
COUNCIL CAPITAL PROGRAMME – RELEASE OF FUNDS

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) – Councillor Lee Vasey, Leisure Portfolio.

Responsible Director(s) – Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for the release of grant funding for the Mobile Board, Biking and Blading Unit –The Truck.

Information and Analysis

2. The Leisure and Arts Service Plan for 2003/04 included a commitment to research solutions with young people for the provision of a skateboarding, biking and blading facility in Darlington.
3. Early work involved a Steering Group of young people successfully accessing a £15,000 Princes Trust grant to research the solution in more detail. The young people also supported the Council in making an application to the New Opportunities Fund for £70,000 to fund a Mobile Boarding, Biking and Blading facility. The application was successful and funding has now been received.
4. This funding covers the initial capital cost to purchase the chassis, demountable body unit and mobile equipment for the facility. Revenue funding for the project has been included in the Leisure and Arts MTFP as part of normal outreach budgets, with targets set for seeking external partnership funding and sponsorship to enable further projects to be developed.
5. The deadline for implementing the project is August 2004 and preliminary works have been carried out in order to ensure compliance with guidance from advisory organisations.

Outcome of Consultation

6. Prior to the application for funding being made, extensive consultation was undertaken with young people to find out the type of equipment they would prefer and facilities. The outcome of this consultation was built into the submission for funding.

Legal Implications

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

9. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

10. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that the capital funding for the project of £70,000 be released.

Reason

12. The recommendation is supported to enable the project to be implemented as soon as possible.

Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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