

REPORT TO: Leisure Services Committee of 19 November 2001

REPORT ON: Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure & Parks

REPORT NO: 753-2001

1. **Purpose of Report**

To gain approval for the commissioning of external consultants and to gain funding for the payment of the consultants fees.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 To agree the commissioning of Land Use Consultants to undertake Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy

2.2 To agree the funding of the external consultants to a total cost of £18,301.30

3. **Financial Implications**

The total cost of producing the Outdoor Access Strategy is £18,301. Contributions will be made by Scottish Enterprise Tayside (£5,000), Scottish Natural heritage (£7,032), and the Paths for All Partnership (£5,000). The balance of £1,269 will be met from the Leisure & Parks department's 2001/2002 Capital Budget.

4. **Environmental Implications**

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

5. **Equal Opportunities Implications**

The proposed 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. **Background**

6.1 Reference is made to the Leisure Services Committee of 20 September 1999, Agenda Item I, when approval was given for Dundee's Paths for All Initiative and its four year Action Plan.

6.2 In the period since this Committee approval, draft legislation on Land Reform has been Published and the national agencies associated with it, being Scottish Natural Heritage and Paths of All Partnership, have agreed that an Outdoor Access Strategy is now an appropriate way of progressing a Paths for All Initiative.

- 6.3 The Outdoor Access Strategy will build on Dundee's Paths for All Initiative and its four year plan to develop a comprehensive access network for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders regardless of age or ability. The Strategy will go further to maximise the potential for accessibility, health and well-being benefits to the community in terms of transport and recreational needs. It will include an updated Action Plan providing indicative costs and financial implications of realising improved access across the city.
- 6.4 The Outdoor Access Strategy will contribute to the review of Dundee's Local Plan.
- 6.5 Three consultants were asked to submit tenders, two of which were returned. The two consultants that returned tenders were interviewed by representatives of the joint funders and Land Use consultants were chosen as having the lowest tender cost and the most acceptable submission. They also have previous experience in producing Outdoor Access Strategies.

7. **Consultation**

The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance, Director of planning and Transportation have all been consulted on this report.

8. **Background Papers**

Leisure Services Committee 20 September 1999, Agenda Item I

9. **Signature**

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S Grimmond, Director of Leisure & Parks