

Report To: Education & Communities Committee
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Report By: Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development.
Report No: EDUCOM/51/15/MM/GB

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Subject: Rankin Park – Developing the Sport of Mountain Biking

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval to progress with the development of the sport of mountain biking based at Rankin Park.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In September 2014 discussions were held with **sportscotland** on ways to complement the Rankin Park pitch development and make best use of the facilities and infrastructure developed in the park.
- 2.2 In January 2015 this Committee approved the allocation of £150,000 match funding for an Active Places funding application. The application was submitted to **sportscotland** in February and confirmation was received in April that the project had been granted £90,000 funding from the Active Places Fund.
- 2.3 Since the submission of the funding bid meetings have been held with Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park to discuss the potential connection to existing mountain bike club Ride 63. Several meetings have also been held with Scottish Cycling to discuss the development of the sport in the area, including the development of a club, club programme and a schools programme.
- 2.4 In order to progress with these developments there is a need to identify operational funding as was highlighted in the January report on the development.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the progression with the development of mountain biking as a sport, based at Rankin Park.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the re-allocation of the Outdoor Education budget to the development of mountain biking.

Patricia Cassidy
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4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The development of the Rankin Park Site as a Mountain Bike Hub to complement the existing facilities was covered in a report to Committee in January 2015. The following aspects were seen as key to the success of the facility when completed:

- Development of a **curricular school cycling programme**. Initial support from Active Schools, commitment from school and school staff, Scottish Cycling and longer term the local mountain biking club.
- Development of an **extra-curricular school cycling programme**. Initially supported by Active Schools, commitment from schools and school staff and longer term the local mountain biking club.
- Development of a local **mountain biking club and club programme**. Initially supported by Active Schools / Sports Development, Scottish Cycling, Ride 63 and Clyde Muirshield Regional Park.
- Development of Inverclyde as a regional destination for recreational mountain biking with Rankin Park being the local platform to access existing and new trails in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

4.2 The above programmes will require revenue funding and it was suggested in the January report that this might come from the Outdoor Education budget. This budget originally funded every P6 in the authority a 2 night, 3 day residential experience at Ardentenny Outdoor Centre. The budget was reduced by 50% with effect from April 2015. One of the effects of this budget reduction is that it is no longer possible to tender out this programme, instead the reduced funding has been downloaded directly to the school individual budgets.

4.3 Since the change from a fully funded programme schools have elected to spend the residual funding in a variety of ways. Some schools have continued with the P6 residential but asked for parental contributions to top up the fund. Others have used the funding for day trips, for example to Xscape or Castle Semple. In parallel with this a number of schools continue to run P7 residential trips. As this is no longer a universal provision it is proposed that the residual budget be used to establish programmes at the new Rankin Park facility.

5.0 DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOLS CURRICULAR MOUNTAIN BIKING

5.1 The initial draft timeline for the development of the facility would be completion in late September / October 2015. This provides a timeline for the sport development element of the programme with a likely commencement in spring 2016.

5.2 The first step is to identify key staff with the ability to achieve UKCC Level 1, 2 and Discipline Specific Unit MTB Scottish Cycling coaching qualifications. These qualifications are the minimum required to lead any mountain bike coaching sessions. Candidates could be drawn from Active Schools, teaching staff within schools or local members of the existing Ride 63 club. Those put through the courses would be expected to lead a minimum number of coaching sessions in the first two years. These could be in any of the three programmes, curricular, extra – curricular or club.

5.3 Key Qualifications and costs are as follows:

- UKCC Level 1 £300 per person with 2 day course and 12 weeks online learning. Course due to run in Glasgow April/May 2015. Year one it is recommended to qualify 4 coaches at this level, total £1,200.
- UKCC Level 2 £420 per person with 2 day course, 12 week assessment gap then a final day. Course due to run in Glasgow 15th August to qualify in November 2015.

Year one it is recommended to qualify 2 coaches at this level, total £840.00.

- UKCC Discipline Specific Mountain Biking Unit £210 per person 2 day course operates once per year in Scotland. Target 2016 for completion of this qualification. Year 1 it is recommended to qualify 2 coaches at this level, total £420.
- Emergency First Aid 1 day qualification £50 per person dependent on training provider. Year 1 all coaches would require this, total £200 approx.

- 5.4 A Safeguarding & Protection of Children qualification and completion of a PVG certificate would be required by each person. It is anticipated by working in partnership with ICPC and Active Schools that these initial set up costs could be met by existing budgets.
- 5.5 To maintain or grow the programme yearly coaching qualifications would be required to ensure a good solid, reliable base of coaches are available, whether this would be moving existing coaches up the coaching ladder or bringing in new coaches at the entry level. This is harder to estimate as it is dependent on individual coach's circumstances, availability and ability to move up the coaching ladder. It is estimated that a yearly budget of £1,150 should allow 2 new level 1 coaches and 1 new level 2 coaches to qualify, including emergency first aid.
- 5.6 The schools curricular programme would commence term 3, April – June 2016. The target age group would be P7 – S2, maximum 30 per class with 2 qualified instructors and 2 assistants. Approximately 9 weeks are available between Easter and summer holidays for a coaching programme. Sessions could operate over 2 periods / 2 hours allowing travel, changing, bike fitting and 1 hour lesson. Dependent on scheduling it is possible to fit in 5 sessions per day. This is reliant on the instructors' availability which would determine the number of days per week that could be offered, which would determine the number of classes/schools that could be part of the programme. The primary schools that currently engage in the Bikeability programme would be key targets to build upon and develop existing programmes. The secondary schools that are keen to engage and are in close proximity would be key targets in year 1. Access to Rankin Park pavilion changing and toilet facilities would be essential for the programme.
- 5.7 Schools curricular programme could be further developed to offer an additional block of coaching between August – Oct 2016 providing a further 7 week programme.
- 5.8 The schools curricular programme would require a bike hire contract to be secured. After consultation with Scottish Cycling, Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland and Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, all parties strongly recommended bike hire rather than bike purchase to ensure ongoing safety standards and reliability were met. Initial enquiries indicate that this cost would be in the regional of £10 + VAT for 1 junior bike and £12 + VAT for 1 adult bike per day. This would include helmets, tool kit & pump. Term 3 April- June 2016 would cost in the region of £360 per day for 30 bikes for secondary pupils, totalling £3,240 for a 9 week block. Dependent on scheduling, it would be possible for 5 sessions of 1 hour coaching per day totalling 150 young people. The autumn programme would cost in the region of £2,520.
- 5.9 The school curricular programme would require bus transport to/from Rankin Park. Initial enquiries indicate that the current cost of a 33 seater coach outwith contract rates would be £80 return journey. This would total £6,400 for 5 return journeys per day over 16 weeks. If this was put out to tender then it is envisaged that a reduction in cost could be achieved.
- 5.10 The cost estimates for the school curricular programme factor in the cost of paying instructors initially in case of being unable to find suitable staff to progress through UKCC courses in year 1. Current rates of pay for sessional coaching staff including on-costs sit at £15 per hour at grade F, bringing the 16 week programme to £2,400.

6.0 DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOLS EXTRA-CURRICULAR MOUNTAIN BIKING

- 6.1 The schools extra-curricular programme would commence term 3 April – June 2016. Again the target age group would be P7-S2, initially 1 session per week 5.30-7.00pm. This would operate on the same day as the curricular sessions utilising the bike hire from the curricular sessions and minimising costs.
- 6.2 The schools extra-curricular programme would factor in the cost of paying instructors initially in case of being unable to find suitable staff to progress through UKCC courses in year 1. Current rates of pay for sessional coaching staff including on-costs sit at £15 per hour at grade F, bringing the 16 week programme to £720.

7.0 DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN BIKING CLUB

- 7.1 Initial discussions with Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and Ride 63, their newly formed and constituted Scottish Cycling club, have been positive. It is proposed we work in partnership with both parties and establish a satellite Ride 63 section at Rankin Park.
- 7.2 It is envisaged that with support from Scottish Cycling, the Active Schools/Sports Development team and Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Ride 63 Club could build and operate a club programme which could include:
- Come & Try Sessions
 - Weekly Coaching Sessions
 - Holiday Programmes
 - Friday Night Skills Night
 - Adult Sessions Ladies/Beginners
 - Adult Ride Out Ladies/Beginners/Intermediate
 - Competition Circuit

These aspects are all featured in equivalent strong clubs in Scotland and would be a key aspect in developing a pathway for participation for those who have gone through the schools programmes.

- 7.3 Initial support will be required to establish a local network which could sustain such a programme. This will involve assistance with coaching qualifications, mountain bike leader qualifications, access to the changing pavilion, bike hire for come & try sessions. It is estimated that initial set up costs for year 1 would be £5,000. This compares favourably with the level of support given to sports clubs through the waivers scheme.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 8.1 Financial implications are detailed below. These include one off training costs in 2015/2016 and a proposed operational budget for 2016-2017 onwards.

Financial Implications

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Outdoor Education	Training	2015-2016	£2,660		Initial coaching team set up
	Club Development	2015-2016	£5,000		

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments
Outdoor Education	Training	2016-2017	£1,150		*assuming pavilion transferred to II
	Access to pavilion	2016-2017	£500		
	Curricular Bike Hire 2 day per wk. x 16 wks.	2016-2017	£11,520		
	Transport 33 seater bus 2 days per wk. x 16wks	2016-2017	£12,800		
	School transport Contribution	2016-2017	£(5,500)		
	2 Instructors £15 per hr x 6hr x 16wks	2016-2017	£5,760		
	2 instructors £15 per hr x 1.5hr x 16wks	2016-2017	£720		
	Club Development	2016-2017	£3150		
	Total		£30,000		

Human Resources

8.2 There are no human resources implications.

Legal

8.3 There are no legal implications.

Equalities

8.4 The proposed development should have a positive effect on gender equalities in sport in Inverclyde.

Repopulation

8.5 If seen through, this development could have a positive effect on the areas image, highlighting as it will the excellent links from Greenock to the regional park and the leisure opportunities available. It will also enable routes to be developed which could maximise the direct economic impact on Inverclyde.

9.0 CONSULTATIONS

9.1 In preparing this report the following have been consulted:

- Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park
- Scottish Cycling
- Cycling Scotland
- **Sportscotland**
- IC Road Safety Officers

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Rankin Park – Developing Potential as a Mountain Bike Hub – Education & Communities Committee January 2015