

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 27 August 2015

Update on Cycling Hub and Closed Road Loop – referral from the Culture and Sport Committee

Item number	7.15
Report number	
Wards	All

Executive summary

The Culture and Sport Committee on 18 August 2015 considered the attached report by the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive providing an update on the appointment of a new Design Team to create a sustainable cycling hub at Hunter's Hall Park. A parallel search for a suitable location for a Closed Road Loop had identified two possible sites in the West of Edinburgh.

The report has been referred to the Finance and Resources Committee for information.

Links

Coalition pledges	See attached report
Council outcomes	See attached report
Single Outcome Agreement	See attached report
Appendices	See attached report

Terms of Referral

Update on Cycling Hub and Closed Road Loop

Terms of referral

- 1.1 On 13 May 2015, the Finance and Resources Committee approved the award of the contract for the multi-discipline design team to develop the cycling hub at Hunter's Hall Park to Faithful & Gould. In addition, the Committee noted that once the project's funding requirements had been confirmed, formal approval would be sought from the relevant committee to proceed to the construction phase. The Committee had requested a progress report within two cycles.
- 1.2 On 18 August 2015, the Culture and Sport Committee considered a report providing an update on the new design team appointed to develop a sustainable cycling hub at Hunter's Hall Park.
- 1.3 A parallel search for a suitable location for a Closed Road Loop had identified two possible sites in the West of Edinburgh.
- 1.4 The Culture and Sport Committee agreed:
 - 1.4.1 To note the progress of the cycling hub project.
 - 1.4.2 To note the results to date of the search for a suitable location for a closed road loop in the city.
 - 1.4.3 To refer the report by the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive to the Finance and Resources Committee for information.

For Decision/Action

- 2.1 The Finance and Resources Committee is asked to note the report.

Background reading / external references

[Minute of Culture and Sport Committee of 16 December 2014](#)

[Minute of Finance and Resources Committee of 13 May 2015](#)

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Links

Coalition pledges	See attached report
Council outcomes	See attached report
Single Outcome Agreement	See attached report
Appendices	See attached report

Update on Cycling Hub and Closed Road Loop

Item number	7.4
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All, and Portobello/Craigmillar in particular

Executive summary

This report provides an update on the appointment of a new Design Team, working to Faithful and Gould as main consultants, to create the cycling hub at Hunter's Hall Park, with two new 3G pitches, and an upgrading of the Jack Kane Sport Centre and Community Wing. Visits to exemplar facilities in York and Knowsley have helped to confirm design direction for the cycling facilities.

A parallel search for a suitable location for a closed road loop has identified two possible sites in the west of the city. These loops might be suitable for junior training; further work is needed to confirm this, to carry out a public consultation and to secure the necessary approvals and permissions.

Links

Coalition pledges	P42 and P45
Council outcomes	CO4, CO10, CO20 and CO23
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2, SO3 and SO4

Update on Cycling Hub and Closed Road Loop

Recommendations

- 1.1 Note the progress of the cycling hub project;
- 1.2 Note the results to date of the search for a suitable location for a closed road loop in the city; and
- 1.3 Refer this report to the Finance and Resources Committee to meet that Committee's request for an update in August 2015.

Background

- 2.1 Members will recall that the results of a public consultation on the proposed cycling hub at Hunter's Hall Park were reported to the Committee's meeting on 16 December 2014. The Committee approved feasibility work to progress Option 4 for the cycling hub, comprising a BMX track, an outdoor velodrome, a cycle speedway track, two synthetic turf (3G) pitches, six grass pitches, and an upgrading of the Jack Kane Sport Centre and Community Wing. Committee also approved the procurement of consultants to develop the project to RIBA Stage C (pre-build phase), noting that the results of the procurement process would be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval.
- 2.2 The Culture and Sport Committee instructed officers to work with Scottish Cycling to investigate potential locations for a closed road loop in the city and present the findings within three committee cycles (ie to the present meeting.)

Main report

Procurement update

- 3.1 At its meeting on 13 May 2015, the Finance and Resources Committee approved the award of the contract for the multi-discipline design team to develop the cycling hub designs to RIBA Stage C to Faithful & Gould, for the sum of £136,500, using the SCAPE Framework Agreement.
- 3.2 The Finance and Resources Committee noted that once the project's funding requirement is confirmed, formal approval will be sought from the relevant committee to proceed to the construction phase.
- 3.3 The Finance and Resources Committee requested a progress report in two cycles (ie to its 27 August 2015 meeting).

Cycling hub design update

- 3.4 Following the contract award, Faithful & Gould organised a study daytrip for representatives from the Design Team, Council officers and Edinburgh Leisure staff. The group visited a 250m outdoor velodrome at York University's cycling hub, and a 400m outdoor velodrome in Knowsley, built and owned by the local authority. The York facility was built in 2014 and Knowsley in 2012.
- 3.5 The Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, Scotland's national track cycling arena, is an indoor facility, designed to host national and international track cycling competitions (which take place largely on 250m tracks). The steep banking of the York University velodrome mimics the geometry of indoor tracks, and uses a high quality tarmac surface to provide good grip. The facility is used by students and the University-based cycling club, and is open to the general public for taster sessions. Members of the public are encouraged to join the cycling club.
- 3.6 A BMX track and a small pump track (to practice riding over bumps) are included in the centre of the larger velodrome at Knowsley, and accessed when the velodrome track is not in use. The Knowsley facility is open to a wide range of cyclists. The York and Knowsley facilities are all enclosed to ensure no unauthorised access.
- 3.7 The trip provided valuable insights into the operation and design of cycling facilities. As a result of the trip, the design team will consider the following amendments for the cycling hub at Hunter's Hall Park:
 - 3.7.1 whether it would be practical and affordable to place the speedway track in the centre of the velodrome, with appropriate tunnel or bridge access;
 - 3.7.2 an enclosure around the velodrome, BMX track and possibly the speedway track;
 - 3.7.3 an additional pump track, to be unenclosed and accessible at any time to local children and young people;
 - 3.7.4 use of the high quality tarmac which provides good grip, dries out more quickly than a wooden track after wet weather, and is easier and cheaper to maintain than a wooden track.
- 3.8 A Stage 1 funding application has now been submitted to **sportscotland** as part of a two-stage process. The Stage 2 application cannot be submitted until further into the project, following the completion of elements such as the site surveys, planning permission, detailed designs, etc. Only once the Stage 2 application has been considered will **sportscotland** confirm whether funding has been approved, and to what level.
- 3.9 Early estimates of the project's timeline, prepared during the feasibility study, suggested that the works would be complete by late summer 2016. Faithful and Gould have now assessed the project and suggest that the completion date for the outdoor works will be closer to autumn 2016, while any upgrading to the Jack Kane Centre, which is dependent on funding, will be later.

Closed road loop update

- 3.10 The search for a suitable location for a closed road loop has been ongoing for several years, in partnership with the city's biggest cycling club, the Edinburgh Road Club, which has some 500 members.
- 3.11 Contact was made recently with Heriot-Watt University's Estates Manager and the group overseeing the National Performance Centre for Sport (NPCS), who confirmed that it would not be feasible to site a closed road loop on the University's estate or within the NPCS footprint. An approach was also made to the University of Edinburgh, who were also unable to identify a suitable site.
- 3.12 The Council held a workshop on 4 March 2015 with members of the cycling community and the governing body to try to identify parts of the existing road network that might potentially be closed off and used for cycling. This workshop generated over 30 potential sites, almost all of which are impractical because the roads in question are in use.
- 3.13 Two of these sites, both in west Edinburgh, have been chosen for more detailed investigation. Their limited size means that they could be suitable for junior riders but not for adult riders. A closed road loop is of most importance to juniors, as under-16s cannot be coached on public roads. Further work is needed to determine whether a loop could be created at one of these sites either permanently, or closed off at evenings and weekends, and whether either site would meet the logistical demands of coaches and riders. If the sites pass those tests, and internal discussions confirm in principle that the relevant permissions would be likely, the next stage would involve costing the minimal works required to close a loop, and consulting with the public and the cycling community on a draft proposal.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Development of a sustainable cycling hub in Hunter's Hall Park. Identification of a site for a closed road loop.

Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. As previously reported, the total cost of the cycling hub project is estimated at £6m to £7m. The work to develop a Stage C design is progressing within budget.
- 5.2 Scottish Cycling has worked with the Council to try to identify suitable sites for a closed road loop in the city, but is unable to commit any funding to this unbudgeted project. The search for a suitable site has focused on the existing road network as the most economical way to create a closed road loop. Should either of the two potential sites pass the logistical and sporting requirements

outlined above, the work which would be required to close off a loop would be costed at that stage.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1 There are no risk, policy, compliance or governance impacts arising from this report.

Equalities impact

7.1 There are no equalities impacts arising from this report.

Sustainability impact

8.1 There are no impacts on sustainability arising from this report.

Consultation and engagement

9.1 The Council has engaged with stakeholders to investigate potential sites for a closed road loop. If further work produces promising results, a proposal will be presented for public consultation.

Background reading/external references

Minute of Council meeting of [7 February 2013](#)

Report to Culture and Sport Committee on [28 May 2013](#)

Report to Culture and Sport Committee on [11 March 2014](#)

Report to Culture and Sport Committee on [27 May 2014](#) and article in Business Bulletin of Culture and Sport Committee of [21 October 2014](#)

Report to Culture and Sport Committee of [16 December 2014](#)

Report to Finance and Resources Committee of [13 May 2015](#)

Alastair D Maclean

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Deputy Chief Executive

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Links

Coalition pledges	P42 Continue to support and invest in our sporting infrastructure P45 Spend 7% of the transport budget on provision for cyclists
Council outcomes	CO4 Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy CO10 Improved health and reduced inequalities CO20 Culture, sport and major events – Edinburgh continues to be a leading cultural city where culture and sport play a central part in the lives and futures of citizens CO23 Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2 Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health SO3 Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential SO4 Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
Appendices	None