

CARDIFF SKATEBOARD AMENITY STRATEGY: PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

Purpose of the Report

1. To give Members background information to aid the scrutiny of the draft report to Cabinet titled '*Cardiff Skateboard Amenity Strategy*', which is due to be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 18 January 2024.

Structure of papers

2. Attached to this cover report are the following appendices:
 - a) Appendix A – report to Cabinet titled '*Cardiff Skateboard Amenity Strategy*', which has 3 appendices:
 - a. Appendix 1 – Draft Skateboard Amenity Strategy
 - b. Appendix 2 – Parks Play and Infrastructure Delivery Plan
 - c. Appendix 3 – Single Impact Assessment.

Scope of Scrutiny

3. At their meeting on 18 January 2024, the Cabinet will consider a report that seeks adoption of the draft Skateboard Amity Strategy, attached as **Appendix 1**, and for delivery to be reviewed annually via the Parks, Play and Infrastructure delivery plan, attached as **Appendix 2**.
4. During this scrutiny, Members can explore the recommendation to Cabinet and its implications, including:
 - a) The proposed Skateboard Amenity Strategy
 - b) The implications for existing repair and maintenance budgets
 - c) Whether there are any other financial implications or risks to the Council, and
 - d) The delivery timeline and next steps.

Background

5. The Council's Corporate Plan includes the following commitments relevant to the proposed Skateboard Amenity Strategy:
 - a) Achieve UNICEF Child Friendly City status
 - b) Embed a Child Rights Based approach in policy development
 - c) Support older people to stay active and connected
 - d) Support grassroots and community sports by: embedding the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2022-2027 and work with partners to develop further plans in 2023/24 that increase participation, attract investment, improve health, tackle inequality, and ensure sustainability of provision; and supporting community sports clubs with a particular emphasis on under-represented groups
 - e) implementing a programme of Section 106, asset renewal and capital for Parks to include sport, play and infrastructure improvements
 - f) progressing a development strategy for the next phase of the International Sports Village.

6. The Council's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy has four key action areas – active environments, active societies, active people and active systems. The Strategy identifies system levers required to deliver the key action areas, including:
 1. *Making the healthy choice the easy choice*
 2. *Building back better and fairer*
 3. *Increasing visibility of physical activity*
 4. *Providing young people with positive and fun experiences of physical activity*
 5. *Developing strong leaders and advocates for physical activity*
 6. *Including physical activity in all policies.*¹

7. The Cardiff Partnership Board's Local Well-Being Plan 2023-2028 includes the following commitments relevant to the proposed Skateboard Amenity Strategy:
 - a) Increase the percentage of children and young people with a healthy weight and increase physical activity levels
 - b) Increase the percentage of people with a healthy weight and increase physical activity levels, particularly in the more deprived communities

¹ Further details available [here](#)

- c) Percentage of students (aged 11-13) who are physically active for more than 60 minutes, less than 3 days a week by family affluence score
 - d) Percentage of adults active for less than 30 minutes in a week by deprivation
 - e) Percentage of adults reporting being a healthy weight by deprivation.
8. There are currently circa 11 council facilities for skateboarding, spread across Cardiff. These are small facilities and do not provide the infrastructure to support high performance skateboard athletes. There are also pop-up skate areas in the city centre and Callaghan Square as well as a more modern facility on Cardiff Bay Barrage.

Issues identified in the Cabinet Report

9. The report to Cabinet states that:
- a) participation and demand for skateboard amenities is increasing, it is a relatively low cost, accessible sport that can result in significant physical and mental health improvements and reduced anti-social behaviour
 - b) increasing skateboard amenities in line with the proposed Strategy will help the Council to meet its commitments set out in the Corporate Plan and Physical Activity and Sport Strategy.
 - c) existing skateparks are noisy, easily damaged and vandalised, as they are constructed of timber and steel frames, and the consequent maintenance costs means they are financially unsustainable. Whilst facilities are well distributed across Cardiff, most have a small catchment area, resulting in areas being under-served. In addition, most are male-dominated.
 - d) A comprehensive consultation exercise was undertaken with the local skate community, council departments, industry professionals and young people via forums and online surveys
 - e) External consultants Van De Zalm and New Line Skate Parks² supported the Council with the development of the Strategy, which included a review of existing facilities, transport connections, population projections, development and growth areas, and social policies.

² [Skate + Bike Parks – van der Zalm + Associates \(vdz.ca\)](#) and [Home - New Line Skateparks](#)

10. **Point 14** sets out the vision and mission of the Strategy and the report to Cabinet sets out that the proposed approach is to develop permanent concrete moulded skateparks, which reduce noise, are more hardwearing compared to existing facilities, thus reducing maintenance costs, enabling reallocation of monies to other pressures, and can be made more appealing places for women and girls,. **Point 18** states the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation has been used to prioritise sites for investment.

11. The Strategy provides the framework for the introduction of the following:

- Olympic standard destination skatepark
- Four network hub destination skateparks
- One new neighbourhood skatepark
- Spot and Dot skate facilities in parks
- Rain sheltered skate amenities for year-round participation.

12. **Point 19** sets out costs vary, from £400,000 for the new neighbourhood facility at Llanrumney to £100,000 for the recent spot & dot skate facility at Maltings Park.

13. **Point 20** states the Strategy is based on securing grants, Section 106 planning contributions, and capital funding. The report clarifies there are no existing Section 106 monies secured for skatepark amenities and that future developer contributions will be earmarked for provision. The report also states that work with Sport Wales and the National Governing Body for Skateboarding in Wales will be key to securing funding. **Point 22** states skatepark facilities could be included in public realm required as part of commercial developments.

14. **Financial Implications are at Points 27-31** and highlight:

- a) The Strategy does not provide detail on estimated costs
- b) It is essential that funding sources are confirmed prior to schemes and financial commitments starting; without confirmed funding, there is a risk schemes may not be deliverable or may need to be reduced or removed
- c) Any assumptions regarding Council funding or other funding source must be considered and confirmed as part of the Council's budget setting process; any decisions on this Strategy should not increase financial risk or

necessitate additional borrowing without approval as part of the Council's budgetary framework and medium-term budget planning

- d) The need to be aware of financial implications such as reinstatement costs, capital programme build and development costs, and ongoing revenue budget requirements for maintenance, repair and renewal of facilities and assets, both new and existing.

15. Legal Implications are at **Points 32-41**, including the need:

- a) For the Council to have regard to consultation responses
- b) To update the Equalities Impact Assessment throughout any future review of the Strategy
- c) To comply with Contract Procedure Rules and procurement legislation
- d) To comply with the Council's Acquisition and Disposal of Property Procedure Rules
- e) For the decision maker to consider its duties with regard to the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duties, the Socio-Economic Duty, the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards.

16. Property Implications are at Point 42 and state there are no further specific property implications, and that any relevant property management matters, transactions or valuations should be done in accordance with the Council's Asset Management process in consultation with Strategic Estates and relevant service areas.

17. Human Resources Implications are at Point 43 and state there are no HR implications directly arising from this report.

Proposed Recommendations to Cabinet

18. The report to Cabinet contains the following recommendation:

- 1) *Cabinet is recommended to adopt the strategy and review its progress annually through the Parks, Play and Infrastructure delivery plan. **Appendix 2***

Previous Scrutiny

19. The previous Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the impact of the Joint Venture between Cardiff Council and Cardiff Metropolitan University to deliver sports services in the city, the Local Sports Plan, the work to increase meaningful engagement, boost grassroots community sport, increase participation, strengthen partnership working, and mitigate the impact of reduced funding, the approach to playground refurbishment, and the draft Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2022-2027.

20. During this administration, this Committee has undertaken the following relevant scrutiny:

Date	Topic	Chair's Letter & Cabinet Response
October 2022	Refurbishment of playgrounds and play areas	available here
April 2023	Implementing the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy	available here

21. The main points arising from these scrutinies, relevant to this scrutiny, are:

Playground and play area refurbishment

- a) The refurbishment budget for playgrounds and play areas increased in 2021/22 and enabled an increase in schemes delivered.
- b) Playground refurbishment is funded by section 106 monies, the capital programme, and revenue monies for reactive maintenance
- c) Members raised the need to help prevent children develop skin cancer by providing shade near to playgrounds and play areas

Physical Activity and Sport Strategy

- d) the Council has a key role to play in helping to create spaces and places that support physical activity
- e) Years 2-5 of implementing the Strategy focuses on tackling the growing inequalities between population groups and areas.
- f) In recognition of the Council's role in assisting system change, Members stated they would bear this in mind in future scrutinies, looking to see how strategies, policies and service delivery support this important work.

Way Forward

22. Councillor Burke (Cabinet Member – Culture, Parks and Events) will be invited to make a statement. Neil Hanratty (Director of Economic Development), Steve Morris (Operational Manager – Sport, Leisure and Development) and Mark Synan (Landscape Architect) will attend, and all witnesses will be available to answer Members' questions on the proposals.

Legal Implications

23. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review, and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

24. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review, and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- i) Consider the information in this report, its appendices and the information presented at the meeting
- ii) Determine whether they would like to make any comments, observations or recommendations to the Cabinet on this matter in time for its meeting on 18 January 2024, and
- iii) Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

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10 January 2024