

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee - 15 March 2004

REPORT ON: Green Circular - Maintenance

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts

REPORT NO: 132-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To identify the actions required with costs to maintain the Green Circular to an acceptable standard as the premier Cycle Route of Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The Leisure and Arts Department take responsibility for the annual maintenance of all the non adopted lengths of the Green Circular.
- 2.2 The Planning and Transportation Department and Waste Management Department retain maintenance responsibilities for adopted footpaths and roadways that form part of the Green Circular.
- 2.3 The Leisure and Arts Department is provided with an annual revenue budget to undertake and instruct maintenance works on the non adopted lengths of the Green Circular.
- 2.4 The Director of Leisure and Arts Department enters into discussion with Angus Council about the maintenance of the Green Circular in their ownership.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Capital Cost of bringing the Green Circular up to standard is £54,000
This can be funded from the Scottish Executive Consent for Cycling Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) to a value of £11,000 in 2004/2005 and £19,000 in 2005/2006 with £12,000 from Leisure and Arts Department's capital budgets in 2004/2005 and £12,000 in 2005/2006
- 3.2 The Cost of annual maintenance of the new adopted lengths of the Green Circular is £9,000 per annum. This will require to be added to the Leisure and Arts Department's revenue allocations in 2006/2007 and onwards.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The proposal to undertake the recommendations will be advantageous to walkers, cyclists and horse riders throughout the city providing access to routes and enhancing the environment for users is sustainable as it results in less people have to travel by private transport to work or for recreation.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposal aims to enhance the routes throughout the city offering an affordable sustainable transport alternative. These will especially benefit those without access to a car. The proposals will be totally inclusive by encouraging groups and individuals to become involved.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 Reference is made to the Article I of the Leisure Services Committee of 20 September 1999 where approval was given for Dundee's Paths for All Initiative and its four year action plan.
- 6.2 The Paths for All group has been taking forward the strategic direction for the development of pathways in the city since then but they do not take responsibility for maintenance considerations. The Green Circular has been subject to many different standards and techniques of maintenance with no continuity throughout its length, or consideration of high level usage areas and their extra demands. Therefore, an audit has been undertaken of the Green Circular and the requirements to bring it up to standard over its whole length as the main cycle route for Dundee.
- 6.3 The proposed works are to provide additional signage to improve ease of public access and to provide additional information to users. Resurfacing of stretches of the Green Circular to reduce the future maintenance requirements and improve the riding experience to increase potential access. Upgrading of stretches of the verges in public open space areas to again reduce future maintenance implications. Upgrading of barrier fences and road crossings to improve the health and safety aspects of the Green Circular. The total cost of this work is £54,000.
- 6.4 It is proposed that these improvement costs are funded from the Scottish Executive Consent for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) projects in 2004/2005 to a value of £11,000 and in 2005/2006 to a value of £19,000, the balance of £12,000 coming from the Leisure and Arts Department's capital budget in 2004/2005 and £12,000 in 2005/2006.
- 6.5 The current maintenance regime is divided in the majority amongst Leisure & Arts, Dundee Contract Services and Planning and Transportation Departments. Angus Council, Scottish Enterprise, The Scottish Executive and Taybridge Board as well as Betts Construction also own and maintain small parts of the Green Circular. From discussions with Planning and Transportation Department and Dundee Contract Services the situation in regard to maintenance is similar to that of Leisure and Arts Department where dedicated budgets do not exist but the maintenance for the Green Circular is incorporated into existing budgets. It is therefore difficult to identify a separate cost of current maintenance regimes and to separate these from existing works.
- 6.6 To create the situations where the annual maintenance is carried out to a standard appropriate to the Green Circular and its importance as the main cycle route in Dundee, it is therefore proposed that one Department, being the Leisure and Arts Department, takes responsibility for the maintenance of the non adopted lengths of the Green Circular and retains one central budget. An annual maintenance programme would be drawn up and the Leisure and Arts Department would then undertake maintenance work where the Green Circular lies within a park and would instruct Dundee Contract Services to undertake maintenance works in other sections of the Green Circular outwith Parks. It is proposed where the Green Circular is formed by an adopted footpath or carriageway that this remains under the auspices of the Planning and Transportation Department and the Waste Management Department and they continue within their existing maintenance regimes which have been to a high standard to date.
- 6.7 The projected cost of the annual maintenance of the non adopted lengths of the Green Circular is £9k per annum. Revenue Funding would therefore be required in 2006/2007 to be added to the Leisure and Arts Department's allocation after improvement works to the Green Circular have been undertaken in 2004/2005 and 2005/2006
- 6.8 It is proposed, as part of the procedures introduced to create an improved maintenance programme for the Green Circular, that the Leisure and Arts Department undertakes regular site checks and uses this as a mechanism to instruct the work for the Leisure and Arts Department and Dundee Contract Services while also using it as a mechanism to pass information on to the Planning and Transportation and Waste Management Departments of any items of surfacing, signage etc. that needs improvement on the adopted footpaths or roadways. This would be undertaken by the Countryside Rangers on a six monthly basis with regular reports produced. The Cycle Officer of the Planning and Transportation Department will pass information about maintenance requirements of non adopted sections to the Leisure and Arts Department for action.

6.9 It is also recommended that discussions are entered into with Angus Council to establish a standard of maintenance for their section of the Green Circular.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, The Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Director of Planning and Transportation, Director of Dundee Contract Services have all been consulted on the contents of this report and are in agreement.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Leisure Services Committee 20 September 1999 Article 1.

STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE and ARTS
DATE 20 FEBRUARY 2004