areas. This includes way marking, interpretation and path upgrading in areas such as Camperdown Country Park, Templeton Woods, Clatto, Balgay Hill, Middleton Woods and many other sights around Dundee. This funding is also being used to develop leaflets, raise awareness, undertake training and develop the Sculpture Trail in Templeton Woods. Future bids to the Forestry Commission will include other projects in this section.

The Cycling for All project at Camperdown has come to the end of its external funding period. The future of the centre is now uncertain as funding has now to be identified for future years.

Bids to Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the bridge at Balgay Park have been successful. Work will be carried out in 2006.

E. Community Paths Challenge Projects

The Horse Riding Sub-Group of the Local Access Forum is looking at ways to take forward a link from Liff to Camperdown. Discussion with SCRI has stopped this project from progressing any further.

The two walking projects, City Centre Closes and Historical Women's Walk, are being included in a pack of Health Walks Cards to encourage people to use these routes. The groups who put forward the suggestions are trying to take forward these projects themselves. The Women's Achievement Trail group have also recently secured Historic Lottery Funding to take forward the project themselves.

F. Travel Plan Development

Travel plans are being implemented for Ninewells Hospital and the University of Dundee. Work has started on the plans for Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Dundee City Council which are to formally commence Autumn 2006.

Several initiatives have been set up to encourage sustainable travel, including dundeetravelinfo.com and dundeeliftshare.com.

A School Travel Plan pack is in development and will include information to help schools develop sustainable travel plans. There have been several different approaches to get the sustainable travel message across children, such as travel diaries and road safety awareness. Walk to school week has been successfully

promoted with 11 schools participating in activities in 2005. Walking bus initiative has raised interest and new schools will be participating in 2006.

There has been a good amount of cycle training in schools over the last year. In addition to the service provided by Road Safety Officers training has been provided by local and national organisations. Scottish Cycling piloted a new scheme, 'Go-Ride' in six Dundee primary schools. It is hoped this scheme will be extended in 2007. This may also extend to a secondary school. "Try Cycling" Tayside have given a 3 week programme of cycle training to Ardler, St Fergus and Brackens Schools.

G. Cycling Development

A Cycling Action Group has been set up as a sub-group of the Outdoor Access Strategy Group to take forward the projects in this section of the action plan. The group has identified locations for installing cycle counters on the new routes to monitor use. Activities were organised to promote cycling during National Bike Week, including cycle rides, Dr Bike sessions and bike breakfasts.

Secure cycle lockers have been installed at Earl Grey Place, the University of Dundee, Ninewells Hospital and Broughty Ferry. Further sites could be identified by the group.

Most of the cycle training has been connected with school groups; however, "Try Cycling" Tayside have trained local people to be cycle leaders. It is hoped that these people will be able to lead cycle rides or be a cycle buddy in their local area.

H. Other projects

HI. Appointment of Health Walks Co-ordinator and development of health walks scheme

Despite being unable to attract funding for a Health Walks Co-ordinator the health walks scheme has progressed. A Health Walks Working Group has been established with health walks providers, health professionals and other interested parties becoming involved. The establishment of the group generated a lot of interest, with many people joining to find out how they could initiate or take forward their own projects. The group has collated a sizeable number of walks around Dundee to create a pack of health walks cards to encourage independent walking. This project is funded by Paths to Health and the NHS.

The group also set up an Urban Walking Festival in the summer 2006 to encourage a people to join the local groups and encourage lunchtime walks in the city centre and the University of Dundee.

Dundee Healthy Living Initiative has increased the number of areas covered by their health walks project, the Urban Rangers are providing regular health walks and the University of Dundee has started its own Urban Ramblers group of lunchtime walks for staff and students. Walk leader training courses provided by Paths to Health have been popular. In 2005 20 people attended the course organised by DHLI and 20 people attended the course organised by the University of Dundee. In 2006 about 5 people from Dundee went to Alloa to receive the training and another course was organised in Dundee for a further 16 volunteers.

H4. Signposting walking and cycling routes in and around Ardler

Meetings have been held to progress a funding bid to the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme. This will link into Forestry Commission funded projects in Templeton Woods.

The Outdoor Access Strategy Action Plan

Date: 17/07/06

A. Implementing the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Agreed Project Funding	Amount of funding being sought	Timescale	Progress
				H&C	L&W	C S	B S C	C E						
A1.	Secure Access Officer Post	DCC (L&C) Peter Sandwell	£27,000 per annum	✓	✓		✓	✓		DCC (L&C)	£27,000	£0	March 05	Post has now been secured until Apr 08
A2.	Local Access Forum	DCC (L&C) Laura Campbell	£1,000 per annum				✓	✓			£0	£1,000 per annum	Ongoing	Regular meetings and AGM held
A3.	Develop a Core Path Planning and development process	To be confirmed (tbc)	£130,000 per annum	✓			✓	✓			£0	£130,000 per annum	Statutory duty of draft plan by Feb 08. Adoption, maintenance and promotion to follow	Consultation programme approved February 2006
A4.	Promote Outdoor Access	DCC (L&C)	£5,000 per annum	✓			✓	✓	✓		£0	£5,000 per annum	Ongoing statutory duty	Ongoing through Countryside Ranger events and Access Officer
A5.	Review Byelaws and management rules	ALL	N/A			✓				N/A	N/A	N/A	Statutory duty Feb 07	Meeting to be held

The Outdoor Access Strategy Action Plan

Date: 17/07/06

B. City Network Routes

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Agreed Project Funding	Amount of funding being sought	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E						
B1.	Feasibility study and costs	DCC (P&T) Rod Taylor	£5,000							L&C	£5,000	£0	To be completed July 2005	Completed
B2.	Green Circular to City Centre via Balgay Park	DCC (L&C) Laura Campbell	£234,000	√			√	√	√	L&C CWSS FF-TYS	£110,000	£124,000	To be completed 2005	Main route completed July 2006. Lighting to be installed and determine route through Ninewells at a later date.
B3.	Green Circular to Ninewells	DCC (P&T) Raymond Tully		√			√	√	√	P&T			To be completed 2005	Completed
B4.	Green Circular to City Centre via South Road Park	DCC (L&C) Laura Campbell	£305,000	√			√	√	√	L&C CWSS FF-TYS	£110,000	£195,000	To be completed 2006	Route due for completion August 2006. Lighting to be installed at later date
B5.	Green Circular to City Centre via Arbroath Road	RT/LC	£20,000	√			√	√	√	L&C	£20,000	£0	To be completed 2006	No further progress To be completed 2007/08
B6.	Green Circular to City Centre via Ardler/St Marys	RT/LC	£45,000	√			√	√	√	tbc	£0	£45,000	To be completed 2007	No further progress
B7.	Green Circular to City Centre via Caird Park	RT/LC	£50,000	√			√	√	√	tbc	£0	£50,000	To be completed 2007	No further progress

The Outdoor Access Strategy Action Plan

Date: 17/07/06

C. Green Circular

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Agreed Project Funding	Amount of funding being sought	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E						
C1.	Improve Signage	DCC (L&C) Laura Campbell	£1,000	√			√	√	√	CWSS	£1,000	£0	Completed March 05	Further checks carried out - additional signage required and update info boards
C2.	Improve section (Trottick)	DCC Les Banks	£15,000	√			√	√		CWSS (£10,000) L&C (£5,000)	£15,000	£0	To be completed March 05	Not completed
C3.	Upgrade section from Longhaugh Quarry to Forties Road	DCC Les Banks	£82,000	√			√	√		Vacant and Derelict Land Grant	£82,000	£0	Completed March 2005	Completed
C4.	Cycle Lockers	DCC (P&T) Raymond Tully		√				√					Installed 2005	Completed
C5.	Update Map	DCC (L&C) LC	£3,000	√			√	√		CWSS TYS DCC	£3,000	£0	As required	2006 update to be completed Aug
C6.	Cyclathon 2006	DCC (L&C)	£10,000	√			√	√			£0	£10,000	June 2006	N/A Still run by Rotary Club
C7.	Improvement works 05/06	DCC (L&C)	£31,000	√			√	√		CWSS (£19,000) L&C (£12,000)	£31,000	included in city network projects	To be completed March 06	To be completed Aug 06
C8.	Maintenance 06/07 and beyond	DCC (L&C)	£9,000 per annum	√			√	√		L&C revenue	£9,000 per annum	£0	ongoing	ongoing
C9.	Upgrade section of Stannergate	DCC (P&T) RT	£140,000	√			√	√		Sustrans (£90,000)	£140,000	£0	2005/06	Completed. Real cost £96,000

The Outdoor Access Strategy Action Plan
Date: 17/07/06

D. Parks and Green Spaces

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Agreed Project Funding	Amount of funding being sought	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E						
D1.Camperdown, Templeton & Clatto														
D1.1.	Link to the Green Circular	DCC (L&C) Laura Campbell	£15,000	√				√		L&C	£15,000	£0	To be completed March 05	Completed
D1.2.	Way marking of Routes and provision of map	DCC (L&C) Kevin Gosling	£5,000	√				√		SFGS/ WIAT	£0	£5,000	2006	Waymarking of routes & interpretation to be funded through WIAT in 2006/07
D1.3.	Improvements to Paths	DCC (L&C) KG		√				√		SFGS/ WIAT			tbc	To be funded through WIAT 2006/07
D1.4.	Promotion of Cycle Centre	DCC (L&C) LC	£3,000 per annum	√				√		Fresh Futures	£3,000 (05/06)	£0 (05/06 only)	ongoing	Continuation of project unclear
D1.5.	Development of mountain bike skills trail	DCC (L&C) KG/ LC	£30,000 - £50,000	√		√		√		SFGS/ WIAT	£0	£30,000-£50,000	tbc	possible WIAC 2009 bid
D1.6.	Cycle Centre beyond 05/06	DCC (L&C) KG/LC	£20,000 per annum	√	√			√			£0	£20,000	Feb 2005	Continuation of project unclear
D1.7	Improve disabled toilets	DCC (L&C) KG		√			√							no progress
D1.8	Sculpture trail in Templeton Woods	DCC (L&C)	£20,000	√				√		SFGS/ WIAT	£0	£20,000	ongoing	project underway - requires an all abilities trail to complete
D2. Caird Park														
D2.1.	Development of Cycling Academy	DCC (L&C) Merrill Smith	£10,000	√	√						£0	£10,000	tbc	Scottish Cycling has established a cycling academy at the velodrome.
D2.2.	Development of path	DCC (L&C) LC	£20,000								£0	£20,000	tbc	no progress

	network			√				√						
D2.3.	Development of Mountain Bike trail	DCC (L&C) Ally Lawson	£30,000	√		√		√			£0	£30,000	March 06	
D3. Baxter Park														
D3.1.	Path surface improvements	DCC (L&C) Karen Clifford	£80,000	√				√		HLF	£80,000	£0	2005/06	To be completed 2006/07
D4. Balgay Park														
D4.1.	Improvements to bridge	DCC (L&C) Peter Sandwell	£150,000	√				√		HLF Historic Scotland	£150,000	£0	2007/08	Funding granted. Work to be completed 2007/08
D4.2	New path to viewpoint at Balgay Hill	DCC (L&C) James McCombe	£5,000	√				√			£0	£5,000	2005/06	No Progress
D5. Broughty Ferry LNR														
D5.1.	Upgrade LNR path surface	tbc	tbc	√			√	√			tbc	tbc	tbc	No progress
D6. Other														
D6.1.	Improve signage to green and open spaces	DCC (L&C)	£25,000 per annum	√				√	√		£0	£25,000 per annum	tbc	Projects to be identified in new WIAC bid
D6.2.	Improve access to woodlands	DCC Doug Shearer		√				√		WIAT			tbc	Ongoing WIAT funded programme
D6.3.	Develop western countryside links	DCC (L&C)	£30,000	√			√	√	√		£0	£30,000	tbc	No progress
D6.4.	Develop northern countryside links	DCC (L&C)	£30,000	√			√	√			£0	£30,000	tbc	No progress
D6.5	Dighty Project	Sustain Dundee	£39,000	√	√		√	√		SAG	£19,000	£20,000	05/06 – 06/07	Funding bid unsuccessful

The Outdoor Access Strategy Action Plan
Date: 17/07/06

E. Community Paths Challenge Projects

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Agreed Project Funding	Amount of funding being sought	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E						
E1.	Link to viewpoint on Balgay Road	DCC (L&C) Laura Campbell	£11,581	✓			✓	✓		DCC (L&C)	£11,581	£0	To be completed March 05	Completed
E2.	Dighty Burn – Path to Kwik save	DCC (P&T/ L&C)	£13,800	✓			✓	✓			£0	£13,800	tbc	No Progress
E3.	Link from Liff to Camperdown	tbc	£8,500	✓			✓	✓			£0	£8,500	tbc	No Progress
E4.	Mapping Access Routes	tbc	£12,600	✓			✓	✓			£0	£12,600	tbc	Core Path Planning will assist
E5.	Promotion of Cycling	tbc	£1,100	✓				✓	✓		£0	£1,100	tbc	Ongoing
E6.	City Centre Closes	Dundee Civic Trust	£5,970	✓							£0	£5,970	tbc	Included in Health Walks Project
E7.	Historical Women's Walk	tbc	£6,840	✓							£0	£6,840	tbc	Included in Health Walks Project
E8.	Footpath Custodians	tbc	Depends on type of scheme	✓				✓			£0		tbc	No Progress
E9.	Link GC to railway station and city centre	tbc	£9,500	✓				✓			£0	£9,500	tbc	No Progress

The Outdoor Access Strategy Action Plan
Date: 17/07/06

F. Travel Plan Development

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Agreed Project Funding	Amount of funding being sought	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E						
F1.	Development of staff travel plans for Ninewells Hospital, The University of Dundee, SET, DCC	DCC (P&T) Merry Scott		√	√	√	√	√					To be completed 2006	Plans implemented for Ninewells and University of Dundee. SET and DCC to commence Autumn 2006
F2.	Secure post of Travel Plan Development Officer	DCC (P&T)	£27,000 per annum	√	√		√	√		FF, SET, NHS, DCC	£27,000 per annum	£0	2008	
F3.1	Promotion of sustainable transport in schools	DCC (Edu) Jenny McCombie	£5,000 per annum	√	√	√	√	√			£0	£5,000	ongoing	Ongoing
F3.2	Cycle parking for schools	DCC (Edu) JMc	£20,000	√		√		√		Sustrans?	£0	£20,000	tbc	No progress
F3.3	Bike IT project	DCC (Edu) JMc	N/A	√	√	√	√	√		Bike IT			Pilot scheme 2005/06	Bike it scheme did not happen. Now using Scottish Cycling's Go-Ride scheme & 'Try Cycling' Tayside training
F3.4	Walking bus projects	DCC (Edu) JMc		√		√	√	√		Kia Cars			ongoing	More schools to be included 2006/07

The Outdoor Access Strategy Action Plan
Date: 17/07/06

G. Cycling Development

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Agreed Project Funding	Amount of funding being sought	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E						
G1.	Establish a Bicycle Users Group for Dundee City Council	DCC (P&T) Raymond Tully		√				√			£0		2005	No Progress
G2.	Further develop cycle links and paths around the city	DCC (P&T) Raymond Tully		√		√	√	√			£0		2007	Ongoing
G3.	Cycle parking provisions throughout the city	DCC (P&T) Raymond Tully		√		√		√			£0		2007	Ongoing
G4.	Develop a programme of cycle training	DCC (P&T) Raymond Tully		√		√		√			£0		ongoing	No Progress
G5.	National Bike Week Events	DCC (P&T) Raymond Tully/Merry Scott		√	√			√			£0		ongoing	National bike week event held June 2006. Ongoing
G6.	Promote cycling	DCC (P&T) Raymond Tully/Merry Scott		√		√	√	√			£0		ongoing	Ongoing
G7.	Install Cycle Counters on Routes	DCC (P&T) Raymond Tully						√			£0		As new routes are developed	Ongoing

The Outdoor Access Strategy Action Plan
Date: 17/07/06

H. Other Projects

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Agreed Project Funding	Amount of funding being sought	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E						
H1.	Appointment of Health Walks Co-ordinator and development of health walks scheme	DCC (L&C) Laura Campbell	£134,874 over 3 years	√	√			√	√	PFA? CRF?	£0	£134,874	tbc	Pack of Health Walks Cards developed Walking Festival planned for Summer 2006
H2.	Create links to wider partnerships	ALL	N/A	√	√	√	√	√		N/A	N/A	N/A	ongoing	Ongoing
H3.	Footbridge over burn at Gauldie Crescent	DCC	£20,000					√	√		£0	£20,000	tbc	No progress
H4.	Signposting walking and cycling routes in and around Ardler	Ardler Village Trust Alistair Macleod	£20,000	√				√	√	Ardler Village Trust CERS			2005/06	Still identifying funding
H5.	Clatto path link	DCC L&C/P&T	£10,000	√		√		√			£0	£10,000	05/06?	07/08?

