

**PROPOSED STUKELEY MEADOWS SKATEPARK  
(Report by Head of Environmental and Community Health Services)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members consent to committing funds towards the commencement of development of a Skate Park in Stukeley Meadows in advance of the approval of the Medium Term Plan.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Stukeley Meadows Skate Park project has been developed with the community since 2004. The project was originated to solve an issue of skateboarders using Huntingdon Town Centre and nearby car parks inappropriately and generating complaints from shoppers and local businesses.
- 2.2 Large numbers of young people have used Huntingdon town centre as it has areas considered ideal for street-skating. The gatherings have resulted in a large number of complaints being received by the Town Centre Partnership, Huntingdon Business Against Crime, the Police, and the Anti-social Behaviour Case-workers within this Council's Community Safety Unit.
- 2.3 The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership funded a detached youth-work project to engage with the young people who skateboarded in the town centre. That project identified that the majority of the skateboarders were from Stukeley Meadows.
- 2.4 The project with the young people identified a need for a street-style skate facility in Stukeley Meadows. In order to develop a design and determine a location for the facility there have been several public meetings. Local elected-Members have also been closely involved. There has also been full local consultation including a referendum on the preferred site. The community's involvement with this project has raised local expectations about the delivery of this facility.
- 2.5 The site is of sufficient size to require permission from the Planning Authority.

**3. FUNDING OF THE PROJECT**

- 3.1 The initial work in developing a solution to the perceived problem of street skating in Huntingdon town centre was funded through the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.2 The total estimated cost of providing a skate facility is: c.£180,000

- 3.3 The scheme is funded mainly by outside contributions. Funding has been secured from the following sources to date:

Big Lottery Fund	£60,000
Youth Bank	£40,000
s106 (existing)	£20,000
GBH Engineering Ltd	£20,000
Huntingdon Freeman's	£10,000
H C S P	£ 8,000
Sainsbury's	£ 1,000
Skaters' contribution	£ 120
	<b>£159,120</b>

- 3.4 There is currently a funding gap of c£20k which, together with the £10k per year running costs, is included in a MTP bid within the Draft Budget/MTP report. Other contributors have been approached and we are awaiting a decision on a £10k contribution from an external source.

#### **4. THE FUNDING ISSUE**

- 4.1 It has recently come to our attention that the designated funding from the Youth Bank for this project is time-limited and is only available until the end of this calendar year. Thus if we are to secure this funding we need to commission work on this project before the end of the year.

#### **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The proposed Stukeley Meadows Skate Park is a community generated solution to a problem within Huntingdon Town Centre. There has been considerable work undertaken during the last three years to refine designs, agree potential sites, and secure funding. Local expectations have been raised about the delivery of this facility.
- 5.2 A District Council contribution is included in the Draft Budget/MTP but this will not be formally approved until February.
- 5.2 A significant amount of the funding offered is time-limited so to secure this funding construction must start before the end of this year.
- 5.3 Planning permission will be required for this development. An application will be submitted prior to the commencement of physical works on-site.


#### **6. RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 Members are requested to consent to committing funds towards the development of a skate-park in Stukeley Meadows, in advance of the formal approval of the medium-term plan in February.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Site Plans; Record of consultation events and responses.**

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