

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Policy and Resources Committee - 12 November 2007

REPORT ON: Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy – Action Plan Update 2007

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 575-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the progress of Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy Action Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approve the report and updated action plan attached as an appendix to this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The financial implications of this strategy can be contained within existing budgets and external grant applications.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

Reference is made to Article IV of the Policy and Resources Committee of 15 August 2005 when approval was given for Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy.

The Outdoor Access Strategy and its associated action plan was drawn up in 2005 to fulfil the City Council's requirements under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy aims to provide access for all people regardless of age or ability and to implement project based and process based work which aims to improve and promote outdoor access in Dundee.

The action plan shows how Dundee City Council proposed to take forward its vision for access in Dundee. Projects in the action plan are under the five strategic themes from The Dundee City Council Community Plan and The Dundee City Council Plan 2003 – 2007. The projects on major initiatives including health, education, tourism, social inclusion, environmental issues and sustainability.

An update of the action plan was approved by the Committee in September 2006. Since then a number of other projects have been completed or are underway. A summary report and an updated version of the action plan are attached as an appendix to this report.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

5.2 The major issues identified are:

5.3 Sustainability

The Outdoor Access Strategy for the City is advantageous to walkers, cyclists and horse riders throughout the City. Providing access to routes for walking, cycling and horse riding is sustainable, as it results in less people having to travel by private transport to work or for recreation. It also encourages healthy living through active travel and provides citizens and visitors the opportunity to access Dundee's natural heritage.

5.4 Equality Impact Assessment

The Outdoor Access Strategy aims to enhance the provision of routes throughout the City which will offer affordable sustainable transport alternatives. This will especially benefit people without access to a car.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Head of Finance, Director of Planning & Transportations and Director of Dundee Contract Services have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Article IV of the Policy and Resources Committee of 15 August 2005
Article V of the Policy and Resources Committee of 11 September 2006

**STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
26 OCTOBER 2007**

Appendix 1

Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy

Taking the Strategy Forward

Action Plan Update 2007

Taking the strategy forward: Action Plan Update 2007

The action plan developed for Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy 2005 set out Dundee City Council's vision for access in Dundee and how it would be taken forward. The projects within the action plan help the Council to deliver on major initiatives including health, education, tourism, social inclusion, environmental issues and sustainability. An update on the action plan is provided below. Projects which are blocked out in the spreadsheet were completed in previous years.

A. Implementing the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

Dundee's Local Access Forum has met regularly since its establishment in 2005. Guest speakers have included Council and NHS Officers. The presentations have often proved useful for both the Forum and the speakers. The Forum has made links with path groups and access forums in neighbouring authorities. The Forum's constitution was approved at Committee earlier this year.

The informal consultation process for the Core Path Plan is underway, with the first round of consultations completed and the second round is underway. The Local Access Forum has assisted with the development of key criteria for path selection.

The Countryside Rangers Service, Urban Rangers and Access Officer have been promoting the Scottish Outdoor Access Codes through events throughout the year, in particular during the Scottish Outdoor Access Festival (28th April-7th May 07).

A final draft of updated management rules for parks has been produced and it is anticipated that this will be presented to Committee late 2007/early 2008.

B. City Network Routes - Dundee's Greenways

Project B.5. is to be completed this year providing a link between the Green Circular at Claypotts and the Green Circular at Stannergate. This will help to facilitate cycle links to Dawson Park and to the Gardyne Road Campus.

C. Green Circular

Information boards for the route have been funded by the Tayside and Central Regional Transport Partnership (TACTRAN) and by Dundee City Council.

Several sections of the Green Circular route have been upgraded in the last year, including a large section of the route along Riverside which was funded by Sustrans. Other areas to be upgraded this year include a section close to Trottick Local Nature Reserve, a section close to Mallaig Avenue, and the Stannergate at Grassy Beach.

The Green Circular map was updated in 2006 and a new Greenways West map was produced.

A maintenance budget of £9,000 has been allocated to the Leisure & Communities department for the un-adopted sections of the route. Maintenance work is informed by recommendations made in the Countryside Rangers audit reports. A management and maintenance policy for the route is to be implemented in the next year.

D. Parks and Green Spaces

Work continues to improve access, way-marking and trail information through Forestry Commission funding.

Scottish Natural Heritage and Dundee City Council are jointly funding the Templeton Woods All Abilities Arts Trail. A short circular route from the Visitors Centre past the arts trail will be developed and will be accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

The Cycling for All project at Camperdown re-opened during 2007 thanks to a funding partnership between Forestry Commission Scotland, Michelin and Dundee City Council.

E. Community Paths Challenge Projects

Historical Women's Walk Project. The voluntary group leading the project have been granted Heritage Lottery funding to take the project forward and are progressing this through a project co-ordinator.

BTCV have initiated a pilot Green Gym project in Dundee. This will focus on improving greenspaces with the help of volunteers; this is likely to include work anticipated by the Footpath Custodians project.

F. Travel Plan Development

Travel planning functions have moved to the regional transport partnership (TACTRAN).

Several initiatives have been set up to encourage sustainable travel, including dundeetravelinfo.com and dundeeliftshare.com.

School Travel Plan Co-ordinator secondment has ended. A travel plan pack was produced to assist schools with the development of their own travel plans.

In addition to the service provided by Road Safety Officers, cycle training in schools has been provided by organisations such as "Try Cycling" Tayside who provided bike maintenance training to pupils at Grove Academy. The Active Schools Team were successful in a bid to Sustrans to provide cycle training to schools, cycle parking at schools and a feasibility study for 'Safer Routes to School' in the Broughty Ferry area.

G. Cycling Development

Activities were organised to promote cycling during National Bike Week, including cycle rides, prize draws and Dr Bike sessions.

TACTRAN funded the installation of secure bike lockers next to the rail and bus stations.

Dundee primary schools have jointly bid for Sustrans funding to develop cycle training and increase the numbers of bicycle parking spaces.

Most of the cycle training has been connected with school groups, however "Try Cycling" Tayside have trained local people to be cycle leaders. The volunteers assisted with led rides every Thursday evening between 3rd of May and 21st June.

H. Other projects

H1. Appointment of Health Walks Co-ordinator and development of health walks scheme

A Health Walks Working Group has been established with health walks providers, health professionals and other interested parties becoming involved.

The health walks cards which were developed to encourage independent walking have been very popular.

Following on from the walking events which formed part of the 2006 summer festival, an Urban Walking Week has been organised to promote the local walking groups and encourage people to walk on their lunch breaks.

A new walking group has been established this year in the Broughty Ferry area.

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A. Implementing the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Project Budget	Timescale	Progress
				H&C	L& W	C S	B S C	C E					
A1.	Secure Access Officer Post	DCC (L&C) Peter Sandwell	£27,000 per annum	✓	✓		✓	✓		DCC (L&C)	£27,000	March 05	Post has now been secured
A2.	Local Access Forum	DCC (L&C) Laura Campbell	£1,000 per annum				✓	✓			£0	Ongoing	Regular meetings and AGMs held
A3.	Core Path Planning and development process	DCC (L&C) Laura Campbell	£2000	✓			✓	✓		DCC (L&C)	£2000	Statutory duty of draft plan by Feb 08. Adoption, maintenance and promotion to follow	Consultation programme underway First round of consultations completed.
A4.	Promote Outdoor Access	DCC (L&C)	£5,000 per annum	✓			✓	✓	✓		£0	Ongoing statutory duty	Ongoing through Countryside Ranger events and Access Officer
A5.	Review Byelaws and management rules	ALL	N/A			✓				N/A	N/A	Statutory duty Feb 07	Final draft prepared

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B. City Network Routes

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Project Budget	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E					
B1.	Feasibility study	DCC (P&T)	£5,000							L&C	£5,000		Completed
B2.	Green Circular to City Centre via Balgay Park	DCC (L&C)	£234,000	√			√	√	√	L&C CWSS FF-TYS	£110,000	To be completed 2005	Completed July 2006. Additional spurs to be completed at a later date.
B3.	Green Circular to Ninewells	DCC (P&T)		√			√	√	√	P&T			Completed
B4.	Green Circular to City Centre via South Road Park	DCC (L&C)	£305,000	√			√	√	√	L&C CWSS FF-TYS	£110,000		Completed Additional spurs to be completed at a later date.
B5.	Green Circular to City Centre via Arbroath Road	DCC (L&C)	£30,000	√			√	√	√	L&C	£30,000	To be completed 2007/08	To be completed 2007/08
B6.	Green Circular to City Centre via Ardler/St Marys	DCC (L&C, P&T)	£45,000	√			√	√	√	tbc	£0	To be completed 2008/09	Funding source to be identified
B7.	Green Circular to City Centre via Caird Park	DCC (L&C, P&T)	£50,000	√			√	√	√	tbc	£0	To be completed 2009/10	Funding source to be identified

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C. Green Circular

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Project Budget	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E					
C1.	Improve Signage	DCC (L&C)	£21,000	√			√	√	√	TACTRAN, DCC (L&C)	£21,000	March 2008	Interpretation boards being replaced & additional to be signage installed
C2.	Improve sections	DCC (L&C, P&T)	£30,000	√			√	√		CWSS	£30,000	To be completed March 08	Trottick and Mallaig Avenue to be upgraded by March 2008.
C3.	Upgrade section from Longhaugh Quarry to Forties Road	DCC	£82,000	√			√	√		Vacant and Derelict Land Grant	£82,000	Completed March 2005	Completed
C4.	Cycle Lockers	DCC (P&T)		√				√				Installed 2005	Completed
C5.	Update Map	DCC (L&C)	£3,000	√			√	√		CWSS TYS DCC	£0	As required	Last update Sept 2006
C6.	Cyclathon 2006	DCC (L&C)	£10,000	√			√	√			£0	June 2006	N/A Still run by Rotary Club
C7.	Improvement works 05/06	DCC (L&C)	£31,000	√			√	√		CWSS (£19,000) L&C (£12,000)	£31,000	To be completed March 06	Completed
C8.	Maintenance 06/07 and beyond	DCC (L&C)	£9,000 per annum	√			√	√		L&C revenue	£9,000 per annum	ongoing	Revenue budget has now been allocated
C9.	Improve the Stannergate	DCC (P&T)	£500,000	√			√	√			£500,000	VDLF Sustrans	Work is completed on the Douglas Terrace end.

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D. Parks and Green Spaces

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Project Budget	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E					
D1.Camperdown, Templeton & Clatto													
D1.1.	Link to the Green Circular	DCC (L&C)	£15,000	√				√		L&C	£15,000	To be completed March 05	Completed
D1.2.	Way marking and provision of map	DCC (DCS)	£5,000	√				√		SFGS/ WIAT	£0	2007	Project underway
D1.3.	Improvements to Paths	DCC (DCS)		√				√		SFGS/ WIAT		2007	Completed
D1.4.	Promotion of Cycle Centre	DCC (L&C)	£3,000 per annum	√				√		FCS Michelin	£3,000	ongoing	Leaflets printed and distributed, Radio advertising campaign over the summer
D1.5.	Development of mountain bike skills trail	DCC (L&C)	£30,000 - £50,000	√		√		√		SFGS/ WIAT	£0	tbc	possible WIAC 2009 bid
D1.6.	Cycle Centre staffing and maintenance	DCC (L&C)	£5,000 per annum	√	√			√		FCS DCC	£5,000	Ongoing	Project re-launched summer 2007
D1.7	Improve disabled toilets	DCC (L&C)		√			√						no progress
D1.8	Sculpture trail in Templeton Woods	DCC (L&C)	£13,000	√				√		DCC SNH	£13,000	2007/08	project underway
D2. Caird Park													
D2.1.	Development of Cycling Academy	DCC (L&C)	£10,000	√	√						£0	tbc	Scottish Cycling have established a cycling academy at the velodrome.
D2.2.	Development of path network	DCC (L&C)	£20,000	√				√			£0	tbc	no progress
D2.3.	Development of Mountain Bike trail	DCC (L&C)	£30,000	√		√		√			£0	March 06	No progress

D3. Baxter Park													
D3.1.	Path surface improvements	DCC (L&C)	£80,000	√				√		HLF	£80,000	2005/06	Completed
D4. Balgay Park													
D4.1.	Improvements to bridge	DCC (L&C)	£150,000	√				√		HLF Historic Scotland	£150,000	2007/08	Funding granted. Work to be completed
D4.2	New path to viewpoint at Balgay Hill	DCC (L&C)	£5,000	√				√			£0	2005/06	No Progress
D5. Broughty Ferry LNR													
D5.1.	Upgrade LNR path surface	tbc	tbc	√			√	√			tbc	tbc	No progress
D6. Other													
D6.1.	Improve signage to green and open spaces	DCC (L&C)	£25,000 per annum	√				√	√		£0	tbc	Being completed through WIAT
D6.2.	Improve access to woodlands	DCC (DCS)		√				√		WIAT		tbc	Ongoing WIAT funded programme
D6.3.	Develop western countryside links	DCC (L&C)	£30,000	√			√	√	√		£0	tbc	No progress
D6.4.	Develop northern countryside links	DCC (L&C)	£30,000	√			√	√			£0	tbc	No progress
D6.5	Dighty Project	Sustain Dundee	£39,000	√	√		√	√		SAG	£19,000	05/06 – 06/07	Funding bid unsuccessful

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E. Community Paths Challenge Projects

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Project Budget	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E					
E1.	Link to viewpoint on Balgay Road	DCC (L&C)	£11,581	√			√	√		DCC (L&C)	£11,581	To be completed March 05	Completed
E2.	Dighty Burn – Path to Kwik save	DCC (P&T/ L&C)	£13,800	√			√	√			£0	tbc	No Progress
E3.	Link from Liff to Camperdown	tbc	£8,500	√			√	√			£0	tbc	No Progress
E4.	Mapping Access Routes	tbc	£12,600	√			√	√			£0	tbc	Core Path Planning will assist
E5.	Promotion of Cycling	tbc	£1,100	√				√	√		£0	tbc	Ongoing
E6.	City Centre Closes	Dundee Civic Trust	£5,970	√							£0	tbc	Included in Health Walks Project
E7.	Historical Women's Walk	Women's Trail Blazers	£6,840	√							£0	tbc	Funding granted - project underway
E8.	Footpath Custodians	DCC (L&C)	£10,000	√				√			£10,000	Sept - Nov 2007	BTCV Green Gym pilot scheme
E9.	Link GC to railway station and city centre	tbc	£9,500	√				√			£0	tbc	To be considered as part of Waterfront Development

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F. Travel Plan Development

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Project Budget	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E					
F1.	Development of staff travel plans for Ninewells Hospital, The University of Dundee, SET, DCC	DCC (P&T)		√	√	√	√	√				To be completed 2006	Plans developed for Ninewells and University of Dundee
F2.	Secure post of Travel Plan Development Officer	DCC (P&T)	£27,000 per annum	√	√		√	√		FF, SET, NHS, DCC	£27,000 per annum	2008	Post transferred to TACTRAN
F3.1	Promotion of sustainable transport in schools	DCC (Edu)	£5,000 per annum	√	√	√	√	√			£0	ongoing	Travel Plan packs sent out to schools
F3.2	Cycle parking for schools	DCC (Edu)	£36,250	√		√		√		Sustrans	£36,250	2007/08	All Primary schools to receive cycle parking facilities and Grove Academy to receive 50 cycle lockers
F3.3	Bike IT project	DCC (Edu)	N/A	√	√	√	√	√		Bike IT		Pilot scheme 2005/06	Now using Scottish Cycling's Go-Ride scheme, and Active Schools Officers
F3.4	Walking bus projects	DCC (Edu)		√		√	√	√				ongoing	Ongoing

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G. Cycling Development

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Project Budget	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E					
G1.	Establish a Bicycle Users Group for Dundee City Council	DCC (P&T)		√				√			£0	2005	No Progress
G2.	Further develop cycle links and paths around the city	DCC (P&T)		√		√	√	√			£0	2007	Ongoing as funding allows
G3.	Cycle parking provisions throughout the city	DCC (P&T)		√		√		√		TACTRAN	£0	2007	Ongoing TACTRAN funded lockers installed at rail and bus stations
G4.	Develop a programme of cycle training	DCC (P&T)		√		√		√			£0	ongoing	No Progress
G5.	National Bike Week Events	DCC (P&T)		√	√			√			£0	ongoing	Bike week events completed 2007
G6.	Promote cycling	DCC (P&T)		√		√	√	√			£0	ongoing	Ongoing
G7.	Install Cycle Counters on Routes	DCC (P&T)						√			£0	As new routes are developed	Ongoing

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H. Other Projects

Project No.	Project Title	Lead Contact	Indicative Project Cost	Community Planning Targets					Local Community Plan	Project Funders	Project Budget	Timescale	Progress
				H & C	L & W	C S	B S C	C E					
H1.	Appointment of Health Walks Co-ordinator and development of health walks scheme	DCC (L&C)	£134,874 over 3 years	√	√			√	√	PFA? CRF?	£0	tbc	Pack of Health Walks Cards developed Urban Walking Week planned for September 2007
H2.	Create links to wider partnerships	ALL	N/A	√	√	√	√	√		N/A	N/A	ongoing	Ongoing
H3.	Footbridge over burn at Gauldie Crescent	DCC	£20,000					√	√		£0	tbc	No progress
H4.	Signposting walking and cycling routes in and around Ardler	Ardler Village Trust	£20,000	√				√	√	tbc	£0	2005/06	Still identifying funding
H5.	Clatto path link	DCC L&C/P&T	£10,000	√		√		√			£0	tbc	08/09?

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