

Outdoor Cycling Circuit - Update

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Planning, Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Board requested an update on the outdoor cycling circuit and therefore this report provides a summary of the key features of the proposed facility; some of the key reasons why it is proposed to submit a planning application for the facility to be built on the nature reserve land at the side of the multi –use sports arena; the key next steps and the feedback that has been received to date from the initial public consultation exhibition that was held on 25 July 2013.
- 1.2 The building of an outdoor cycling circuit meets the development and programming needs of British Cycling, who will be considering a funding application from the Council for the capital costs of this facility later this year.
- 1.3 The proposed location of the outdoor cycling circuit enables key facilities and resources to be utilised from the adjacent multi-use sports arena, creating economies of scale, efficiencies, better programming opportunities and greater customer satisfaction.
- 1.4 Comments have been received from some people about the ecology issues relating to the proposed location of the outdoor cycling circuit on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR). In recognition of the ecological sensitivity of the site's south western corner the Council has developed an alternative route based on independent professional ecologist survey information
- 1.5 A formal planning application will be submitted in September 2013 for the outdoor cycling circuit, enabling further formal public consultation to take place and for all the key issues to be explored further through the formal channels.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the information in the report regarding this key project and provide comments or recommendations for the Leisure Facilities Strategy Board to consider.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that the Planning, Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Board is

kept up to date on the progress of the outdoor cycling circuit project.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The development of the outdoor cycling circuit is part of the Council's Leisure Facilities Strategy. It is a facility that complements the multi –use sport arena, one of two iconic facilities being developed in the city that is due to open at the end of 2014. The idea for an outdoor cycling circuit to be at the same site as the multi –use sports arena has been the subject of discussions for some time, culminating in the inclusion of an illustrative plan of a draft cycle route as part of the Arena planning application, which at that time went round the perimeter of the LNR.
- 4.2 In recognition of the ecological sensitivity of the site's south western corner the Council has developed an alternative route based on independent professional ecologist survey information. The revised route has been designed to avoid the most sensitive ecological areas, whilst also maintaining a challenging and dynamic circuit. In addition to the outdoor cycling circuit and to further enhance the scope of cycling opportunities, a mountain bike skills area is proposed within the north western part of the site.
- 4.3 The key features contained in the draft proposal for the outdoor cycling circuit are:
- The track will be 1750m long
 - It will have a constant width of 6m
 - It will be constructed from a coated macadam and finished with a slip resistant material
 - Appropriate lighting and fencing will be provided to provide a safe environment
- 4.4 A key advantage of the outdoor cycling circuit being sited next to the multi –use sport arena is that it can complement the following facilities and customers can use and benefit from sharing the:
- 250 indoor cycling track
 - 125 station health and fitness suite
 - Spinning studio
 - Changing facilities including 'Changing Places' and accessible rooms
 - Cycle club room
 - Meeting rooms
 - Café and bar
 - Venue staff
 - Coaching staff
 - Car parking
 - Park and Ride facility
 - This creates economies of scale, efficiencies, greater programming opportunities and more convenience for users

- 4.5 Outlined below are the key steps for completion of the proposed outdoor cycling circuit.
- 25 July 2013 - public and key stakeholder exhibition event for the proposed outdoor cycling circuit completed
 - Mid/late September 2013 - planning application to be submitted for the proposed outdoor cycling circuit and project to be included onto the Council's Capital Programme
 - Early/mid Nov 2013 - funding application for the outdoor cycling circuit to be submitted to British Cycling
 - Beginning of January 2014 - planning application decision expected
 - April 2014 - subject to planning approval, construction to commence on the proposed outdoor cycling circuit with an approximate 4 month build period
- 4.6 In addition to the public consultation that would be part of the formal planning application additional consultation was undertaken at a public exhibition on 25 July 2013. The exhibition was conducted by a planning consultant and a professional ecologist representative. Their feedback was that the exhibition was a great success attracting double the numbers that would normally be expected to attend an event such as this. A summary of the responses from the questionnaires completed at the Exhibition is shown in Appendix 2.
- 4.7 Below is a summary of the key feedback received from the event.
- Approximately 121 attendees were at the event, of the attendees 116 feedback forms were completed or part completed.
 - In response to Question 1 *"do you think it is important to provide a 'traffic free' cycling facility in Derby"*, of those responded 94% of respondents agreed, 6% of respondents disagreed
 - In response to Question 3 *"Do you think that the emerging design of the circuit is preferable to the previous design which was located around the perimeter of the Local Nature Reserve?"*, of those responded 58% of respondents agreed, 21% of respondents disagreed and 21% "don't know"
 - In response to Question 8 *"Do you support the proposed closed circuit cycle track at Pride Park?"*, of those responded 70% respondents agreed, 25% of respondents disagreed and 5% "don't know"
- 4.8 A summary in terms of general comments from conversations around the room, and an overview of the feedback forms is below in relation to the **ecology** comments:
- there are other sites in Derby where the cycle circuit could be located
 - disturbance (lighting, noise) and loss of habitat to birds, particularly rare breeding birds and overwintering migrants is an issue
 - the north "middle" area being too disturbed and lit for wildlife and this land would end up being used as part of the development
 - existence of great crested newts on site and survey work undertaken
 - the removal of the area of scrub to the east which is well used by migrant warblers, and is the only habitat of its kind onsite

- disturbance of contaminated land
- on going management of the LNR
- Some comments welcomed the revised design which has responded to the some of the ecological sensitivities of the site.

4.9 A summary in terms of general comments from conversations around the room, and an overview of the feedback forms is below in relation to the **cycling** comments:

- enthusiasm for an off road, safe cycle track for Derby
- welcoming the flexibility provided by the revised design, in terms of uses and users
- the necessity for lighting for year round use and fencing for security
- the current lack of use of Alvaston Park BMX track and concern that this may not be well used
- questions on how the area between the two tracks will be used for spectators
- concerns that the track is relatively flat – it would be better for training if there were inclines
- provision of an additional loopback in north eastern corner to create 3 separate 'sub' tracks
- the necessity for other facilities e.g. covered seating, clubhouse, cycle stands
- whether the mountain bike skills area is too small to be used effectively
- how management of the track along the river will be done as it will be out of sight and isolated due to the mound.

4.10 The draft proposed outdoor cycling circuit route and some photographs will be provided at the meeting.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Various options have been considered as part of the process, which shall form part of the formal planning application. When the planning documents are available they will be available for the Planning, Housing and Leisure Scrutiny Board Members.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Claire Davenport, Director of Leisure and Culture Derek Jinks, Project Manager and David Grose, Contract Project Manager
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Claire Davenport 01332 642433 claire.davenport@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Summary of public consultation feedback

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The MUSA forms part of the Council's £58,871 million Leisure Facilities Strategy. A grant for £3 million has been awarded by Sport England towards the Leisure Facilities Strategy project budget and an additional funding application will be submitted to British Cycling for the proposed outdoor cycling circuit whom are very supportive of the proposed facility.

Legal

- 2.1 Section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000 requires that the power of an overview and scrutiny committee to review or scrutinise a decision made but not implemented includes power to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the person who made it.

Personnel

- 3.1 Subject to the planning application being approved for the development of the proposed outdoor cycling circuit facility, the location of the facility will provide the staff with the opportunity for a more varied and rewarding role.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Effective scrutiny benefits all Derby people.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 The proposed outdoor cycling circuit, if planning is approved, complements the velodrome being built in the multi - use sport arena. These facilities will help create a comprehensive cycling facility of local, regional and national significance in the city.

Risk Management

- 8.1 As part of the project management a risk log will be developed and implemented to manage all associated risks to this project.

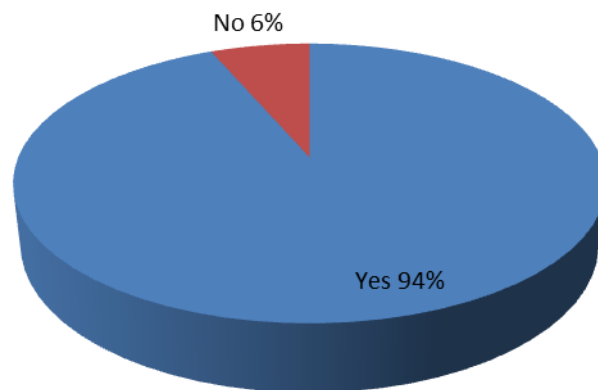
Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 The Council Plan objectives met by this project are; a thriving sustainable economy;

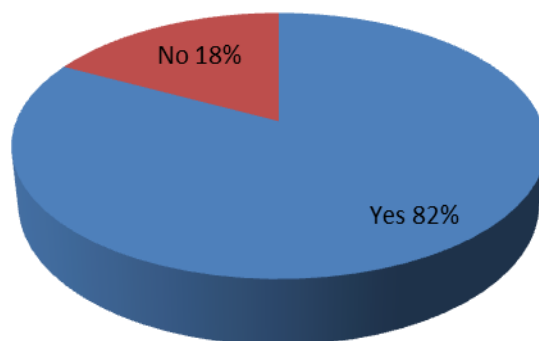
good health and well-being; a strong community and an active cultural life.

Appendix 2

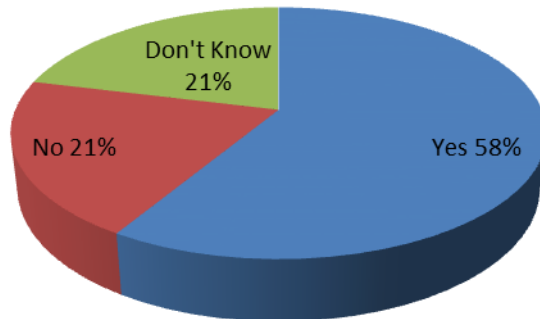
Q1. Do you think it is important to provide a traffic free' cycling facility in Derby?



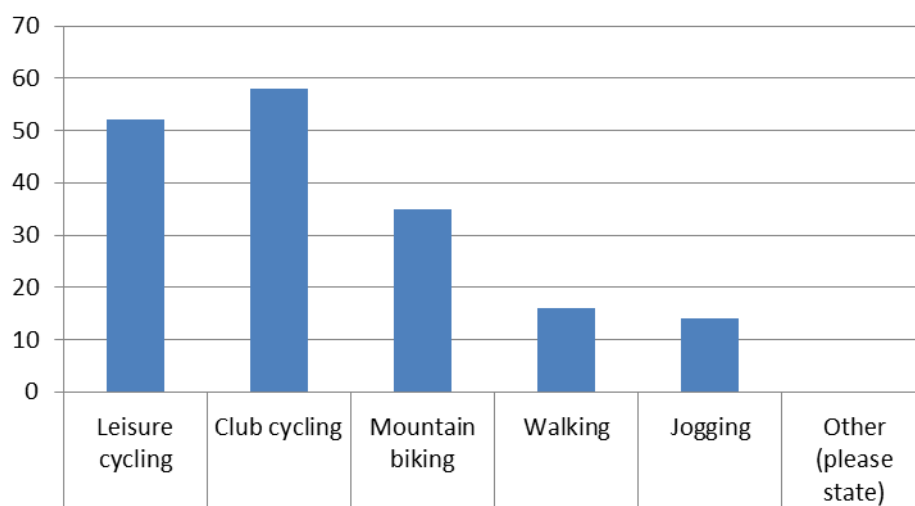
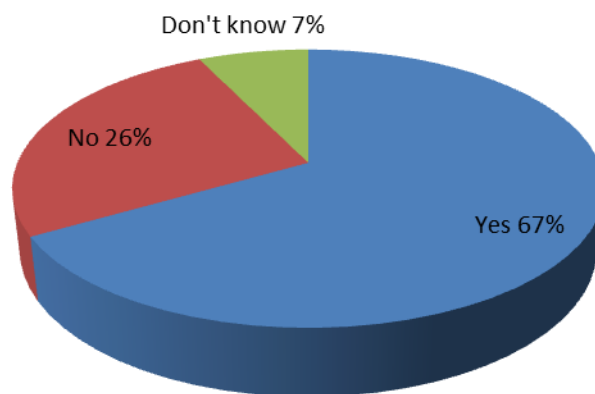
Q2. Before this exhibition, were you aware of Derby City Council's ambition to create an outdoor cycling circuit at Pride Park?



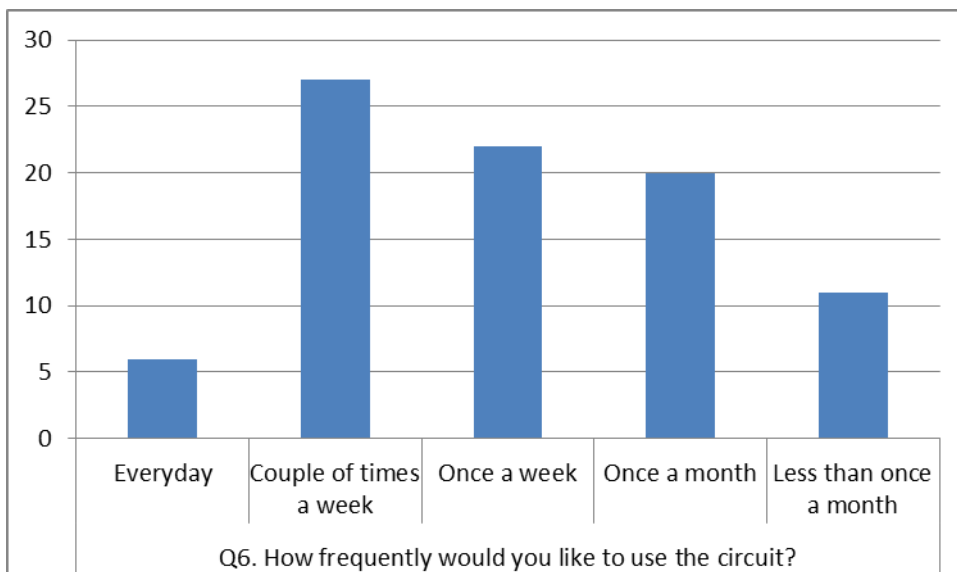
Q3. Do you think that the emerging design of the circuit is preferable to the previous design which was located around the perimeter of the Local Nature Reserve?



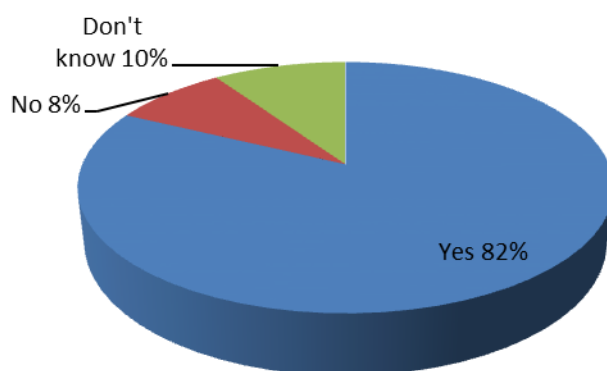
Q4. Would you/your family/friends use this circuit once available?



Q5. What type of activity would you undertake?



Q7. If you are a member of a cycling club, do you think this facility would noticeably improve your operation and participation?



Q8. Do you support the proposed closed circuit cycle track at Pride Park?

