

Brierley Hill Area Committee – 9th March 2006

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Proposed Skatepark provision – Brierley Hill

Purpose

1. To advise the Committee of the outcome of investigations into suitable sites for skatepark provision carried out by its Community Plan and Young People's Working Group
2. To seek the Committee's support for a public consultation exercise for a skatepark on a suitable site

Background

3. Through its Skatepark and Wheeled Sports Strategy the Council is seeking to provide a permanently installed skatepark in each of its 5 Area Committee districts
4. On the 7th December 2005 this Committee's Community Plan and Young People's Working Group considered a report on skatepark provision in Brierley Hill. The report consisted of preliminary 'stage 1' assessments of 17 sites within the Brierley Hill area which were seen as potential spaces in which a skate park facility could be installed.
5. The Working Group requested that 7 of the sites referred to in paragraph 4 which appeared to be suitable based on the 'stage 1' assessments, be taken forward for consideration via more in depth 'stage 2' feasibility studies
6. The Working Group considered the findings of the stage 2 feasibility study on the 13th February 2006 and requested that the opportunity for providing a skatepark be considered by this Area Committee at the following sites.
 - Kinver Street Open Space, Wordsley
 - King George V Park, Wordsley
7. As a result of the findings of the stage 2 feasibility study, both of the sites listed in paragraph 6 are capable of accommodating a skatepark based on physical, environmental and corporate constraints, and for which the only factor likely to prevent their construction is objection by residents. The Working Group also

requested that further consideration be given providing a skatepark on open space adjacent to Brockmoor Community centre, which although having potential difficulties for the provision of a skatepark, has the advantage of being located centrally with the Committee's area.

8. A plan of each site showing a location suitable for accommodating a skatepark and a summary of the advantages and disadvantages for each is appended to this report.
9. Previous practice on similar exercises, having completed feasibility studies, has been to conduct a public consultation exercise on the preferred site. A robust methodology has been established for this which constitutes the following;
 - Postal consultation to all properties within ¼ mile of the site (usually some 2000 – 4000 addresses) with a colour leaflet, questionnaire and prepaid reply envelope
 - Download of the above leaflet and questionnaire (except prepaid envelope) available from the Council's website
 - Liason with local youth workers
 - Exhibition with consultation material available at local schools and youth centres
 - On receipt and analysis of the questionnaires, presentation to and consultation with Area Committee

Finance

10. The cost of the consultation process will be found from within existing budgets.
11. The annual cost of maintaining a skatepark is approximately £3,000 for which there is currently no budgetary provision.

Law

12. The Council may provide recreational facilities under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1906

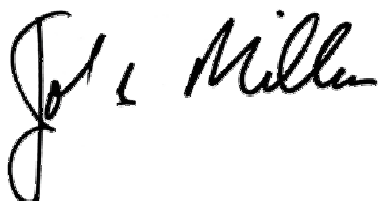
Equality Impact

13. These proposals are aimed at providing diversionary activities for young people and will assist in promoting healthy living through exercise and reduced opportunities for engaging in antisocial or criminal activities
14. The views of young people who are likely to use the facilities will be sought both through any public consultation on the proposed site, and in respect of any subsequent design proposals

Recommendation

15. That the Committee consider the provision of a skatepark at one of the locations specified in paragraphs 6 and 7 of this report

16. That the Committee support a public consultation exercise for the provision of a skatepark at their preferred site
17. That a report be presented to this Committee at a future date with the results of the public consultation



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Director of the Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers

1. Stage 1 & Stage 2 Feasibility studies into the provision of a skatepark in Brierley Hill
2. Report of the Director of the Urban Environment 7th December 2005; Brierley Hill Area Committee Community Plan and Young People's Working Group - skatepark provision in Brierley Hill
3. Report of the Director of the Urban Environment 13th February 2005; Brierley Hill Area Committee Community Plan and Young People's Working Group - skatepark provision in Brierley Hill