

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE - 16 APRIL 2009**

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**FORFAR SKATEPARK**

**ABSTRACT**

**This Report provides members with an up to date position statement with regard to the proposed Forfar Wheeled Sports Facility, and proposed funding package.**

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- i. note the update on the funding proposal for the proposed Forfar Wheeled Sports Facility;
- ii a) agree to the Director of Neighbourhood Services in liaison with the Director of Corporate Services to seek tenders for the provision of a wheeled sports facility in Forfar and to accept the lowest tender subject to all costs being contained within the funding package;
- b) written agreement with the Forfar Wheeled Sports Association being in place prior to commencement of work on site, that all confirmed funding received by Forfar Wheeled Sports Association relating to this project will be transferred to Angus Council prior to the acceptance of the tender;
- iii approve the revised estimated total cost of the project of £106,500 (at outturn prices); and
- vi note the revenue implications arising from the project.

**2. BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION**

- 2.1 Elected members will recall their consideration of report 51/08 relating to the Forfar Wheeled Sports Facility, on the basis of allowing consideration of alternative funding to meet the resource gap in the overall funding package.
- 2.2 The Committee is advised that in terms of the proposed design, and with the agreement of Forfar Wheeled Sports Association, the plans have been adjusted to provide a wheeled sports facility similar to the one currently being provided in Montrose.
- 2.3 The Community Services division, in discussion with the Forfar Skatepark Committee is of the view that the most appropriate site is adjacent to the outdoor courts at Forfar Leisure Centre.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 As funds have been donated to the Skatepark Committee to develop a facility and moving forward on the basis that they wish to be partners with the Council in any future skatepark development then written agreement will require to be entered into between the Council and Forfar Skatepark Committee.
- 3.2 This agreement will facilitate the transfer of all finance necessary for the project held by or to be received by Forfar Skatepark Committee, to Angus Council as soon as it is available and certainly no later than at the conclusion of the planning process.

- 3.3 This includes agreement to transfer the funding agreed to be provided from the Forfar Common Good Fund as detailed below.
- 3.4 The estimated cost of the works designed by Angus Council Direct Services and calculated by Angus Council Property division is £106,500. This is based on the current design for the site and is a pre-tender estimate which will require to be tested through competitive tendering.
- 3.5 Given that the Council will be taking on delivery of this project and will be underwriting the direct costs associated with the project it is suggested that the Skatepark Fund (including all relevant monies / pledges) transfer to the Council as soon as possible (and no later than the conclusion of the planning process) with the Council then being responsible for meeting all further project costs incurred. This will provide certainty for both parties in terms of financial administration.
- 3.6 The following table sets out the known funding position at the time of writing this report, in respect of the revised total cost:

Funding Source	As at March 2009
Forfar Wheeled Sports Association	£ 12,500
Forfar Common Good Application previously agreed	£ 50,000
Parks and Cemeteries Repairs and Renewal Fund 2008/9	£ 24,000
Parks and Cemeteries Repairs and Renewal Fund 2009/10	£ 20,000
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£ 106,500</b>

- 3.7 Should the Council take a decision to proceed with this project a legally binding agreement will be entered into with the Forfar Wheeled Sports Association prior to commencement of works on site and will include:-
- 1) a means to permit the early transfer of their own contribution of £12,500 This will allow Angus Council to discharge all its financial responsibilities in relation to this project. The agreement will confirm the contents of this report and Angus Council's commitment to deliver this facility; and;
  - 2) statements agreeing that the facility will be wholly vested in the ownership of the Forfar Common Good with the Neighbourhood Services Department being responsible for all maintenance costs. Any costs related to reinstatement of the land to its original usage/purpose, should this be required in the future, will be the responsibility of Forfar Common Good.
- 3.8 A contingency/daywork allowance of £8,100 is included within the cost of the tender and is viewed by the Head of Property to represent a prudent provision for a project of this nature and size.
- 3.9 The Director of Neighbourhood Services will underwrite any capital overspend (should it occur) on approved tendered works (only). The project will be managed by the Landscape Services Manager (Neighbourhood Services) to ensure that strict monitoring and control is applied with a strict intention of bringing the project to completion without any cost overruns.
- 3.10 Additional revenue expenditure in respect of future annual maintenance costs of £400 will be absorbed by Neighbourhood Services revenue budget.
- 3.11 As a result of the increased annual maintenance burden placed on Neighbourhood Services there will be no additional Common Good rental charge made to the department in respect of the new facility.
- 3.12 Members are asked to note that the Common Good Funding, was approved in principle at the Angus Council meeting of 14 September 2006 (report 1109/06 refers) and was confirmed at the Corporate Services Committee of 6 September 2007 (report 693/07 refers). For members' information, the projected uncommitted balance (i.e. after allowing for all commitments,

including Forfar Wheeled Sports Facility) on the Forfar Common Good Fund revenue account as at 31 March 2009 is £615,000 with an uncommitted balance of £315,000 available after allowing for the minimum balance required to be retained of £300,000. This confirms that the Forfar Common Good Fund remains in a healthy position to support other projects even after allowing for the commitment to the Forfar Wheeled Sports Facility.

#### **4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no Human Rights implications associated with this report.

#### **5. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

5.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the single Outcome Agreement for Angus:-

- Children and young people in Angus enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health.

#### **6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Chief Executive ,the Director of Corporate Services,the Head of Finance, the Head of Law & Administration and the Head of Roads have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### **7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The issues dealt within this report have been the subject of consideration from the equalities perspective (as required by the legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

**R ASHTON  
DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**NOTE:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

**CommServices/NS/JRZ**