

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL, 9th March 2006

Skateboarding

The Skateboarding Task and Finish Group was established by the Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 14th July 2005 to undertake an in-depth review into the District's current and potential skateboarding facilities, and met five times in total. The Group made recommendations to the Panel on 9th March 2006.

The Group scrutinised a range of issues during its review, considered written submissions and the practices of other local authorities, consulted with various participants, including a group of young people, and identified its terms of reference as follows:

- Identify skateboarding requirements within the District;
- Analyse the current usage of local skateboarding facilities;
- Ascertain whether demand for skateboarding within the District is increasing or decreasing;
- Research national trends;
- Identify the future role of 'The Fun Box', the Council's mobile skate park.

With regard to the Fun Box, the Council used Communities Against Drugs (CAD) money to purchase the equipment in 2003. It was only intended as a short-term solution to the apparent lack of skateboarding provision in the District.

During the Review the Group was informed that the Local Public Services Agreement (LPSA) Target 8 grant had been awarded to the Council, which consisted of 50% capital and 50% revenue funding. The Capital element of the funding could be used for recommendations from the Skateboarding Task and Finish Group and the Youth Provision Task and Finish Group, (which was still to formulate its recommendations), and amounted to approximately £70,000.

The Group considered various locations in the District and agreed that as Stourport-on-Severn currently did not have a skateboarding facility, it should be a priority, and skatepark should be centrally located so that there would be no territorial or rivalry issues.

Having considered the Task and Finish Group's report, the Panel made the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet:

1. **A skate park be provided at Stourport Riverside to be located near the paddling pool, subject to the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services agreeing funding for the project.**
2. **To note an application has been made to Stourport Forward for the sum of £5,000.**
3. **Officers approach Stourport Town Council for additional funding.**
4. **The representative group of young people (who met on 25th January 2006) be consulted as part of the project process.**
5. **The young people representatives be encouraged to produce a DVD of the development of the project (as per the Kings Norton, Birmingham project).**
6. **The Fun Box continue to be made available in popular locations and for events, and that the option of it being stored and used in Sladen School be explored when applicable.**
7. **Similarly an option of providing transport from rural locations to the Fun Box when located at Sladen School be explored as an alternative to taking the Fun Box into rural areas.**

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services:

Funding be allocated from the Local Public Services Agreement (LPSA) target and capital grant (up to approximately £70,000) for the provision of a skatepark near to the paddling pool at Stourport-on-Severn Riverside. (*Minute number CAB.140 of the Cabinet's meeting of 24th November 2006 refers*).