

REPORT TO: Leisure Services Committee of 15 October 2001

REPORT ON: Middleton Community Woodland Path Development

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure & Parks

REPORT NO: 647-2001

1. **Purpose of Report**

To obtain Committee approval for further phases of path creation work at Middleton Community Woodland dependent upon the approval of external funding.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee approves Phase III of footpath and infrastructure development at Middleton Community Woodland, and remits the Director of Leisure & Parks to work in partnership with Middleton Community Woodland Group in bringing forward a programme of works.
- 2.2 That the Leisure & Parks Department make a contribution to the project from its Capital budget, depending on the approval of external funding.

3. **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The project has an estimated cost of £127,468 over 3 years. There are a number of funding partners: Scottish Natural Heritage is agreed in principle and Scottish Enterprise, Social Inclusion Partnerships funding and New Opportunities Fund – Fresh Futures are subject to bid applications. It is anticipated that external funding will total £106,468.
- 3.2 The Leisure and Parks Department will make a contribution of £21,000, £7,000 in 2002/03 and £14,000 in 2003/04.

These allowances are contained in the existing Capital Budget and will be subject to the approval of the Capital Budgets for the appropriate years.

4. **Local Agenda 21 Implications**

- 4.1 The extension of the path network at Middleton Community Woodland will extend the network already developed throughout Whitfield and the City. Cycling and walking are pollution-free forms of transport, and their increased usage will reduce the quantity of harmful omission and noise found on a congested road network.

The development of path networks is sustainable in that it provides alternative modes of transport

5. **Equal Opportunities Implications**

- 5.1 The development of path network offer improved availability of cheap and cost effective forms of transportation for people without access to a private car. This creates a safer climate and access to affordable recreation for all.

6. **Background**

- 6.1 Reference is made to the Agenda Item V of the Leisure Services Committee of 21 February 2000 when approval was to carry out improvements to the path network in Middleton Community Woodland as phase two of its development.

- 6.2 It is now proposed to develop a third phase of path works throughout Middleton Woods over the next three years should external funding applications be approved.
- 6.3 The Middleton Community Woodland Group has been instrumental in facilitating much of the work that has been undertaken on site to date. A funding opportunity has now arisen by which the Middleton Community Woodland Group should receive funding to complete a third phase of path work on this site. The potential funding source is the New Opportunities Fund Fresh Futures Programme, which is a partnership of Scottish Natural Heritage and Forward Scotland. Other potential match-funding partners have been identified as Scottish Enterprise (Tayside) and Social Inclusion Partnership 2.
- 6.4 The Leisure & Parks Department will undertake the drawings, specification, and tendering process, ahead of any works being undertaken and assist in the implementation of the works.

7. **Consultation**

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Planning, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance and Director of Planning & Transportation, have all been consulted on this report.

8. **Background Papers**

Agenda Item V of Leisure Services Committee of 21 February 2000.

9. **Signature**

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Director of Leisure & Parks

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Date