



**WYRE FOREST
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Community & Leisure Services Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Briefing Paper

Report of: Cultural Services Manager

Date: 14th July 2005

Open

Briefing for Skateboarding Review

1. A report was produced by Tribe Enterprises Ltd in February 2003, which assessed various locations in the District for permanent skateboarding facilities.
2. A permanent skateboarding facility has been provided in Bewdley at the Wyre Forest Community Housing site at Shaw Hedge Road through a partnership arrangement between Wyre Forest Community Housing, Bewdley Town Council, Wyre Forest District Council, Opportunity Bewdley, Kidderminster Youth Trust and the Community Safety partnership.
3. A skateboarding facility has also been opened at Borrington Road play area, by Wyre Forest Community Housing.
4. A skateboarding facility is currently being constructed at Brinton Park and will be completed by August 10th 2005.
5. The Fun Box is a mobile skateboarding unit. This was originally purchased as a short-term solution until permanent facilities were provided. The Fun Box is going to be situated at rural and other locations over the summer period. Funding for use of the Fun Box will run out at the end of 2005.
6. There is a 'half pipe' on the Walshes in Stourport, provided by Wyre Forest Community Housing, but this is not popular with young people living in the area for various reasons. It has previously been generally acknowledged that

the provision in Stourport is not satisfactory.

7. At the Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel on 23rd September 2004, a Task and Finish Group was established. (Reference number CM.255 refers). The Task and Finish group reported back to the Panel on 11th November 2004.

8. The Panel's recommendations on skateboarding were submitted to Cabinet on 16th December 2004 (CM.416 from the Minutes of the Panel's meeting on 11th November refers to the Recommendations in detail). At the Cabinet meeting on 16th December 2004 it was agreed that Skateboarding be referred back to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee to examine further (CM.580 from the Cabinet Minutes of the 16th December 2004, refers.) Following the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 26th January 2005, it was referred back to for the Panel to consider further. At its meeting on 10th March 2005, the Policy and Scrutiny Panel requested that skateboarding be put back on to the work programme for 2005/06. It was decided that further work should be undertaken to ascertain the need for any further skateboarding facilities and to examine general trends. At this meeting it was also decided that provision of youth activities and facilities generally should be examined.

9. The Policy and Scrutiny Panel for Community and Leisure Services will scope the review on 14th July 2005.

Officer Contact Details:

Kay Higman,
Cultural Services Manager,
01562 732 902