

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....8th March 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Wheeled Sports: Provision of Purpose-Built Facilities and Use of the Public Realm

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report that set out broad proposals for the future development of wheeled sports facilities in the Borough, catering for the needs of those who used skate boards, BMX bikes, in-line skates and scooters. It also explored how certain areas of public realm might be managed and developed in the future to accommodate wheeled sports.

During 2011 the Council received representations from many local young people and adults, requesting that the Council provided some purpose-built facilities for wheeled sports. Through subsequent consultation work it had been possible to gain an improved understanding of the needs and aspirations of users, and this had helped to inform the recommendations set out in the report. This suggested the Council should work in liaison with users, local communities and any potential public, private and third sector partners to develop a diverse range of facilities and opportunities for wheeled sports across the Borough.

The report provided a broad framework for future action. Specific projects and initiatives would be developed with the active involvement of young people and other users. Successful delivery of projects would also be subject to securing any additional capital and revenue funding.

Cabinet was provided with details of the types of wheeled sports provision that was possible, noted the extent of provision within the Borough and considered opportunities.

Following consultation and experience in other areas the ideal level of provision of skate parks for the Borough would include

- Provision of at least one large, 'destination' skate park to serve the

Borough as a whole

- Provision of one or more smaller 'neighbourhood' skate parks, serving more local needs and complementing facilities at the larger park.

With regard to BMX tracks it was noted that it may be possible to identify suitable areas in country parks or other greenspaces where dirt jumps and tracks could be developed

Members noted that the Council owned mobile and semi static equipment and consideration was given to how this could be utilised. Members noted that £200,000 had been identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan which would be used to match fund future bids for external funding in order to deliver a range of facilities.

RESOLVED that

1. the Council utilises funding identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan to work in partnership with other public, private and third sector partners, to provide a complementary range of facilities and spaces for wheeled sports. Subject to further consultation and securing the necessary capital and revenue funding this should include:

a) Development of skate parks, including:

- one major 'destination' skate park (possibly in the vicinity of the Tees Barrage, Preston Park or central Stockton);
- one or more smaller 'neighbourhood' skate parks (at John Whitehead Park, Billingham and possibly other locations in the Borough). These could all be outdoor facilities, or might include the provision of an indoor skate park operated by a private or third sector partner.

b) Management and possible development of selected areas of public realm to accommodate wheeled sports.

c) Development of dirt jumps and small pump tracks for BMX / mountain bikes in the Borough's country parks or other 'natural' green spaces.

2. more detailed proposals for the development of facilities and spaces for wheeled sports are prepared by autumn 2012, and that delegation is given to the Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services in consultation with relevant Cabinet members to determine the final programme of work, subject to wider consultation.

3. the Council seeks opportunities to promote and encourage participation in wheeled sports; for example, through events and activities

and by identifying appropriate third parties to operate the Council's existing mobile and semi-static skate facilities.

4. users and other local partners and stakeholders should be actively engaged in the development, delivery and on-going management of any facilities, and any events or activity programmes.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To authorise officers to progress with the delivery of schemes during 2012/13 and beyond, working in liaison with users, local communities and public, private and third sector partners as appropriate.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

None

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday 16 March 2012.

Proper Officer  
12 March 2012