

CARDIFF SKATEBOARD AMENITY STRATEGY

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS (COUNCILLOR JENNIFER BURKE)

AGENDA ITEM: 5

Reason for this Report

1. Skateboarding has become an Olympic Sport and as a result participation and demand is growing. To meet this demand, a review of facilities has been undertaken through site visits and location mapping, the results of which have driven the need for the strategy and a longer-term view on the improvement of facilities, location and venues, design input through consultation, resourcing and construction.
2. Current Skate Parks in the City are mainly constructed from timber and steel frames which are easily damaged and vandalised and consequently are financially unsustainable due to the ongoing maintenance implications for each site.

Background

3. Participation in Skateboarding and wheeled sports can make a significant improvement in health and a reduction in anti-social behaviour. New facilities reduce noise, increase participation and are more appealing places for women and girls particularly through the development of permanent concrete moulded skateparks.
4. Facilities in communities and parks for young people are in high demand and will meet the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Councils Health and Physical Activity Strategy and in particular the core strands of "Active Environments" and "Active People", Child Friendly City and Corporate Plan objectives.
5. Most existing skate amenities are small in nature and serve a local leisure centre and its surrounding community. While skate facilities are generally well distributed across the city, the catchment area is small and as a result many areas remain under-served.

6. The current Council facilities across the city are located at the following parks:
 1. Glider Field, Llanishen
 2. Trelai Car Park, Caerau
 3. Moundfield, Morganstown
 4. Creigiau Recreation Ground, Creigiau
 5. Waterhall Park, Fairwater
 6. Parc Coed y Nant, Pentwyn
 7. Cathcobb Park, St Mellons
 8. Rumney Recreation Ground, Llanrumney
 9. Splott Park, Splott
 10. Canal Park, Butetown
 11. The Marl, Grangetown

7. The strategy will provide a framework for the introduction of new facilities, as follows:
 - Olympic standard destination skatepark at the International Sports Village
 - Four network hub destination skateparks
 - One new neighbourhood skatepark
 - Spot and Dot skate facilities in parks
 - Rain sheltered skate amenities for year-round participation.

Issues

8. Skateboarding is a demanding physical activity that promotes a broad range of health benefits typically associated with high intensity sports including reduced blood pressure, reduced obesity risks and potential coronary heart disease.

9. Taking part in physical activity such as Skateboarding can have a positive impact on mental health for young people including reduced symptoms of anxiety, depression, and overall feelings of stress. With the growing awareness of the importance of maintaining mental health, skateboarding and many related sports offer an accessible and effective option to many people. (*Referenced on page 14 of the strategy document*).

10. The relatively inexpensive upfront costs for equipment and no fees for participation make skateboarding and many related activities very low barrier to access. This is important as it provides a level playing field for people from many different socioeconomic backgrounds to participate.

11. Skate parks are one of few dedicated and attractive places for teenage and youths to meet and take part in a “non-traditional” sport encouraging social interaction. There are few public spaces that are dedicated to youth and whilst skate facilities are open to people of all ages, they are oriented towards youth and can be a safe space for young people to feel that they truly belong.

12. The development of the strategy was led by the Council with the support of Skate Park consultants, Van De Zalm and New Line Skate Parks who have an international reputation for high quality delivery and expertise with examples of

good practice around the globe and in particular USA and North America. The draft strategy is attached as **Appendix 1**.

13. A comprehensive consultation was undertaken with the local skate community, internal Council departments, industry professionals and young people in general through stakeholder forums and online surveys to help shape the future of skateboarding and small wheeled sports in Cardiff.
14. Through these face to face, group, and online consultations the Strategy has defined the following vision and mission to guide the development of skate amenities:
 - **Vision:**
Cardiff is home to a vibrant skate community that is well supported by a diverse range of skate amenities across the Council.
 - **Mission:**
To support and grow the skateboarding community, foster a diverse user group, and create skate amenities that support a wide range of uses and skill levels.
15. During the development of the strategy, we also undertook a full review of the existing skate facilities, transportation network, population projections, development and growth areas and social policies.
16. After several decades of use, Cardiff's existing skate facilities are in varying levels of condition and have required significant resources to maintain minimum safety requirements. In addition, the timber structures can be noisy, and in most cases are male dominated with the potential to attract anti-social behaviour.
17. Rather than continue to invest limited resources into ageing infrastructure, the Cardiff Skateboard Amenities Strategy will help lay the foundation for a new network of skate facilities that feature modern design, low maintenance reflecting the needs of Cardiff's skate community.
18. The Welsh Index for Multiple Deprivations was used to better understand areas of greatest need and prioritised sites for investment.
19. New facility costs vary, the current larger scale neighbourhood facility being delivered in Llanrumney at Eastern Leisure Centre will cost circa £400k. Dots and Spots which are smaller items of skateboard infrastructure can be incorporated into new park developments such as the recent scheme completed at Maltings Park in the Splott ward at a cost of circa £100K.
20. The funding strategy will see a reliance on grants, Section 106 developer contributions and capital funding. Furthermore, the key to delivery will be collaboration with Sport Wales and the National Governing for Skateboarding in Wales.

21. Section 106 contributions are not currently allocated, however as new developments gain planning approval and developer contributions are generated these will be earmarked for provision.
22. The strategy also sets out how facilities can be incorporated into urban design where architects for commercial developers will be tasked with creating innovative spaces within the public realm to further enhance provision which could include skatepark facilities.
23. The introduction of new modern designed and fit for purpose skate facilities will reduce the annual revenue strain on the repair and maintenance budget enabling the reallocation to other pressures.
24. Talented and performance bound participants do not have the facilities to develop their full potential and will restrict Cardiff ` on the World stage of Skateboarding competition. Such athletes are likely to come from our local communities and specifically those from more deprived areas of the city.

Reasons for Recommendations

25. The strategy will contribute to the aims of the Cardiff Physical Activity and Sport strategy, the Health and Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Child Friendly City ambitions.
26. Adopting the strategy and achieving new facilities will reduce ongoing revenue pressures, provide safe places encouraging increased participation for young people.

Financial Implications

27. This report seeks Cabinet approval for a strategy and proposals for new skate park facilities across the city as part of the Parks, Play and Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
28. The report sets out that funding will be mainly through developer contributions but does not provide detail as to the estimated costs of the strategy and proposed new facilities. It is essential that any funding sources are confirmed prior to schemes being undertaken and financial commitments entered into. Any assumptions regarding Council funding or other funding source planned to meet any funding gap must be considered and confirmed as part of Council budget setting processes and all expenditure maintained within approved resources.
29. Until funding is confirmed, the risk remains that the schemes proposed may not be deliverable and may need to be reduced or removed to match the available funding.
30. Any decisions taken must be in the knowledge of full financial implications in terms of any reinstatement costs, capital programme build and development costs and

any ongoing revenue budget requirements for maintenance, repair and renewal of facilities and assets, both new and existing.

31. The Council is currently considering its budget for 2024/25 and any decisions made here must not increase the financial risk to the Council or necessitate additional borrowing without approval as part of the Council's budgetary framework and medium-term budget planning.

Legal Implications (including Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate)

32. Single Impact Assessment is completed.
33. This report proposes to adopt a strategy for improvement of skate park facilities across the city, which if adopted will be kept under review. It is noted that a consultation exercise has been undertaken, and which is summarised in the Strategy document appended to the report, to which there will be a legitimate expectation that the decision makers will have regard. An equality Impact assessment has also been carried out and also annexed to the report and should be updated throughout any future review of the strategy. As to the provision of any works, these will need to comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Public Procurement Law, and any latter matters should comply with the Council's Acquisition and Disposal of Property Procedure Rules. Specific legal advice upon these matters should be sought in relation to any matter that arise as they develop in the future.

Equalities & Welsh Language

34. In considering this matter the decision maker must have regard to the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must, in making decisions, have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. Protected characteristics are: (a). Age, (b) Gender reassignment (c) Sex (d) Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, (e) Disability, (f) Pregnancy and maternity, (g) Marriage and civil partnership, (h) Sexual orientation (i) Religion or belief –including lack of belief.
35. When taking strategic decisions, the Council also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage ('the Socio-Economic Duty' imposed under section 1 of the Equality Act 2010). In considering this, the Council must take into account the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers (WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 (gov.wales) and must be able to demonstrate how it has discharged its duty.
36. An Equalities Impact Assessment aims to identify the equalities implications of the proposed decision, including inequalities arising from socio-economic disadvantage, and due regard should be given to the outcomes of a Equalities Impact Assessment, annexed to this report.

37. The decision maker should be mindful of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

38. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and is globally responsible. In discharging its duties under the Act, the Council has set and published well being objectives designed to maximise its contribution to achieving the national well being goals. The wellbeing objectives are set out in Cardiff's Corporate Plan 2020 -23.

39. When exercising its functions, the Council is required to take all reasonable steps to meet its wellbeing objectives. This means that the decision makers should consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting the wellbeing objectives and must be satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet those objectives.

40. The wellbeing duty also requires the Council to act in accordance with a 'sustainable development principle'. This principle requires the Council to act in a way which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take account of the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, the Council must:

- Look to the long term
- Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems
- Deliver an integrated approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals
- Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions
- Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them

41. The decision maker must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above; and due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible on line using the link below:
<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>

Property Implications

42. There are no further specific property implications in respect of the Skate Amenity Strategy report. Where there are any relevant property management matters, property transactions or valuations required to deliver any Skate Facilities, they should be done so in accordance with the Council's Asset Management process and in consultation with Strategic Estates and relevant service areas.

Human Resources Implications

43. There are no HR implications arising directly from the recommendations set out in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to

1. Adopt the Skateboard Amenity Strategy.
2. Note that Officers will review progress to deliver the strategy through the Annual Parks, Play and Infrastructure delivery plan attached at Appendix 2 to this report.

SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Neil Hanratty Director of Economic Development
	12 January 2024

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Appendix 1: Draft Skateboard Amenity Strategy
- Appendix 2: Parks Play and Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Appendix 3: Single Impact Assessment