

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 15 September 2003

REPORT ON: Skateboard Parks – Outcome of Consultation

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts

REPORT NO: 595 - 2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report back to Committee on the consultation undertaken on skateboard parks and seek Committee approval to locate a city centre skateboard park in Dudhope Park and allocate £20,000 funding to Linlathen Skateboard Park.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee

2.1 Note the outcomes of the consultation undertaken on skateboard park provision.

2.2 Agree to the location in Dudhope Park of a City Centre skateboard park.

2.3 Agree to £130,000 of available funding being utilised for the City Centre skateboard park

2.4 Allocate Quality of Life funding of £60,000 in 2004/2005 and £30,000 in 2005/2006 to the City Centre skateboard park and £30,000 in 2005/06 to a community skateboard facility in the west of the city, subject to Scottish Executive approval of the Council's submission

2.5 Agree that £20,000 is allocated to Linlathen Skateboard park.

2.6 Remit the Director of Leisure and Arts to report back to Committee on design costs and funding packages for the Dudhope skateboard park.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There is £150,000 available from the Quality of Life Fund in 2003/2004 for skateboard park provision. A further £60,000 in 2004/2005 and £60,000 in 2005/2006 has been allocated for skatepark provision in the Council's submission for Quality of Life Funding.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Any new outdoor skateboard parks will be available to all and will be provided free of charge.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 Reference is made to Article II of the Leisure and Arts Services Committee of 30 June 2003 where the Director of Leisure and Arts was remitted to consult with the City Centre Skateboard Group on potential City Centre sites and local Community Groups regarding

community skateboard parks in Linlathen and a site in the west of Dundee.

- 6.2 Consultation has been undertaken via the distribution of 5000 postcards and 100 posters asking the questions:

Do you think all funds should be put into:

One big central outdoor skatepark?

or

A network of smaller outdoor skateparks throughout the city, with one slightly larger than the others?

For a major outdoor skatepark in Dundee city, would you prefer this to be in:

Dudhope Park?

or

Somewhere else – where?

These were distributed by the (Skaters with a Vision) SWAV group who are based at the City Churches and supported by the Hot Chocolate Ministries and the Communities Department. Also by distribution to all Libraries, Neighbourhood Centres, Leisure Centres and Sports Centres of the City Council. The City Centre police distributed postcards as well as interested older skateboarders in the city and Communities Officers distributed to all the Neighbourhood Partnership Network Areas.

- 6.3 To date 127 postcards have been filled in and returned. 88.5% requested one big central outdoor skateboard park. Of these 61% preferred Dudhope Park as the location.
- 6.4 A consultation event was also undertaken on 23 August at 4.00 pm at the City Churches. Approximately 50 skateboarders attended and expressed their views via four workshops – Locations, Design, Consultation and Social Issues. The majority view was that the funding should be spent on one City Centre Skatepark and that Dudhope Park would be an acceptable site if a quality skatepark was provided. A plan of the area is included at Appendix A. The view was also widely expressed that the available funding of £100,000 for the City Centre site was not enough to provide a quality facility based on the design and cost of other skateboard parks in Scotland. A high percentage of the Skateboarders present were willing to work with the SWAV group to raise additional external funds to increase the budget to approximately £300,000.
- 6.5 Consultation was also undertaken on skateboard park provision at the Baxter Park Celebration in the Park event on 16 August 2003. 5 postcards were returned with 2 agreeing to one City Centre site and 3 requesting a network with Baxter Park included.
- 6.6 Consultation was undertaken on skateboard park provision at Midlin Community Festival on Saturday 23 August 2003. 350 postcards were returned with a petition of 150 signatures and 54 written comments. The replies were 90% in favour of a small skateboard park in Linlathen. The Linlathen skateboard park group has been established for 2 years and they are also developing a Social Inclusion Partnership bid for £20,000 funding.
- 6.7 Due to the overwhelming percentage of responses to the consultation requesting one City Centre site it is recommended that £130,000 of the available funding is allocated to the one city centre site and the future Quality of Life funds of £60,000 in 2004/2005 and £30,000 in 2005/2006 for skateboard parks are also allocated to the City Centre site as well as £30,000 to a community skateboard facility in the west of the city.
- 6.8 Based on the response to the consultation it is recommended that the City Centre skateboard park is located in Dudhope Park.
- 6.9 It is also recommended that the Director of Leisure and Arts is remitted to develop designs and costings for the Dudhope skateboard park in consultation with SWAV and other

interested skateboarders in the city and report back to a future Committee. Also to determine other funding sources and how they could be accessed and report back to Committee how a funding package could be put together with SWAV to provide a quality skateboard park the city could be proud of.

- 6.10 The Committee is recommended to approve £20,000 of funding to be made available to Linlathen Skateboard Group who are the most advanced community group in the city in regards to skateboard park site and design and the only one with potential to complete a skateboard park construction this financial year. The promotion of this skateboard park with potentially matching SIP funding would act as a pilot for the feasibility of other community sponsored neighbourhood skateboard parks throughout the city. This would be in terms of community involvement, design, location, costs and funding packages. Consultation would be undertaken with the Director of Housing, the local ward councillor and the local community in Linlathen to find a suitable site. This would be the subject of a tender report to a future committee.

7.0 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Head of Communities Department, Director of Planning and Transportation, Director of Housing, were all consulted on this report and are in agreement.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Article II of the Leisure and Arts Services Committee of 30 June 2003.

**STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ARTS
29 AUGUST 2003**

APPENDIX A

Proposed Site of Dundee City Centre Skatepark



Dudhope Park

NOT TO SCALE