

Banchory Skate Park

Feasibility Study

Alan Jones Associates

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1 Executive Summary

The Banchory Skatepark Group was set up with the ultimate goal of providing a new modern skate park that meets the needs of Banchory and surrounding communities. The current Banchory Skatepark Group (SPG) was formed in Autumn 2016, constituted in July 2017 and was awarded charitable status in September 2017.

Twenty years ago, Banchory had more appropriate facilities including a small wooden half pipe which was replaced with a bowl, which was located in the south east corner of King George V park, but due to Health and Safety concerns this was removed and not replaced. This generated local interest and a campaign and with local business assistance a new ramp was built in Bellfield Park.

The current Skatepark is woefully inadequate and consists of just a simple steel half-pipe located on a concrete base in the north west corner of Bellfield Park.

Many North East Scotland towns, for example; Stonehaven, Alford, Kemnay, Carnoustie and Arbroath to name just a few, all have Skateparks that better meet the requirements of wheeled sports.

With no appropriate wheeled sports facilities in the area, Banchory has a large number of scooter riders, BMX, Skateboard and In-line skaters desperate for a Skatepark.

Young people from Banchory Academy under the supervision of Carol Douglas (Aberdeenshire Council Community Learning Worker) are playing an active role in the group, meeting once a week after school, fund raising via Tesco Bag packing, creating interest in the community and attending all the Skatepark Group meetings. The youth group also participated in two "demos" at the Banchory River Festival in June 2017 and at the Banchory Show in July 2017 - these events were a great success and were well attended both by potential users of the new facility and from interested members of the community.

A "Jam Session" held in July 2018 with BMX, Skateboard and Scooter competitors from Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Peterhead and Fraserburgh. The event was sponsored by two local business providing small prizes, a pop-up shop and presence on the day.

In 2018 the Group successfully applied to Awards for All for funding a Feasibility Study and the following report outlines the viability and feasibility for taking the project forward.

2 Recommendations

1. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group apply to Aberdeenshire Council for a 25-year lease of the site at Bellfield Park for a peppercorn rent for the construction of a concrete skate park (Site plan Section 7 refers).
2. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group advertises a design and build contract on Public Contracts Scotland.
3. It is recommended that floodlighting be included in the design and build specification.
4. It is recommended that on receipt of tenders Banchory Skatepark Group carry out a tender evaluation exercise to select a preferred contractor.
5. It is recommended that once a preferred design has been chosen that this is submitted as part of a full Planning Application to Aberdeenshire Council.
6. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group continue to fundraise towards Third Party Contributions required for any applications to the Scottish Communities Landfill Fund.
7. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group considers appointing a Project Manager on a fixed term arrangement to assist with capital funding applications, procurement and contractor management until the completion of the project.

8. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group continues to lobby for letters of support for the project.
9. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group continues to keep the community informed of the progress of the project through social media channels.

3 Introduction

3.1 Project Overview

The Group have read **sportscotland's** Guide to Project Development Skate and Wheeled Sports Parks and have engaged their local community in assessing community need for a new concrete wheeled sports facility for Banchory.

Banchory Skatepark Group have presented their plans to the Banchory Community Council directly. At the Banchory Community Development Plan Launch Event, the Banchory Skatepark Group were selected to present at the event and subsequently selected and identified in the Banchory Community Development Plan. The outline plan to provide a new Skatepark has been supported by senior management within Aberdeenshire Council who are currently processing our lease application together with favourable support received from Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department.

Designs are underway with the intention to submit a planning application in Autumn 2018. In tandem we will be seeking a Community Asset Transfer for a lease from the Council.

3.2 Banchory Skate Park Project

“The current ramp was starting to fail and was built with no coping. With some funds we raised, the donation of time, materials and man power from McIntosh plant hire we made the ramp safer for all and re sited it to allow a greater space for the introduction of other skating facilities. This is all temporary because we are aiming to have a new concrete Skatepark in place in the coming years.”



Banchory Skate Group

The Banchory Skatepark have a small but very competent committee with a good range of professional skills and interests to take the project forward, both through the project management phase, and also once the project is completed to oversee the day to day operations of the new facility. Below are very brief summaries of the committee's skills and interests.

Russell Crichton, Chairman of Banchory Skatepark Group,

Russell is a Subsea Engineering Consultant in the Oil & Gas Industry but more importantly a lifetime skateboarder. He is married with 3 sons who skateboard, BMX and scooter. He has been skateboarding for over 30 years and would love to share his enthusiasm and the benefits of wheeled ports with the community.

He also remains a director of the Banchory District Initiative, who's aims are focused on community improvement. Recently Russell was also a coach with the Banchory Boys Club for the last 6 or 7 years from which he has taken time out to deliver the Skatepark project.

In addition to Skateboarding, Russell is a very keen snowboarder, fisherman, car enthusiast and a recent convert to the gym.

Michael Ellington

Established 20Twenty BMX Store in 2004, along with running the BMX business I organised the annual 20Twenty BMX Jams which took place in various parks across Scotland. Sat on the advisory panel for Transition Extreme Skatepark from 2005 until circa 2013 representing the BMX riders of Aberdeen in initial planning stages through to redevelopment planning.

Bruce Skinner

Bruce has lived in Banchory for the last 17 years with his Wife Laura and two Sons Archie and Hamish. He is a Director of PiSYS.net Aberdeen – Providing IT Support for businesses which he has been running since September 2009. Bruce enjoys Snowboarding in the winter and SUP boarding in the summer. He also enjoys hill walking and is a member of a running club and run twice a week with them. Bruce is an assistant scout leader for 1st Banchory Scout group with 6 years involvement. In the past he has been an active member of Banchory Round Table, Banchory Boys Football Club (coaching) and Deeside Rugby football club (Coaching)

Helen Noble Treasurer

Helen Noble, CA I am a chartered accountant with experience of working with a variety of charities through my job and as a volunteer. In my 'spare time' I am an assistant leader for Banchory cub scouts. As a mum of two children aged 10 and 11, I think a new skatepark in Banchory would be a fabulous asset for the community as a whole.

Alasdair Burgess

Ali works as a Project engineer in the Oil and Gas industry over the last 12years and moved back to Banchory 3years ago after living aboard for a number of years.

He grew up in Banchory from 1986 until leaving for university in 2002, before returning for a couple of year prior to moving to Australia and Asia.

Ali started skateboarding in 1989 in Banchory and was part of the skate park committee as a youth around 1998. In his spare time he enjoys snowboarding, skateboarding, surfing and also teaching and competing in surf life- saving and is the current captain of Aberdeen Surf Life Saving Club.

4 Market Assessment

4.1 Banchory

The largest town in Marr is Banchory (7,520), Huntly is also a significant settlement (4,720) and has its own railway station on the line between Aberdeen and Inverness whilst Alford (2,290) is the administrative centre. All settlements over 500 people experienced population growth between 2003 and 2012, however this is more modest compared to other administrative areas. Most notably, Tarland's population increased by 26.3% between 2003 and 2012 whilst Banchory's increased by 19.6% during the same period.

Banchory is a burgh or town in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. It is about 18 miles west of Aberdeen, near where the Feugh River meets the River Dee. Banchory's heritage stretches back many centuries and artefacts from the Stone Age and Pictish times have been found in the area. The earliest documented settlement was founded in the 5th century Current Era (CE). It was established on the north bank of the River Dee where there was a natural ford at the junction with the River Feugh. During the Middle Ages, this site became the location of the annual St. Ternan's Fair.

The town's picturesque setting fuelled further residential expansion during the oil boom of the 1970s and in the last forty years Banchory has expanded substantially to become a popular commuter town. The final years of the 20th century and the early years of the 21st have seen major new housing developments at Hill of Banchory and the loss of some of the town's green open spaces.

Services and social facilities have been unable to keep pace with the rate of population expansion. Education, health care, community, and cultural facilities are all under pressure, and there is concern that the town's reputation as a desirable destination is being gradually eroded.

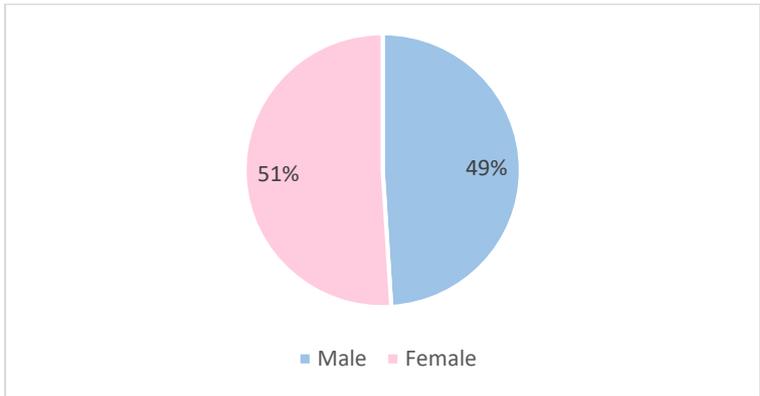
This has been addressed more recently with the ongoing construction of a new £7.7m Banchory Sports Village including a new six lane swimming pool; training pool; three court sports hall; fitness suite; exercise room and squash courts; changing facilities; storage rooms; staff facilities; public viewing areas for the swimming pool and squash courts and a cafe. As well as the sports village there will be 130 homes, a care village and shops being built on the site.

These new homes will also bring more children and the new skate park will meet these needs.

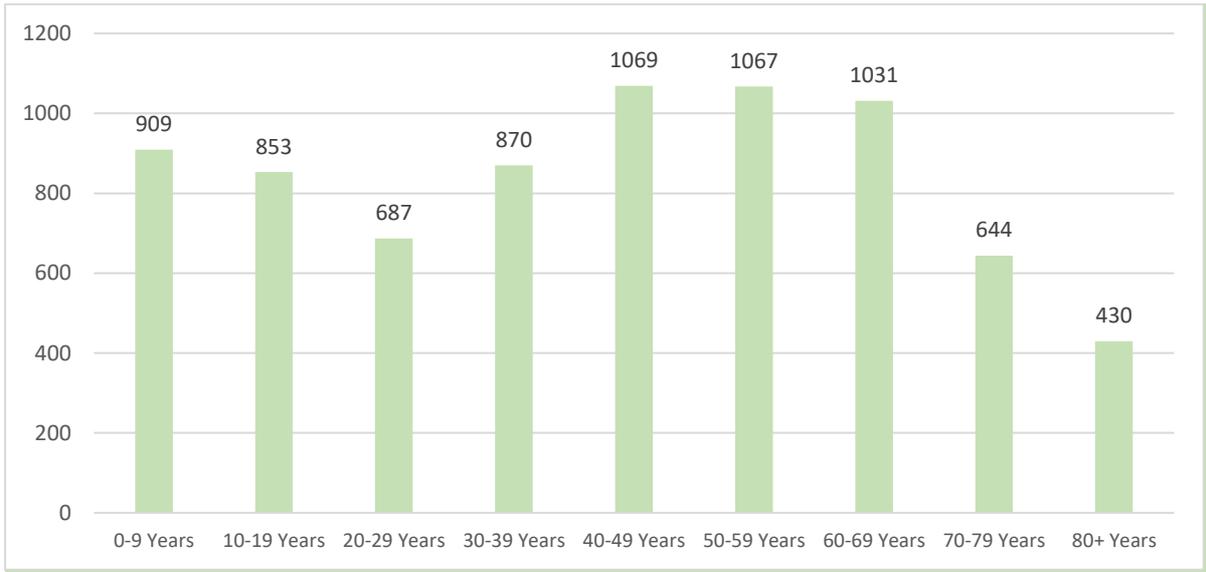
4.2 Demographic Context

The following charts and statistics outline the demographic makeup and projected figures for Banchory using details from government records and the latest census.

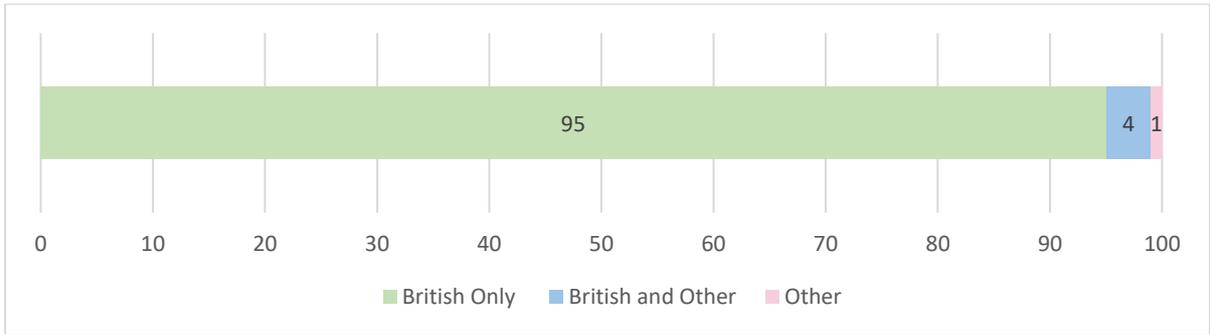
Gender Breakdown (2016)



Age Breakdown (2016)



Nationality (2011 Census)

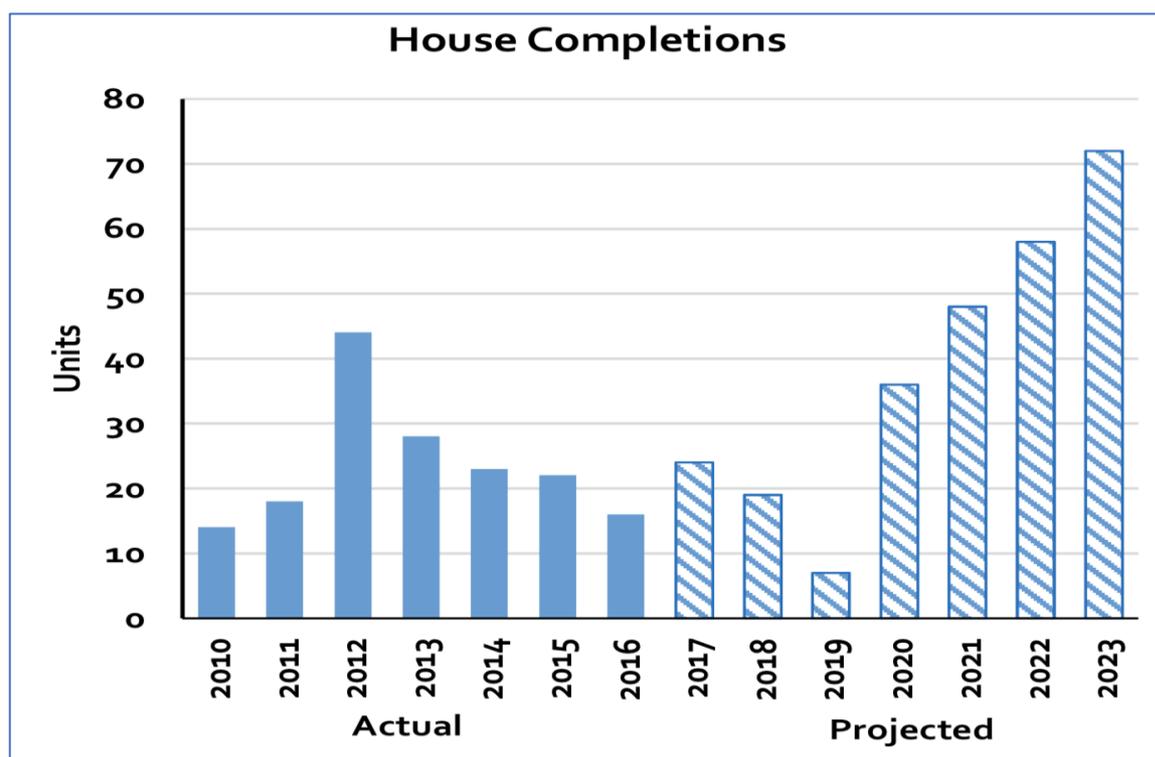


School Role Projections

| | Capacity | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 16-22 Growth % |
|---------------------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------|
| Banchory Academy | 900 | 814 | 826 | 841 | 855 | 882 | 874 | 883 | +8.5% |
| Banchory Primary School | 550 | 433 | 420 | 402 | 403 | 407 | 415 | 421 | -2.7% |
| Hill of Banchory Primary School | 387 | 380 | 373 | 383 | 388 | 368 | 368 | 373 | -1.8% |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Crathes Primary School | 19 | 36 | 36 | 42 | 46 | 44 | 48 | 50 | +39% |
| Strachan Primary School | 47 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 12 | 19 | 21 | 23 | +360% |
| Drumoak Primary School | 145 | 109 | 110 | 114 | 119 | 123 | 125 | 121 | +1.8% |
| Durris Primary School | 59 | 41 | 40 | 39 | 44 | 46 | 49 | 49 | +19.5% |
| TOTAL | | 3834 | 3822 | 3844 | 3886 | 3909 | 3921 | 3942 | +2.8% |

Housing Stock Projections – Aberdeenshire Council Town Profile



4.3 SIMD Assessment

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government’s official tool for identifying areas of deprivation across Scotland. SIMD16 is the Scottish Government’s fifth edition since 2004.

It is used by the Scottish Government to target resources and policies at small areas and feeds into work looking at inequalities across Scotland. Amongst other local authorities and community planning partnerships, Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership use the SIMD to focus resources as part of their Single Outcome Agreement, as do Health Boards and other public and private organisations.

The town of Banchory and its rural surroundings sits within 8-12 datazones, all of which demonstrate a fairly low levels of deprivation across all indices. The only exception to this is a notable level of deprivation in relation to Crime Ranking in datazone S01006865 – Banchory West, and deprivation relating to the Geographic access domain in datazones.

4.4 Trends in Sports and Leisure

Gathering statistical data on sports participation, the Scottish Government has identified the following key trends in sports participation.

- There is a general increase in the overall number of people partaking in sporting activity, measuring respondents who have partaken in activity within four weeks.
- Individuals who rate their health as good are more likely to take part in sports activities than those who rate their health as bad or very bad.
- There remains a gender gap in sports participation, with more male participants than female. It is noted that this gap had significantly reduced over the last ten years.
- Levels of deprivation have a direct correlation with participation in sports and exercise. Significantly lower income households demonstrate considerably less sports participation. Many local authority leisure trusts and facilities have developed concessionary membership schemes and pricing to encourage participation from this demographic and to support the reduction of this gap.
- There is a larger rate of sports participation in young people living in rural areas compared to those living in larger urban towns and cities.

4.5 Development of Wheeled Sports and Skateboarding

In 2016, The International Olympic Committee announced that five new sports will be added to the Tokyo 2020 Games, including skateboarding.

The thinking was that skating would draw a young audience in. "We want to take sport to the youth," said IOC president Thomas Bach. "With the many options that young people have, we cannot expect any more that they will come automatically to us."



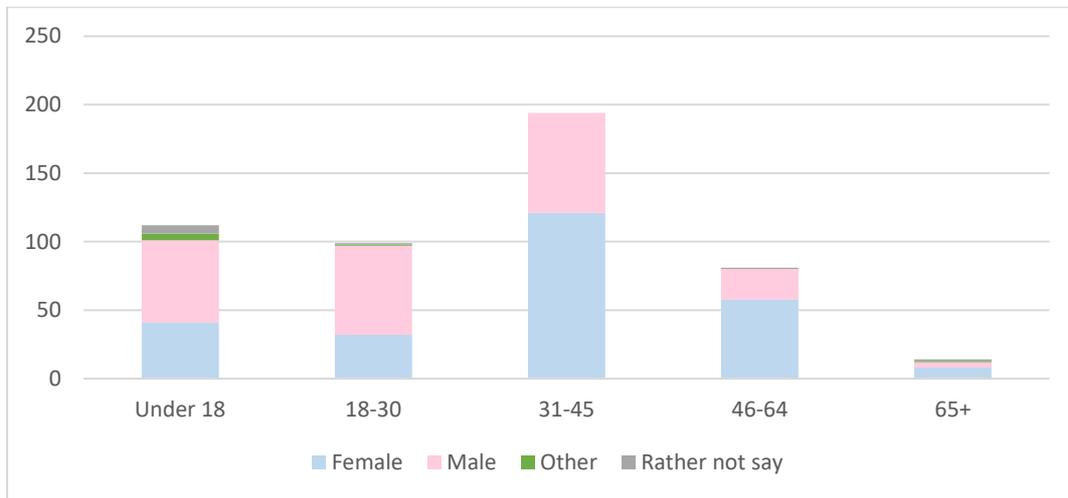
5 Stakeholder Engagement

5.1 Community Consultation

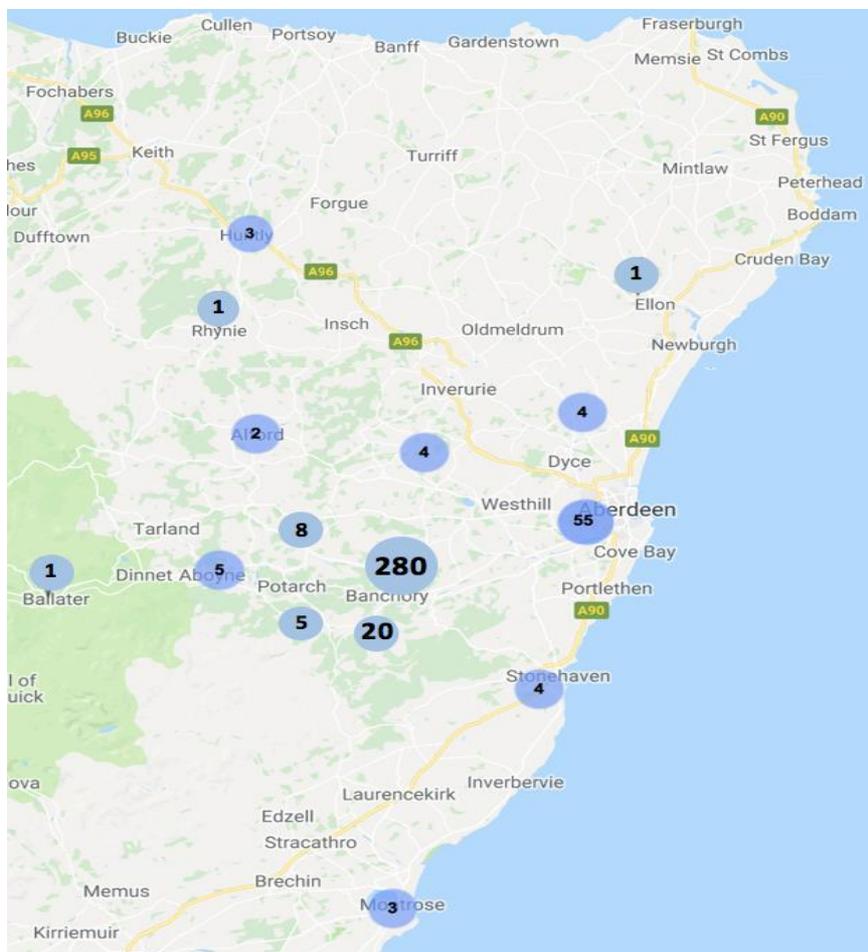
As part of this report, a comprehensive consultation exercise was undertaken with access to an online survey promoted through social media, email and local groups. In total, there were 531 respondents with the results detailed below.

Question One asked respondents to indicate their permission for the storage of their personal data including their IP address, by Alan Jones Associates as the data controller, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (2018). This ensures compliance on behalf of Alan Jones Associates and the Client.

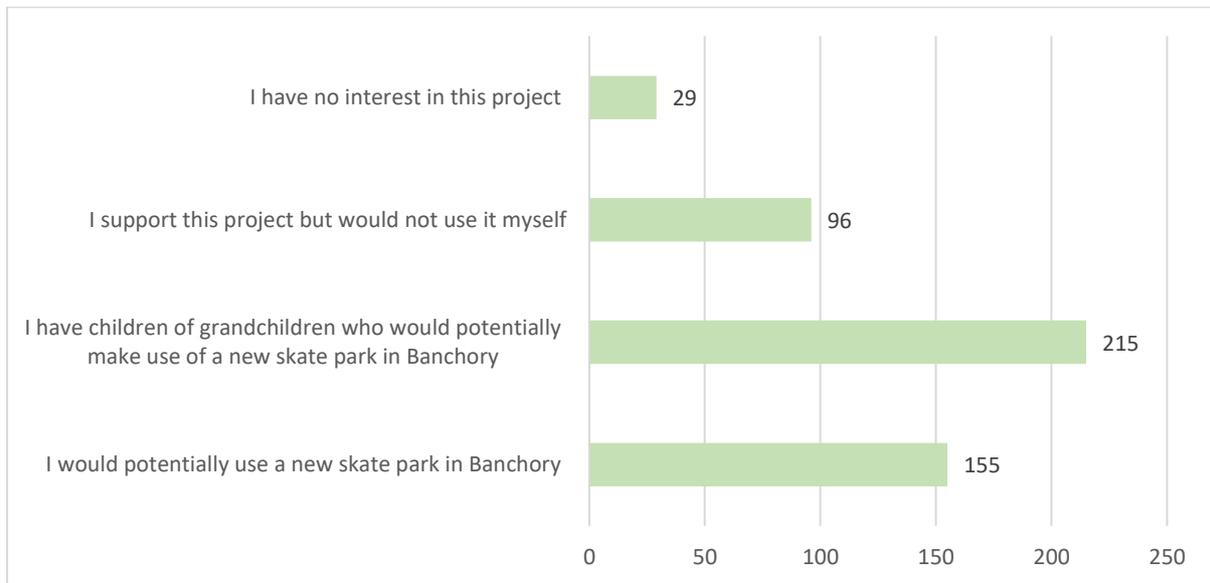
Questions Two and Three asked respondents to indicate their age and gender with the results outlined in the graph below:



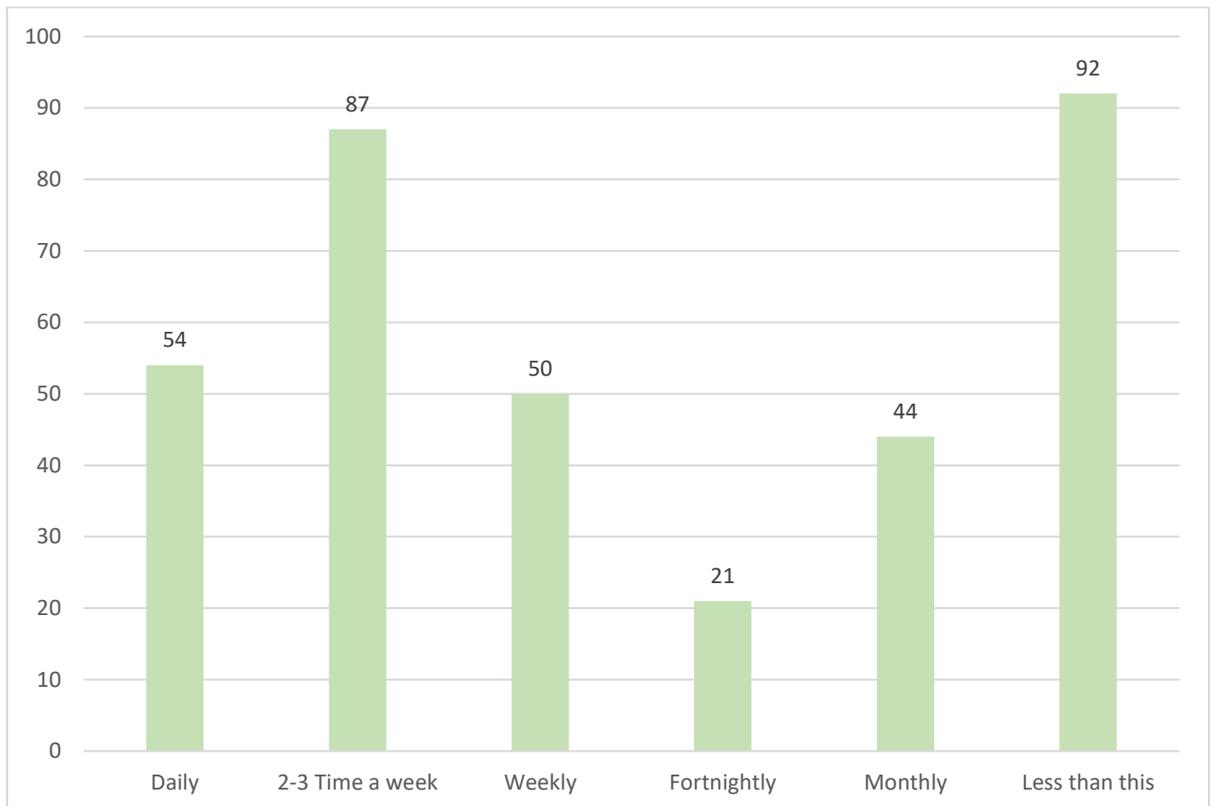
Question Four asked the respondent to indicate their post code. The results of this question have been outlined in the adjacent map. Additionally, three respondents were noted as being from the central belt, increasing the evidence of widespread support throughout Scotland.



Question Five asked the respondents to indicate the statement that best suited their current or potential interest in the development of a new skate park in Banchory. The results are noted below. This questions also allowed respondents who did not support the project to be acknowledged but disqualified them from some further questions which would therefore be irrelevant to them.



Question Six asked respondents how often they, or their children currently make use of a wheeled sports facility in Banchory. The results are outlined in the graph below:

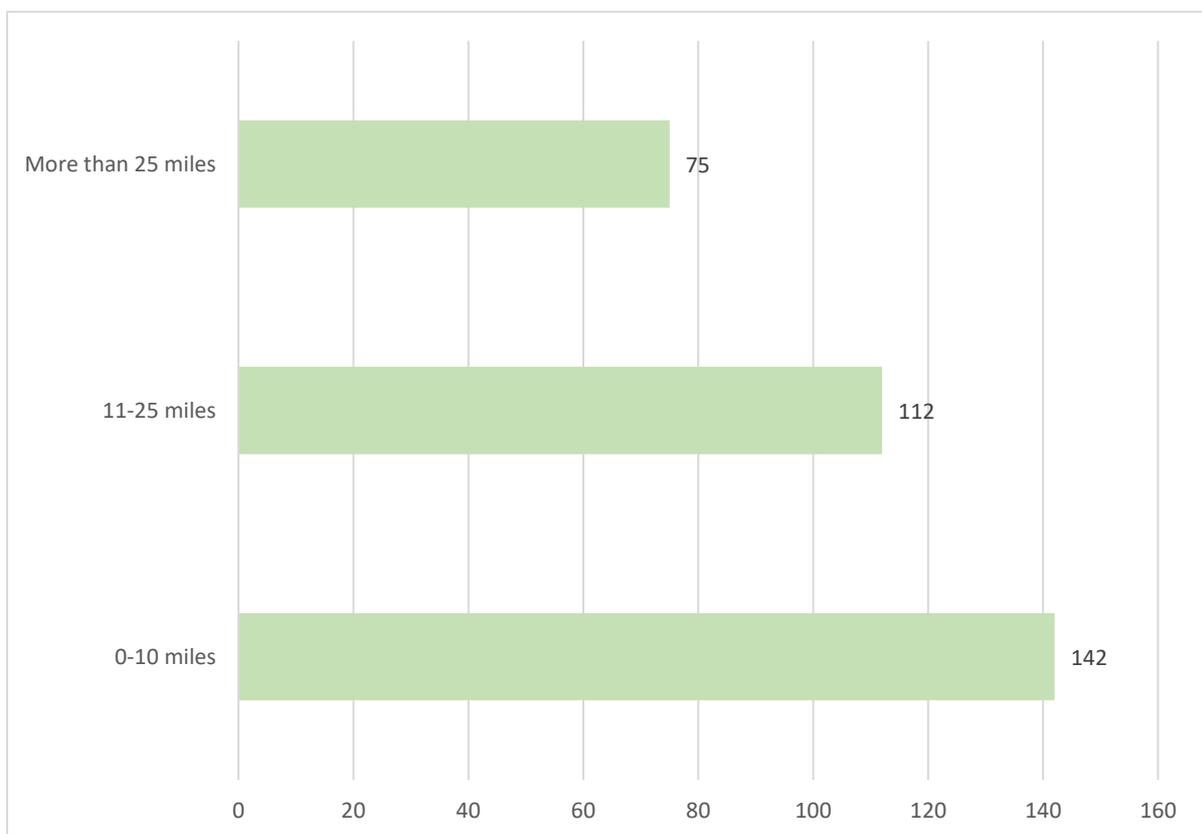


Question Seven asked the respondents to indicate where these facilities are located, with the result listed in the table below, ranked by frequency.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Aberdeen (non-specific) | 120 | Montrose | 4 | Corsee Wood | 1 |
| Banchory | 70 | Oldmeldrum | 4 | Duthie | 1 |
| Tarland trails | 19 | Cove | 3 | East Lothian | 1 |
| Transition Extreme | 18 | Huntly | 3 | Forfar | 1 |
| Aboyne | 10 | Torphins | 3 | Garland bike park | 1 |

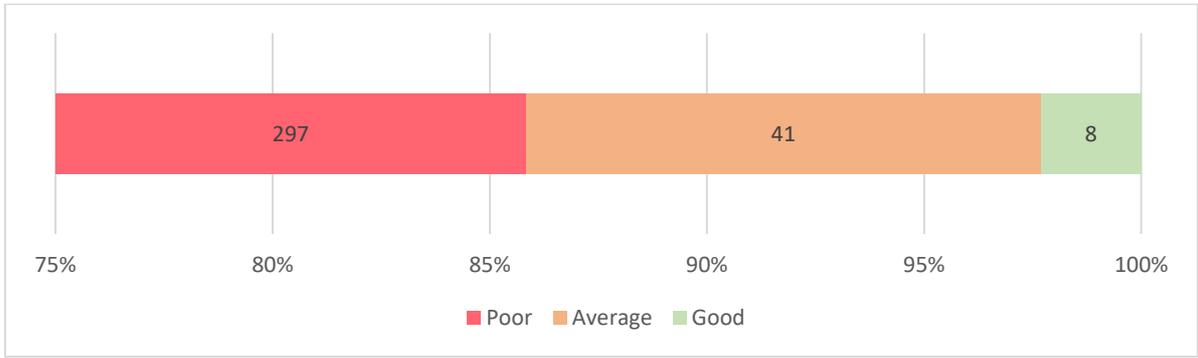
| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Cults | 8 | Carnoustie | 2 | Glenlivet | 1 |
| Alford | 7 | Crathes. | 2 | Glentress | 1 |
| Kemnay | 7 | Edinburgh | 2 | Inverness | 1 |
| Stonehaven | 7 | Elgin | 2 | Inverurie | 1 |
| Dundee | 6 | Hopeman | 2 | Kincardineshire | 1 |
| Kemnay | 6 | Perth | 2 | Laurencekirk | 1 |
| Torry | 6 | Portlethen | 2 | Montifieth | 1 |
| Bridge of Don | 5 | Tarves | 2 | Pitmedde | 1 |
| Arbroath | 4 | Banff | 1 | Scolty | 1 |
| Deeside | 4 | Buckie | 1 | Speyside Way | 1 |
| Kincorth | 4 | Bucksburn | 1 | Westburn | 1 |
| Knockburn | 4 | | | | |

Question Eight asked respondents to indicate how far they travel (round trip) to make use of these facilities:

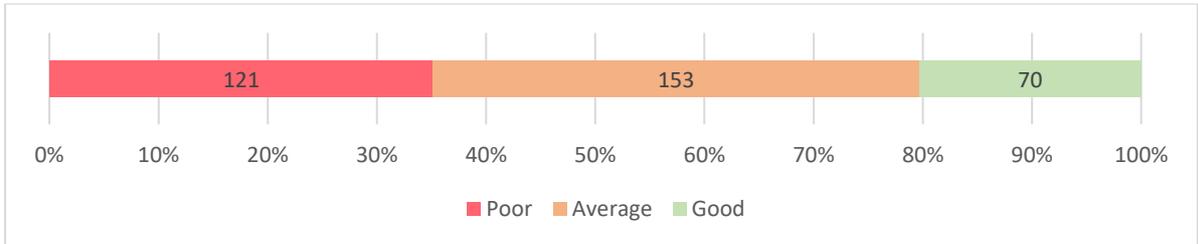


Question Nine and Ten asked the respondent to rate the QUALITY and ACCESSIBILITY of the existing skating or wheeled sports facilities in the Banchory area, with the following charts illustrating the results:

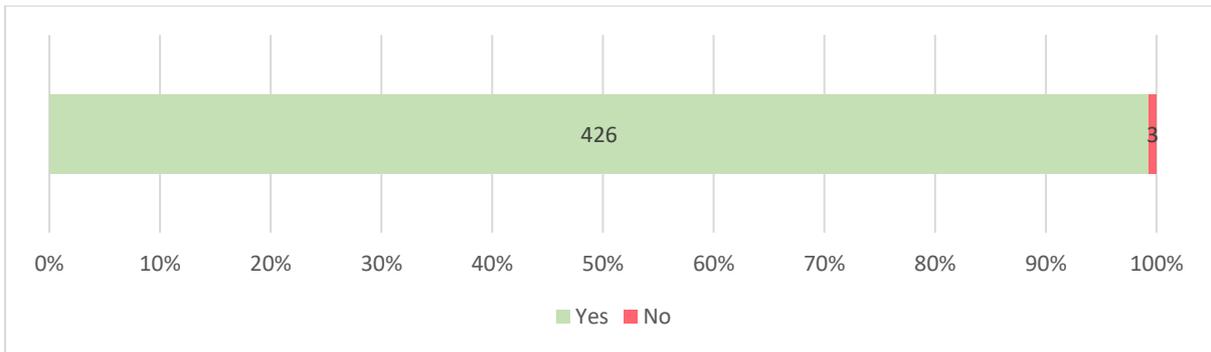
QUALITY



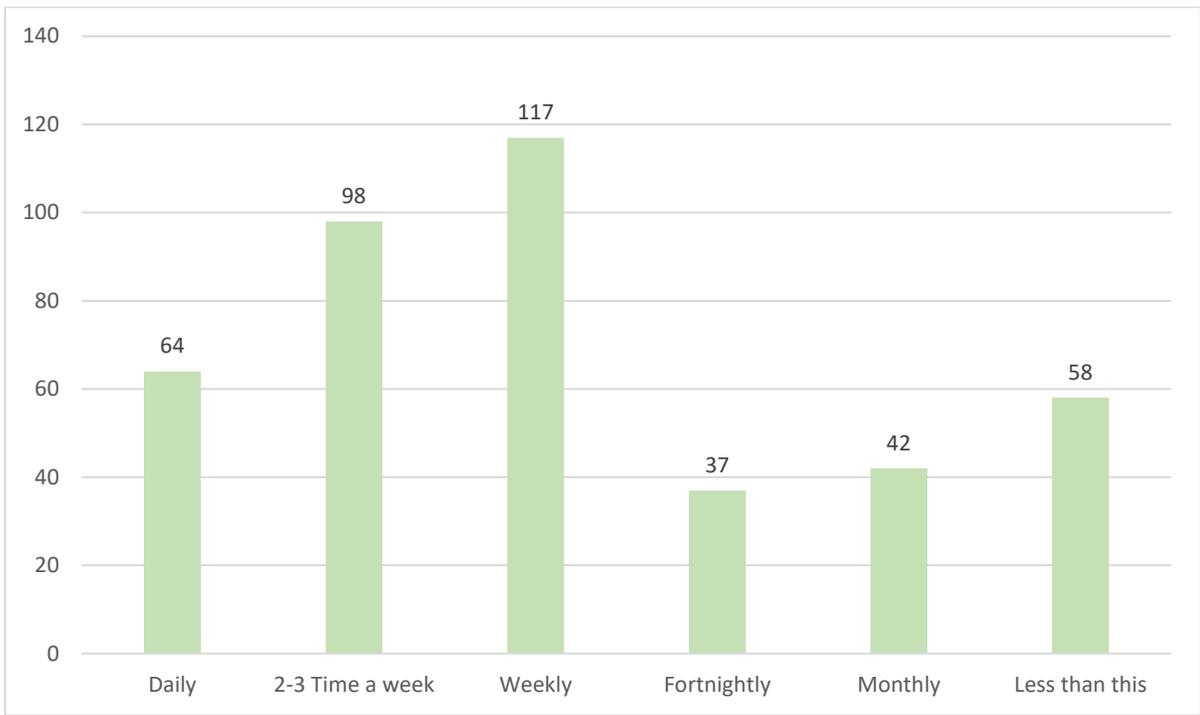
ACCESSIBILITY



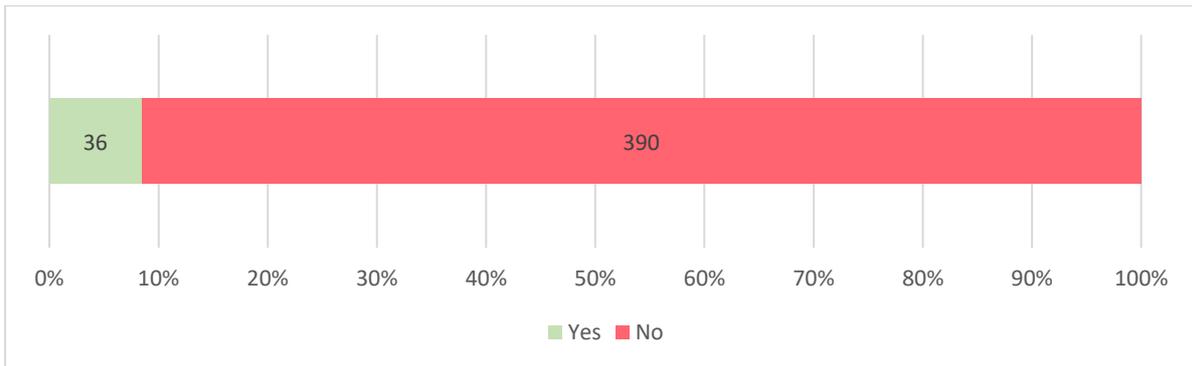
Question Eleven asked respondents if they would welcome the creation of a new concrete skate park in Banchory. As noted in the chart below.



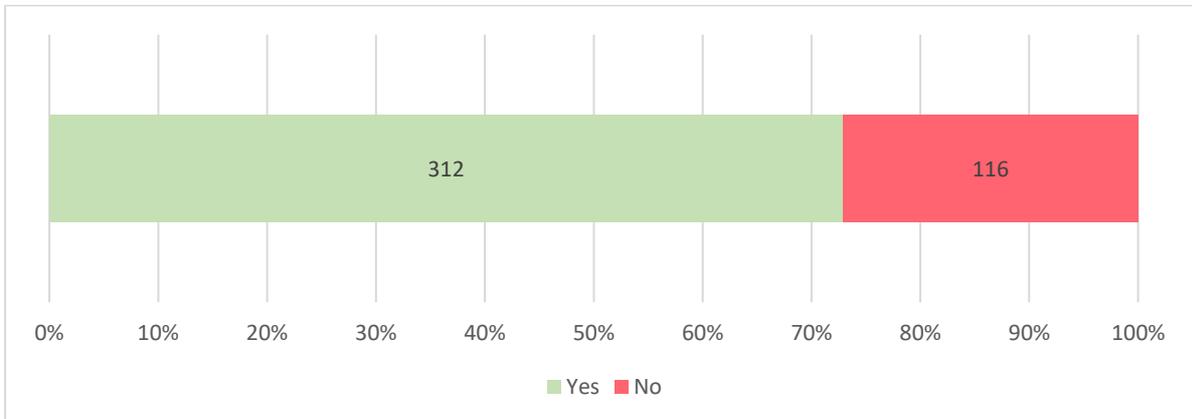
Question Twelve asked respondents to indicate how often they or their children would use the new park if it was built in Banchory.



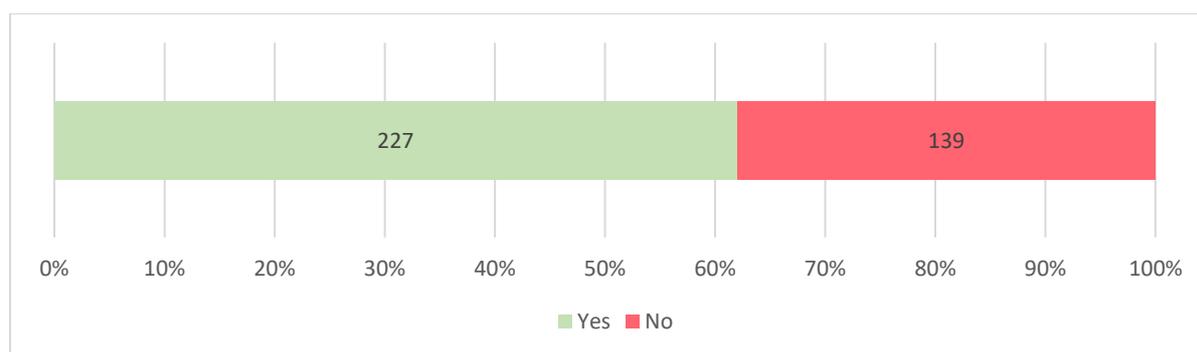
Question Thirteen asked respondents if they believed that there should be a usage charge for the proposed new facilities. As shown below, there was a clear majority against charging users for the park.



Question Fourteen asked respondents if they would like to see floodlighting including as part of the park's design. 73% of respondents felt that they should be included.



Question Fifteen introduced the concept of pay as you go ticketing for the use of floodlights in the park, and asked respondents if they believed that this would be a suitable solution.



Question Sixteen then asked respondents to indicate what they felt would be a fair price for one hour of floodlight use, with the average price point from 347 respondents indicated at **£3.00 per hour**.

Concluding the survey, **Question Seventeen** then gave respondents the opportunity to provide any further comments, observations or suggestions in support of their responses in relation to the provision of a new skate park. These have been thematically analysed in the table below and are noted in full in Appendix One.

| Comment Theme | Frequency |
|---|-----------|
| Positive / Supporting Comments and Encouragement | 15 |
| Comments on the benefits of the project to the community and the economy | 66 |
| Comments and considerations around design for the park | 50 |
| Comments and considerations around management, maintenance and operations of the park | 25 |
| Comments and considerations around usage and user groups | 16 |
| Comments of concern or caution | 10 |
| Negative comments and objections. | 10 |
| | |

6 Links to Policies and Strategies

6.1 Banchory Community Action Plan – June 2017

This Community Action Plan (CAP) has been prepared by a steering group under the auspices of Banchory Community Council (BCC). It sets out to try and resolve the series of issues which have been identified as the most pressing by the Banchory community.

The issues were identified following a thorough and inclusive consultation programme carried out throughout 2016 and into early 2017.

Key findings within the Community Action plan were identified as follows:

- A new or improved Academy.
- A new or improved Health Centre.
- A revitalised High Street with rent incentives for retailers.
- Assured delivery of the Banchory Sports Village.

- Protection from development on the south bank of the River Dee.
- Improved mobile phone and internet reception.
- A new cinema.
- A wide range of adult education classes.
- New pedestrian crossings on the High Street and near Morrisons.
- A wider variety of shops on the High Street
- Affordable housing
- Improved play parks.
- Provision of an improved skateboard / BMX park.
- The position of the taxi rank.
- More activities for teenagers.
- Better advertising of events and activities.
- A 3G football pitch.
- A community hub.
- Better public transport.

Many issues have arisen on the subject of recreational facilities in Banchory. A primary concern is the progress of the proposed Banchory Sports Village and the timeline for its delivery. A site start is planned for summer 2018 with completion in 2019.

With reference to Bellfield Park there is a need to improve facilities for children and young people. Facilities might include a modern skateboarding and BMX park. The development of the wheeled sports facility outlined in this feasibility study sits directly in line with the short to medium term action plan resulting from this Community Action Plan, noting support for the investigation and planning of such a project in Banchory.

6.2 Scottish Government's 2014 Legacy Plan

This plan sets out the key legacy aims and ambitions and highlights a wide range of initiatives, which will be taken forward with key partners over the next 10 years. The plan focuses on an Active Scotland, Connected Scotland, Flourishing Scotland and a Sustainable Scotland.

Improving the nation's health is the overarching theme of the plan and the Active Scotland component of the plan includes two key initiatives. Both are aimed at increasing the availability and accessibility of physical activity and sport to individuals and communities that will in turn contribute to improving the health and fitness of people in Scotland.

These initiatives are the Active Nation and the development of Community Sport Hubs. Active Nation aimed to create a popular and high-profile movement to motivate people of all ages across Scotland to become more active in the run up to the Commonwealth Games and now beyond. Community Sports Hubs focused on the bringing together of communities of interest to share best practice and shared values across a range of sports.

The development of wheeled sports provision in Banchory aligns with this strategy, creating a potential wheeled sports hub for young people to socialise, participate in exercise and be detracted from any temptation of antisocial or behaviour or activities detrimental to their health or development within the community.

6.3 Let's Make Scotland More Active

The National Strategy for Physical Activity (2003–2022), most recently reviewed in 2008, aims to change Scotland's reputation for inactivity. This Strategy sets out the vision that: "People in Scotland

will enjoy the benefits of having a physically active life. “This needs changes in both policy and culture. However, as the World Health Organisation (WHO) has noted:

"There is insufficient action and limited policy orientation for encouraging the adoption and maintenance of physically active lifestyles within supportive political, social and physical environments... political leaders and decision-makers need to be convinced of the importance of physical activity for health."

6.4 Take Life On

This Scottish Government Health and Wellbeing campaign promotes healthy, active lifestyles through various online, media and event marketing. The focus is on encouraging people to find activities near them, understand the health implications of inactivity and obesity, and to ultimately reduce the resultant strain on the NHS in Scotland. With the correct promotion of facilities in Aberdeenshire, the group can leverage the interest and excitement around the project to attract more people into sports and exercise, with a particular focus on young people, and those who perhaps are financially disadvantaged, therefore unable to access paid activities and facilities.

6.5 Scottish Government’s Infrastructure Investment Plan: Updated Programme Pipeline (2015)

This policy document highlights regeneration activity focusing on ensuring that people live in socially, physically and economically sustainable communities. The Banchory Skate Park project will increase the provision of community facilities in the area, supporting evidenced demand and creating a sustainable and economically beneficial facility and new employment opportunities.

6.6 Scottish Government Creating Places (2013)

This policy statement on Architecture & Place for Scotland promotes good design, the principles of context, identity and character and six qualities of successful places namely: distinctive, safe/pleasant, easy to move around, welcoming, adaptable and resource efficient. These will all be incorporated into the initial design stages of a new outdoor recreational facility in Banchory, taking consideration of the surrounding buildings and spaces.

6.7 Active Scotland Outcomes

The Active Scotland Outcomes Framework describes Scotland’s ambitions for sport and physical activity. Active Scotland Outcomes contribute to the delivery of National Outcomes and ultimately to the Scottish Government's overarching purpose of creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all to flourish. The framework has been developed collectively with partners through the National Strategic Group for Sport and Physical Activity (NSG), chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport. Conclusively, the following outcomes are proposed – and evidently supported by the proposal to develop a new wheeled sports facility in Banchory.

- We encourage and enable the inactive to be more active.
- We encourage and enable the active to stay active throughout life.
- We develop physical confidence and competence from the earliest age.
- We improve our active infrastructure – people and places.
- We support wellbeing and resilience in communities through physical activity and sport.
- We improve opportunities to participate, progress and achieve in sport.

6.8 Physical Activity Implementation Plan - A More Active Scotland

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/ArtsCultureSport/Sport/MajorEvents/Glasgow-2014/Commonwealth-games/>

This new 10-year plan adapts key elements of the Toronto Charter for Physical Activity (which makes the case for increased action in tackling physical inactivity) to Scotland, and links it directly to the Scottish Government's legacy ambitions for the Commonwealth Games. Underpinning delivery of the overall commitments of the plan will be a series of detailed action plans which will define how the plan's commitments will be met.

In addition, the Scottish Government and its partners continue to spread the word about the importance of physical activity, informing people about how and where to get involved through the following websites:

- www.takelifeon.co.uk – this gives ideas for a more active lifestyle
- www.activescotland.org.uk – this gives information on sports and activities available locally – just enter a postcode or an activity
- www.healthyworkinglives.com – this helps employers promote physical activity in the workplace

By providing new wheeled sports facilities in Banchory the group will contribute towards achieving the outcomes of the National Physical Activity Implementation Plan.

The Banchory project promotes the above outcomes.

6.9 Reaching Higher: Building on the Success of Sport 21

This is the key Scottish Government strategy for sport and exercise. Reaching Higher sets out the long-term aims for sport until 2020 including the vision that everyone should have access to affordable, high quality community sport facilities and advice and guidance. Reaching Higher focuses on two main aspects of sport and fitness – increasing the quality of sporting facilities, coaching and provisions, and increasing the number of Scottish people taking part in sports and exercise.

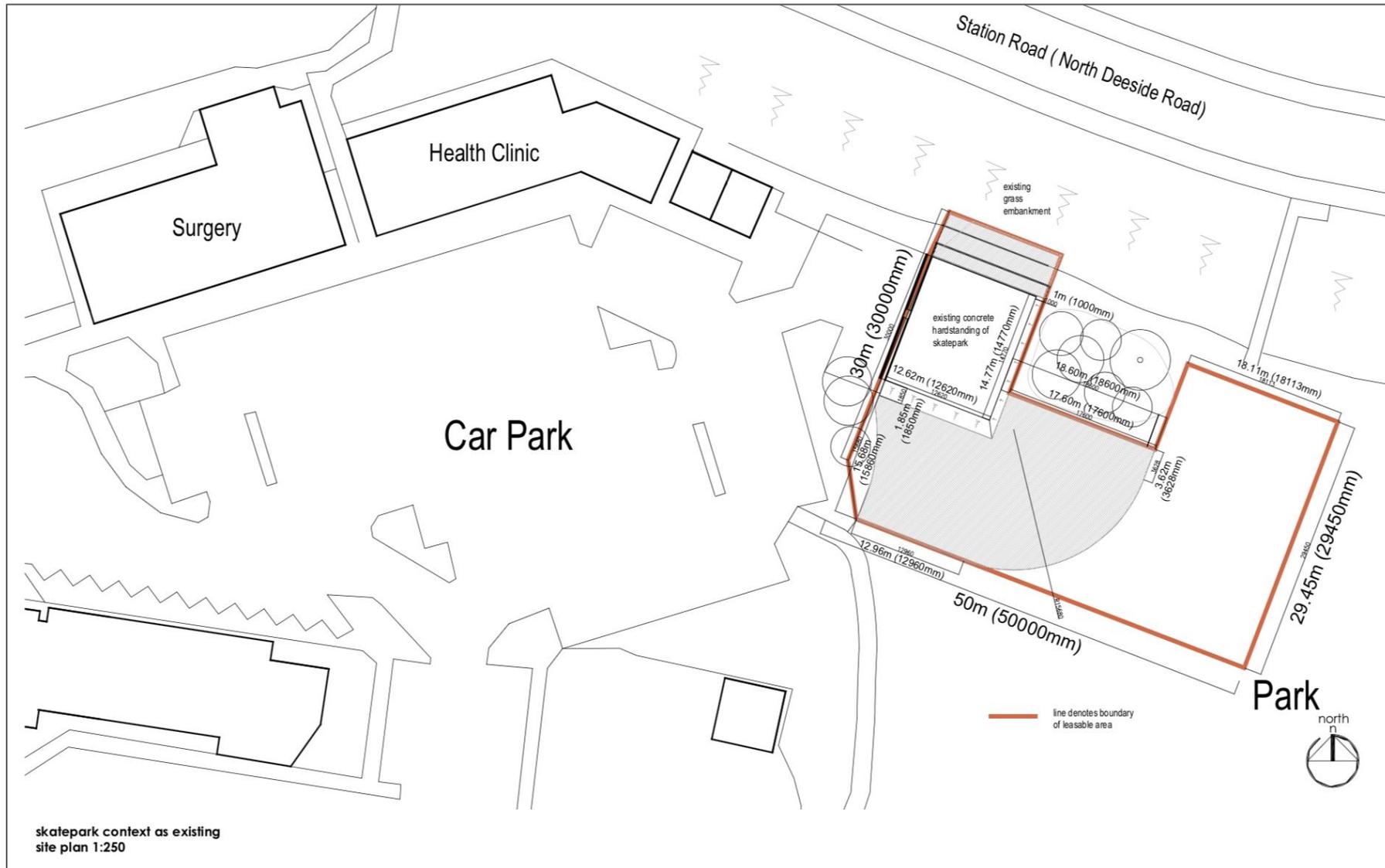
This also ties in closely with the proposal for a new wheeled sports facility for Banchory.

6.10 Preventing Overweight and Obesity in Scotland: A Route Map Towards Healthy Weight.

This 2010 joint policy directive set forth by the Scottish Government and CoSLA aimed at helping central and local government decision-makers to deliver long-term solutions to obesity and overweight. With lack of exercise cited as a prominent reason for obesity in Scotland, any expansion or development of facilities that will support a more active lifestyle should be strongly supported.

7 Site Considerations

The proposed site is an area within Bellfield Park, Banchory adjacent to, and including, the area used for the existing skate ramps. The site is significantly below road level and as such it is effectively “hidden” and will not interfere with any residential or business property views across the Park.



Current Site and Proposed Location



8 Design Considerations

8.1 Sportscotland's Guide to Skateparks

These guidelines have been created by **sportscotland** in response to the growth in extreme sports, which has seen a rejuvenation of the skate park as a centre for sports participation.

The guidelines are based on a concrete skate park of around 1000 square metres, which they consider to be minimum appropriate size for a strategic approach to the development of skateboarding and other associated activities as a sport in Scotland. This type of facility will normally be located in main centres of population. Facilities serving rural and small communities will usually be of a different scale and construction and although many of the following guidelines will apply each such proposal would have to be assessed on its own unique merits.

In order to be eligible to compete for **sportscotland** funding, skate parks should have adhered to the following points:

- Should provide evidence that prospective users have been consulted with regard to the site, design and operation of the facility.
- Should be designed by a competent and reputable specialist, be constructed from concrete with features allowing skateboarders, BMX riders and in-line skaters of all ages and abilities to be able to participate.
- Should comply fully with British Standard BS EN 14974:2006: Facilities for users of roller sports equipment – Safety requirements and test methods
- Should be floodlit. This will allow a greater usage time.
- Should be complete with litter bins, seats for participants and spectators, secure bike racks and surrounded by a one metre high fence with appropriate measures to control access. e.g. gates, animal grids.
- Should be managed by a User Group. The Group would act as a self-policing force and contribute to coaching and fundraising.
- The Group should contain members representing the various disciplines, age groups, parents, youth and community groups and, possibly, the local police community worker. A representative of the local authority could also be included as that individual can act as a conduit to and from the council.
- Should be within 50 to 100 metres of a sports or community facility, which is staffed during the majority of times the skate park is open. This will allow for informal supervision, especially if no members of the User Group are present at the skate park.
- The sports or community facility can also provide toilet facilities, a public phone, first aid facilities and storage for protective gear and simple maintenance equipment (brushes, etc).
- Should be within 250 metres of both public transport and secure parking and afford easy access for emergency vehicles and personnel.
- Should be subject to a Risk Assessment to identify the risks associated with operating a skateboard park. This assessment should be used to implement appropriate control measures at the design/installation stage and create a management policy for the facility. The risk assessment should be documented, signed and dated and reviewed annually, unless changes take place – at which point a review should be carried out. The assessment should at least cover such aspects as access/egress, falls/collisions, noise, violence/aggression, vandalism and maintenance.
- Should be inspected by an independent body or qualified inspector upon completion and at least once a year thereafter. The inspections should follow the recommendations of RoSPA. The latter body can also carry out these inspections. Daily, weekly and yearly inspections/maintenance should also be carried out as indicated earlier in this paper.

- Should have Public Liability cover of at least £2,000,000. RoSPA recommends a minimum of £5,000,000 and **sportscotland** should follow this latter recommendation.
- Should have appropriate signage. The signage should cover such topics as location of nearest telephone and toilets, the maximum number of users, any restrictions (lower age limits, permitted activities, etc), protective gear must be worn, no dogs, no alcohol, etc. The sign should also note that 'all users do so at their own risk'.
- CCTV may also be installed but this sensitive matter should be fully discussed with representatives of the User Group.
- As there is currently no governing body for skateboarding, the operators of the facility will commit to becoming members of the recognised governing body when that body comes into being.
- The skate park operator will also be required to set up a structured skills development programme with particular emphasis on beginners.
- The operator should also be required to set up programmes aimed at increasing the number of females and ethnic minorities participating in the sport.

For facilities in smaller centres of population, the following should be adhered to:

- The area for the park should be a minimum of 36m x 18m. This would allow conversion of the area to a multi court at some future point.
- The area should be surrounded by a one metre high fence with appropriate measures to control access. e.g. gates, animal grids and we recommend that ducting is provided to allow the necessary cabling should the installation of floodlighting be a future requirement.
- Whilst concrete is still the preferred construction material other materials may be considered for park in smaller centres of population.
- All other requirements that apply to large parks will also apply to smaller.

8.2 Current Trends in Construction Materials

A general definition for a wheeled sports facility is a purpose-built recreation environment made for skateboarding, BMX, Scooter, wheelchairs, inline skating and other wheeled sports. The main construction methods throughout the years has been wood, metal or concrete materials. This has caused accidents through wood rotting and metal rusting. As a result, the new focus on building new facilities is that they should be built with concrete.

8.3 Benefits of Concrete Construction

Maintenance

The potential maintenance costs of a sprayed concrete skate park are minimal. No replacement parts, fixtures or tools are necessary, except for an Allen Key for clearing the drainage.

Considerations should be made for litter and graffiti. One of the most successful ways of combating graffiti is to provide spaces where professional graffiti artists can decorate. It is less likely for users to make unsightly tags when there is attractive art on their park. Additional ongoing maintenance may include minor repairs to the concrete surface made by the impact of stunt-pegs from BMX bikes.

Sustainability

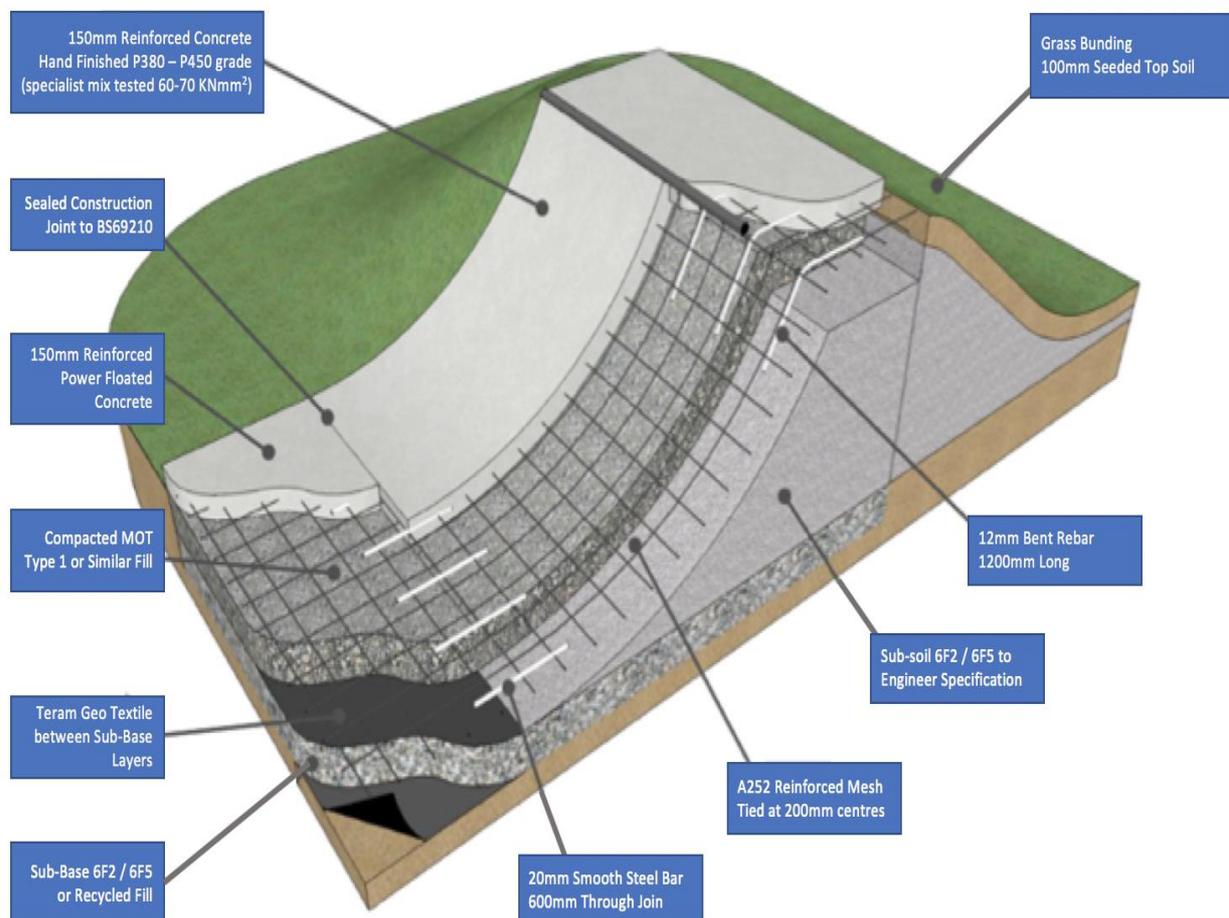
Sustainable construction is considered to be a very economical construction method. An enduring wheeled sports park that does not need to be re-built every few years conserves community resources and effort. This requires the use of reinforced concrete. The sprayed concrete method is more energy and materially efficient than any pre-cast method. With pre-cast, every piece has to be cast in a mould, then transported to the site and set on a separate in-ground concrete foundation.

Sprayed concrete parks are self-supporting monolithic structures which minimize concrete volumes and thus costs and emissions.

Using the sprayed concrete method allows us to use locally sourced materials, reducing environmental impact and reducing the amount of transportation needed, whilst contributing to the local economy. This method uses efficient engineering and precise form work to ensure an optimum build with minimal waste.

Value for Money

Sprayed concrete construction is the method used on the most renowned wheeled sports parks worldwide. It allows designers the freedom to create progressive and continually engaging designs which users gain ownership of through in-depth consultation. Many parks are guaranteed for 30 years; however, the structural integrity of sprayed concrete parks has proven to last indefinitely and is virtually maintenance free. Wheeled sports parks create a social space that provides long term health and social benefits, leading to reductions in anti-social behaviour and benefits for the local economy by way of consequential passing trade.



8.4 Floodlighting

As part of the design, the group should consider the inclusion of floodlighting. Although floodlighting provides a substantial capital cost, it's presence will allow for increased usage of the facility. Consideration should be made to the management of energy costs associated with floodlighting.

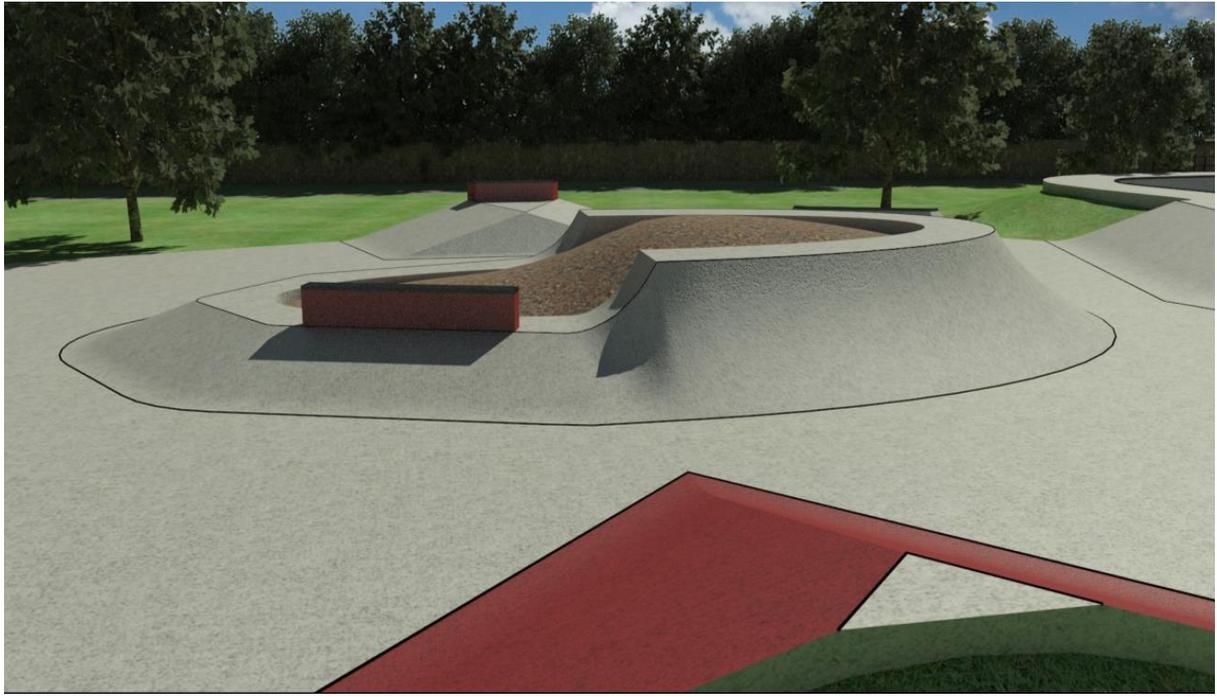
A popular option for outdoor leisure facilities is to install a pre-paid meter (right) with cards available for sale at a local convenient location. This ensures that all energy costs are absorbed by the users. The group can then control how late the lights operate. By incorporating pre-paid card options, there is a significantly reduced risk of vandalism in comparison with coin operated systems.



9 Concept Images

The concepts below represent what a new concrete skate park might look like at Bellfield Park. Tenders are currently being sought from 3 Design and Build Skate Park companies;





10 Indicative Capital Costs

The following table outlines the indicative capital cost that has been estimated to provide a new concrete skate park. In moving the project forward, and to satisfy any capital funders, the project should be tendered appropriately, resulting in more accurate and detailed costs.

| Project Element | Considerations | Cost |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Construction of Skate Park including all site works, contractor costs and landscaping. | To be fully investigated at the procurement state of the project. | £175,000 |
| Flood Lighting | | £25,000 |
| Project Management | | £20,000 |
| Net Project Cost | | £220,000 |
| VAT | 20% | £44,000 |
| Total Project Cost | | £264,000 |

11 Potential Sources of Funding

11.1 Summary of Potential Project Funding

In order to deliver the capital project, the following main sources have been identified. All funders will require the group to submit robust applications, using this report as a supporting document to provide evidence of need and community support for the project.

| Proposed Funder | Capital Amount |
|---|------------------|
| Sportscotland | £100,000 |
| Developer Contributions | £57,915 |
| Scottish Communities Landfill Fund | £106,085* |
| TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING PACKAGE | £264,000 |

**Third party contribution is a requirement of all SCLF approved bodies and explained further below*

11.2 Sportscotland

Sportscotland's Sports Facilities Fund supports capital projects that create or improve places where people take part in sports and physical activity. Having been recently revised, this fund now offers capital funding with a ceiling limit of £100,000. The funding looks to support projects that provide opportunities for people to get involved, increasing participation by targeting their resources on projects that demonstrate commitment to the following:

- Equalities and inclusion
- People development
- Collaboration and impact

11.3 Aberdeenshire Council Developer Obligations

Developer Obligations cover both developer contributions and affordable housing.

When a development takes place there is a need for infrastructure and services to accompany it. This can include roads, schools or a wide range of facilities depending on the scale and location of development.

Developer contributions are intended to ensure that developers address any impact on infrastructure created by the development but cannot resolve existing deficiencies.

[Scottish Government Planning Circular 3/2012: Planning Obligations and Good Neighbour Agreements](#) sets out a series of 5 policy tests all of which are applied when undertaking an assessment of whether an obligation is required:

- **Necessary** to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms;
- **Serve a planning purpose** and where it is possible to identify infrastructure provision requirements in advance, should relate to development plans;
- **Relate to the proposed development** either as a direct consequence of the development or arising from the cumulative impact of development in the area;
- Fairly and reasonable relate in **scale and kind** to the proposed development; and
- Be **reasonable** in all other respects.

Planning policy on both affordable housing and developer contributions is set out in the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance

Obligations can be made either as an ‘in kind’ or financial contribution. These are secured by planning condition or most commonly via an upfront payment or Section 75 legal agreement.

11.4 Scottish Communities Landfill Fund

The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) is a tax credit scheme, linked to Scottish Landfill Tax that encourages landfill site operators to provide contributions to Approved Bodies, who can then pass the funds onto community and environmental projects. The SLCF replaced the UK scheme in Scotland on 01 April 2015.

Funding must be passed from a landfill operator via Approved Bodies to a project such as the proposed Skatepark in Banchory

There are a number of approved bodies that have been identified as suitable and relevant for the project. These are listed below. It should be noted that as a general rule these funders look to fund a specific aspect of the project and not a proportion of the overall cost, additionally they will not be able to fund the same aspects of the project should applications to multiple bodies be considered.

| Approved Body | Notes |
|---------------------------------|--|
| WREN | The FCC Scottish Action Fund offers funding of between £2,000 and £100,000 to projects from FCC Environment through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. Further information is available at http://www.wren.org.uk/apply/fcc-scottish-action-fund |
| Viridor Landfill Credits | Viridor Credits Environmental Company is an independent, not-for-profit organisation which provides funding for community, heritage and biodiversity projects around the UK through the Landfill Communities Fund and Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. Funding up to £50,000 |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| | Further information is available at http://www.viridor-credits.co.uk/apply-for-funding/ |
| Suez Trust | <p>SUEZ Communities Trust will consider projects which focus on physical improvement at an identified site. Funding is typically awarded for the purchase of materials/equipment and the appointment of a contractor to undertake the improvement work. A request for funding for multiple sites or for salaries, running costs, project management or design fees will not be considered.</p> <p>Funding up to £50,000</p> <p>Further information is available at http://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/scotland</p> |

Third Party Contribution

When a Landfill Operator (LO) contributes to an Environmental Body (EB), it can only claim tax relief on 90% of the contribution it makes and is left with a 11% funding shortfall. Some LOs will absorb this cost, or a portion of it, themselves. Sometimes LOs will require you to find a separate third party - a Contributing Third Party (CTP) to make the 11% payment or a portion of it.

Who Can Be a Contributing Third Party?

Almost anyone can be a Contributing Third Party, providing they do not gain a unique benefit from the project put forward for funding. Below is a list of examples of organisations that may be Contributing Third Parties:

- Private Companies
- Public Sector organisations - Local Authorities, County Councils
- Charities
- Voluntary organisations
- Private donors
- Monies from fundraising

Who is excluded from being a Contributing Third Party?

- Any individual or organisation directly connected to the landfill operator, or a contractor of the project
- Any individual or organisation who gains a unique benefit from the project

12 Management and Operational Considerations

12.1 Management

Banchory Skate Park Group will assume ownership and management responsibility for the new skate park. The Chairperson's overall responsibility will be to ensure sufficient skills and expertise amongst the management committee, in order that they have the capacity to undertake all elements of the facility's ongoing management. It may be necessary to undertake a skills audit, identifying and mitigating against any gaps in knowledge prior to the delivery of the project.

12.2 Insurances and Liability

Banchory Skate Park Group will lease the site and be responsible for the facility once constructed. As a consequence, they will require to have adequate public liability insurance. Given the nature of the sport, the group should ensure that their liability insurance is sufficient to cover a full spectrum of potential claims.

12.3 Routine Maintenance and Upkeep

Operating this facility will require a number of tasks to be completed on a regular basis to ensure that it remains appealing, fit for purpose, and safe for users, as well as minimising the possible need for major repair works to be undertaken. The group should use its membership to determine a schedule of volunteers, reducing the need to pay or contract individuals or companies, and avoiding the associated costs. The following tasks should be considered in creating a volunteer rota:

- Litter picking
- Emptying bins
- Periodic checking of the surfaces, entrances, paths and other publicly open spaces
- Gardening and landscaping works (grass cutting, leaf clearing, weeding etc.)
- Periodic checking of lighting, switches, locks etc.
- Regular monitoring of, and interaction with, users, user groups and their parents.

13 Financial Assessment

13.1 Access and Pricing

Thought community consultation, it is clear that there is a strong desire for the Skatepark in Banchory to be free of charge for all users. This would also support delivery of the objectives and strategies listed within this report, ensuring the greatest benefit for the widest user group.

However, the group must ensure that adequate revenue is generated to ensure the cost of any floodlighting, repairs, insurance policies etc. are met on an annual basis.

A membership package may be an effective way to generate interest and revenue. The group should consider the benefits that will be made available – discount on coaching, events, free merchandise etc. Given that this will create additional management work, this report does not currently consider income from membership within its financial feasibility, however notes that the group may wish to consider the management and promotion of this as a revenue generating option further down the line.

13.2 Revenue Assumptions

In delivering a publicly available leisure facility, there is limited scope for the generation of income. However, the group must ensure that sufficient revenue is achieved in order that the annual running costs can be met. This report assumes the following proposed income for the year.

Events

The group should consider running a number of events throughout the year including skate jams, competitions and family fun days. In managing these events, the group can determine how money can be generated within each. This may include entrant fees, stall holder pitch fees or donation buckets. In running four events per year, this report would assume an annual revenue of **£1,200.00** (net of all associated running costs).

Grants, Sponsorships and Donations

In delivering this project, the group has shown the capacity to secure grant funding. Following the development of the project, the operating group should consider grant funding, and the soliciting of sponsorship and donations as a key part of its on-going responsibilities. For this report, a reasonable estimate of **£1,500.00** per year has been considered.

13.3 Expenditure Assumptions

Following the construction of the skatepark, the group will require to meet a number of annual and on-going operational costs. These have been listed below:

Floodlights – Energy Costs

The consultation exercise demonstrated a desire for floodlighting. Should the group opt to include floodlighting as part of the project, they should ensure that the lighting works in a manner that allows control over timings and maximum use. I.e. they should be set to switch off after a set point at night, and periodically or where nobody is using the park. As noted previously, the floodlighting should be controlled by a prepaid meter, therefore removing the need for the group to manage the associated costs.

Insurance Policies

In leasing or obtaining the site from the local council, and providing the facility, the group will hold all liability for public access and use and therefore will require to hold sufficient and appropriate insurances. Given the nature of the activity, a budget of **£500.00** per annum has been assumed.

Maintenance

The construction of the new wheeled sports park should deliver sufficient quality and longevity that the maintenance required in the subsequent years is limited. However, in consulting other similar facilities, the group should budget for small repair works that may be undertaken to the ancillary spaces, landscaping, track edges, or following minor vandalism or damage. For this report, a budget of **£1,000.00** has been assumed.

Landscaping and Regular Upkeep Works

In order to ensure that the facility remains attractive and well maintained, a budget of **£500.00** per annum has been assumed for the provision of tool such as brushes, drying brushes, bin bags, cleaning materials and gardening tools and seeds. This will be required to allow the previously outlined list of volunteer tasks to be undertaken.

13.4 Summary of Financial Viability

In summarising the above income expenditure considerations, the following table demonstrates that the completed project will be able to operate annually in a financially sustainable manner.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Income | |
| Events | £1,200.00 |
| Donations, Grants and Sponsorship | £1,500.00 |
| | £2,700.00 |
| Expenditure | |
| Insurance Policies | £500.00 |
| Maintenance | £1,000.00 |
| Landscaping and Regular Upkeep | £500.00 |
| | £2,100.00 |
| | |
| Surplus | £500.00 |

14 Risk Management and Mitigation

14.1 SWOT Analysis

A SWOT Analysis provides an at a glance summary of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the project.

| Strengths |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Banchory Skate Group is a strong competent committee with a wide range of professional and business skills• The Group has a good reputation within the community as well as support from local councillors and the Aberdeenshire Council• They have a significant number of wheeled sports users in Banchory and good community support for their project• The proposed site is an existing recreational site, therefore meeting all appropriate planning policies.• The site is located in an existing public recreational area at Bellfield Park, Banchory• The project aligns with a number of local and regional strategies.• The project is potentially fundable through Scottish Communities Landfill Fund, Sportscotland and several other funders including Aberdeenshire Council• The project reduces the carbon footprint associated with the travel currently required to make use of facilities further afield in Aberdeen. |
| Weaknesses |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aberdeenshire Council has not yet agreed a lease/community asset transfer• The project will require to make a planning application• Securing adequate capital to fund the project with increasing demand on all funders.• Access to the area is through an existing play area therefore a temporary road is potentially required in order to allow contractor access. |
| Opportunities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Group has identified a good location for the proposed new Wheeled Sports facility• They are discussing a long-term lease/community asset transfer from Aberdeenshire Council• The project has the opportunity to create a Wheeled Sports facility for Banchory and other surrounding communities.• Once build, this will become a venue for a range of Wheeled Sports coaching initiatives and one-off events.• The facility will attract users from out with Banchory, bringing a positive economic impact to the town through secondary spend.• Opportunities exist for links to Active Schools and other local health and sports initiatives. |
| Threats |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constant threat of poor weather• Lack of capital funding could affect some elements of the project. |

14.2 Business Risk Register

| Banchory Skate Park Facility | | | Business Risk Register | | | Date: | September 2018 |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | Risk Categories: | 0-8 Low Risk | 9-17 Medium Risk | 18-25 High Risk | | |
| Risk Area | Risk Identified (Describe the risk to be managed) | Probability Factor (1-5, with 5 being most probable) | Impact Factor (1-5, with 5 being most severe) | Risk Ranking (probability x impact = probability) | Risk Management (How the risk will be managed) | Risk Responsibility (Describe who will be responsible for managing the identified risk) | Risk Monitoring |
| 1.0 Strategic | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Lack of Business Plan and Feasibility Study | 2 | 4 | 8 | This feasibility study has demonstrated a robust and sustainable business model, as well as significant demand for the project. In working with local consultants to deliver this facility, a strong business case has been tested and identified prior to the funding and development stage of the project. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Initial preparation of the Feasibility Study with reviews annually or in response to changing key personnel. |
| 1.2 | No long-term Development Strategy | 1 | 4 | 4 | This will be addressed initially within this Feasibility Study but longer term an enhanced development plan will be adopted for the new facilities and their impact to all user groups and the wider community. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Annually or when there are changes to the Committee |
| 1.3 | Business Continuity Management Plan | 4 | 4 | 16 | It is recognised that there is limited annual overheads, and therefore the risk of financial viability is reduced. The group should ensure they work to ensure that adequate resources and | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Reviewed annually or considering significant changes to financial obligations. |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|----|---|--|--|
| | | | | | revenue is in place to cover the required costs. | | |
| 1.4 | Health and Safety and Regulatory issues | 2 | 4 | 8 | The nature of sports and leisure business will require advice on H&S matters and compliance. The group should ensure that adequate signage, rules and advisory notices are in place, in particular stating that users visit the facility at their own risk. Additionally, the group must ensure all adequate insurances are in place in recognition of their liability and ownership of the facility. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Focus during and after construction with policies and procedures reviewed periodically. |
| 1.5 | Marketing and Branding Strategy | 2 | 4 | 8 | The group should identify key areas for the promotion of the new facility, following the brief outline within this document – social media, press releases, website update etc. This will ensure adequate visitor numbers, support the capacity to celebrate success within the sector whilst acknowledging all funders. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Targets and strategy developed in line with this Feasibility Study and reviewed periodically thereafter. |
| 1.6 | Convincing the funding bodies that you have a robust business case for obtaining their investment | 4 | 4 | 16 | A strong Feasibility Study emphasising the number of potential users and uses in the local area will demonstrate tangible figures to support the project. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | One off |
| 2.0 Operational Risks | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | Ensuring effective use of new facilities. | 3 | 4 | 12 | The proposed facilities will cater for various user groups; therefore, it is essential that effective usage be promoted to ensure the facility is enjoyed by, and benefits, the largest potential user base. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | On-going. |
| 2.2 | Dealing with any Planning related issues including traffic | 2 | 2 | 4 | It is not foreseen that there will be many planning issues relating to the | Chair and committee of the | On-going throughout the planning stage. |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|----|---|--|---|
| | management, floodlighting and car parking issues | | | | development of the skate park. However, the final design should take all consideration of advice and recommendations accordingly. | Banchory Skatepark Group. | |
| 2.3 | Trying to meet the needs of different user groups within the physical constraints of the facility. | 3 | 5 | 15 | The group will need to continue assessing the needs of potential user groups. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Key to the initial planning stages of the development with periodic reviews. |
| 2.4 | Retaining sufficiently motivated committee members representing a wide spectrum of the local community | 3 | 5 | 15 | The group must ensure that succession within the committee ensures a broad viewpoint and effectively represents the needs of the varied users and other key stakeholders. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Annually or when there are changes to the committee. |
| 2.5 | Facility Maintenance Plans | 4 | 3 | 12 | As outlined in this report, the delivery of a concrete moulded facility will significantly reduce the requirement for significant maintenance. However, in developing the facility, the cost of both preventative and reactive maintenance must be considered to ensure any unforeseen issues do not risk the financial viability of the project. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Annually or when there are changes to the committee. |
| 4.0 Financial Risks | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 | Not securing adequate capital funding | 5 | 4 | 20 | The proposed facility is eligible for several funding sources and demonstrates both a strong business and social case for funding. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Initially in the development of a strong long-term Feasibility Study, then periodically reviewed. |
| 4.2 | Financial Viability | 4 | 5 | 20 | The group must ensure that all resulting financial obligations are clear, contracts are signed, and that the business revenue proposed covers all overheads accordingly. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Key focus at initial stages of project, then reviewed each financial period accordingly. |
| 4.3 | Financial Control and Audit Systems | 4 | 2 | 8 | The group ensure strict financial controls including the provision of audited accounts. | Chair and committee of the | Annually or when there are changes to the committee. |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|----|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | Banchory Skatepark Group. | |
| 4.4 | Reduction in income | 3 | 4 | 12 | Although there is not a significant income and expenditure associated with the annual running of this facility, the group should ensure that they review financial performance in line with their operations and act to review, activities and strategies accordingly. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Reviewed quarterly or more frequently should revenue appear to decline. |
| 5.0 Political/External Risks | | | | | | | |
| 5.1 | Relationships with Aberdeenshire Council | 3 | 2 | 6 | The group should seek to maintain a strong relationship with the local Council through open and transparent communications. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Annually or when there are changes to either the committee or key elected council officers. |
| 5.2 | Relationships with local elected members | 3 | 2 | 6 | The group should build strong relationships with locally elected council members through open and transparent communication and by inviting and encouraging their support in the project. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Annually or when there are changes to either the committee or key elected local members. |
| 5.4 | Relationship to wider community | 3 | 3 | 9 | The group must work to establish a positive relationship with the local and wider community paying specific attention to alleviate and support through any disruption caused because of the construction work on site. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Frequent monitoring required through duration of construction with annual review necessary thereafter. |
| 5.5 | Securing adequate Community Support for the new facilities | 2 | 4 | 8 | As the proposed development relates directly to the demand from local users, there is little risk here. However, it is key to monitor the support from a wide variety of local stakeholders and demographics on an on-going basis. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Annually or when there are changes to the Committee. |
| 6.0 Reputation/Image | | | | | | | |
| 6.1 | Media Relations | 4 | 4 | 16 | It is important to utilize the local media throughout the project to keep local | Chair and committee of the | On-going and frequent throughout the project |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|---|----|---|--|---|
| | | | | | communities updated and to encourage local interest. Post construction, it is vital to use the media where possible to capture events, successes and stories that will promote the facility. | Banchory Skatepark Group. | work with reviews annually thereafter. |
| 6.2 | Branding and Public Profile | 4 | 4 | 16 | There is an important opportunity to market facilities to potential user groups throughout the surrounding areas, ultimately increasing the awareness and presence in the local community. This will support the business plan in terms of future user numbers, and alleviate any inconveniences caused to existing members as work on the project takes place. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. | Monitored frequently throughout the project construction phase and annually thereafter. |

14.3 Risk Assessment for Wheeled Sports Activities

| Banchory Wheeled Sports Park | | Risk Assessment | | | Date: September 2018 | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| Risk Categories: | | 0-8 Low Risk | 9-17 Medium Risk | 18-25 High Risk | | |
| Risk Area | Risk Identified (Describe the risk to be managed) | Probability Factor (1-5, with 5 being most probable) | Impact Factor (1-5, with 5 being most severe) | Risk Ranking (probability x impact = probability) | Risk Management (how the risk will be managed) | Risk Responsibility (describe who will be responsible for managing the identified risk) |
| Injury or Accident as a result of using park features. | Significant risk of injury from minor or severe resulting from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falls Slips | 4 | 4 | 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial construction and design process to consider mitigation of risk through appropriate layout, adequate experience and effective flow. Design, construction and maintenance to be carried out by experienced, wheeled sports park specific contractors. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|----|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collisions | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate signage in place to encourage safe use, direction of use, recommended safety equipment and parent supervision where appropriate. Adequate lighting available. Sufficient emergency access to all areas of the park. Landscaping to reduce drops from the top or behind the top of ramps, bowls and other features. | |
| Missuse or damage to park | <p>Risk of damage to the facility resulting in: Increased risk of injury Unsuitable surface for skating etc. Cost incurred by group to repair or replace surface or feature.</p> | 3 | 4 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the park promoted as community led project from the beginning. Adequate lighting Regular checks by operating committee. Promotion of good working relationship between operating committee and user groups. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. |
| Conflicting user groups: - Age group - Activity | <p>Increased risk of injury from wide age range sharing facility. Increased risk of injury from variety of activities sharing the facility. Increased risk of exposing younger users to unsuitable language and behaviour.</p> | 3 | 4 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and promotion of a “rules of the park” notice board highlighting the need to respectable behaviour, language and effective sharing of space. Where possible, grouping of features by complexity and difficulty in the design process. Where possible, grouping of features by likely uses (BMX, skate etc) in the design process. | Chair and committee of the Banchory Skatepark Group. |

15 Marketing and Promotion

15.1 Overview

Regardless of the scale of a project, marketing is an essential part of good management practice. It is a process of identifying user needs, wants and wishes, and satisfying them. Community, sport and leisure services and facilities depend on satisfied user, especially where the local residents support and involvement is both fundamental in instigating a project, and essential for its on-going success.

By definition, marketing involves creating appropriate goods and services and matching them to market requirements. Therefore, far from being just about selling, marketing is from the beginning an integral part of the process.

In the first instance, this report has demonstrated a marketing centric focus in that it has considered the following:

- Identification of target market, population and local trends.
- Assessment of current provision.
- Assessment of need and market research through consultation with current and potential users throughout the community.

15.2 Communication and Promotion Strategy

The following is a proposed marketing actions plan specific to the development of a new skate and wheeled sports facility in Banchory. It must be considered that success will be measured in the level of usage and the overall satisfaction of all key stakeholders. As a result, the following strategy is set to promote and highlight the facilities to all potential users both locally and from surrounding communities.

| | Task Details | Timeframe | Costs/Resources | Responsibility |
|----|---|--------------|--|--|
| 1 | Develop website highlighting the new facilities – incorporate user testimonials and photographs. | One Off | Free | Chair and Committee of the Banchory Skate Park Group |
| 2 | Use promotional space in partnership with local user groups and organisations to promote the expansion to the facilities. | Periodically | Free | Chair and Committee of the Banchory Skate Park Group |
| 3 | Engage social media to highlight the new facilities amongst target audiences. | On-going | Free | Chair and Committee of the Banchory Skate Park Group |
| 4 | Press Releases: Engage with local media to promote the improvements to the facilities and its relevance to the community. | One Off | Free | Chair and Committee of the Banchory Skate Park Group |
| 5. | Explore the possibility of running events – races, agility tests, skate jams, and community fun days. | Periodically | Cost covered through sponsorship or entry fees | Chair and Committee of the Banchory Skate Park Group |

16 Recommendations

1. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group apply to Aberdeenshire Council for a 25-year lease of the site at Bellfield Park for a peppercorn rent for the construction of a concrete skate park (Site plan Section 7 refers).
2. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group advertises a design and build contract on Public Contracts Scotland.
3. It is recommended that floodlighting be included in the design and build specification.
4. It is recommended that on receipt of tenders Banchory Skatepark Group carry out a tender evaluation exercise to select a preferred contractor.
5. It is recommended that once a preferred design has been chosen that this is submitted as part of a full Planning Application to Aberdeenshire Council.
6. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group continue to fundraise towards Third Party Contributions required for any applications to the Scottish Communities Landfill Fund.
7. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group considers appointing a Project Manager on a fixed term arrangement to assist with capital funding applications, procurement and contractor management until the completion of the project.
8. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group continues to lobby for letters of support for the project.
9. It is recommended that Banchory Skatepark Group continues to keep the community informed of the progress of the project through social media channels.

17 Appendices

17.1 Appendix One: Survey -Full Feedback and Comments

Positive / Supporting Comments

- It would be such an amazing addition to the town and local area
- Excellent idea for you people in the area.
- I would like to see it happen
- Sounds nice
- Good luck, we are all behind you!!!
- Make Banchory Skate Again!!
- Great idea. Let's do it!
- The skate park up in Inverness is amazing. This is what Banchory needs.
- Much needed in Banchory!!
- It would be a great asset for the village.
- I am really behind this project it is so needed in Banchory. It is really fantastic to see young people along with adults driving this project.
- I fully support and encourage the building of a skate park.
- Skateboarding will be an Olympic event, let's give our kids a chance to become an Olympian!
- I hope it happens
- Well done for this new project

Comments on Benefits to the Local Community

- We need more things for young and disadvantaged kids to access
- I think it would make Banchory more fun and keep more children out of trouble and in a safe environment
- There is a lot of young talent in and around Banchory whether it be skateboarding, mountain biking, etc but very little provision for them to explore and develop their skills. Putting these kinds of facilities into communities also promotes healthy living and gives youths somewhere to assemble and socialize too.
- Would be something for all ages to use and older children would have something to occupy them in an evening as there really isn't anything for this
- We need something to do in Banchory
- My children and many others in Banchory and surrounding areas would really benefit from having a skatepark. Skateboarding, inline and BMX biking are all sports which should be encouraged
- Banchory needs something for children and in particular teenagers as facilities are lacking in this area for this age group
- Very good idea! Should be free access and for different levels and age.
- This would be a great activity for youths
- The children need more things to do
- Like the idea, if built well and to a high standard skate park could draw visitors to Banchory (for demo's and competitions).
- "Skating of all kinds takes great talent, develops useful skills and helps people find their own happy place to relax and be themselves. It's a very freeing sport with a lot of room for creativity.
- The skating community is the most welcoming community I've ever been a part of and have witnessed first-hand the positive impact this has on people's lives.
- Sooner it's done the better, the current skatepark does not let us further develop our skills or even challenge us in any way
- I'm part of the Granite City Roller Derby league in Aberdeen and play and compete on their Fight Hawks team. Adults love skating too! It's time we all had more outdoor space to do so!"

- Back when I was young and part of the youth forum we helped to raise funds for the current skating facility. It was a great achievement, but it is now out dated and certainly in need of an upgrade, I feel Banchory would certainly benefit from this project... Like everyone says there is nowhere for young people to go, this would provide a space to hang out and keep busy!
- I would use it so much I really hope a skatepark is built
- Well let's hope it actually happens this time and isn't stopped by the usual snobs in Banchory!!!!
- The current skate park is pathetic and a new one has been promised for years - let's hope this one actually goes ahead, and you take account of the views of the people who will actually use it and not the people who really don't care and want to spoil the youngster's fun. There is nothing else to do in Banchory!
- Used the park when I was 9. then it got dismantled but promised a new and better one. 14 years later it looks like something might happen.
- I think this is a really good project. Although I would not use it myself I can see that it would be a valuable resource for the young people in Banchory and could potentially attract people to its centre which is dying in its feed currently
- Many towns require skateparks as there is such a high volume of people who would enjoy the safe facility without endangering themselves or members of the public.
- What Banchory needs
- A proper skatepark is needed. So many towns seem to have the amenities that Banchory has to fight for. The kids need a free to use facility, with some summer coaching sessions etc. Every child shouldn't just play football or rugby. The Highland Skatepark in Inverness was awesome when we visited recently, I would push for a facility as large as that, along with pump tracks. It also has floodlights. People have been skating and blading for a long time in Banchory. The bowl in the Bellfield park used to see a lot of action, yet it was removed...
- A new skatepark would be welcome the old equipment is good but it's not very inviting for people looking to begin a new sport
- It would be good to try and upgrade park facilities at same time as skate park- make Banchory a place people want to come to - mini golf/better play facilities.
- This would be a great use of space in Banchory and would get people of all ages using the space.
- I'm fed up of paying top council tax for pathetic facilities when lower income towns have the lot. Get this done now. It's 40 yrs. overdue. I did not move to Banchory to fund other towns. Give our kids something from the money we pay. About bloody time.
- I am a grandparent, but my grandchildren do not live in Banchory. However, if they did, I would be keen to support a skate park. I do have neighbours whose children are keen skateboarders - hence the reason for my support.
- I think it's a great idea and very needed.
- There is very little for young people to do in Banchory in the winter months with short daylight hours. This might offer a social outlet to avoid antisocial behaviour
- My kids love visiting skate parks on their scooters everywhere we go. The modern designs look great and enhance a park area. It's such a popular sport/ pastime for kids now. Looking forward to it.
- It's about time that there is something outside Aberdeen that everyone could enjoy.
- "It would provide a place to practice skills
- It is a meeting area for like-minded children - enhancing social skills and sharing experiences and learning from each other and developing friendships
- An area for the wider community to see how talented some of the young people are as well as inspiring younger people in the community
- Need to have good facilities in Banchory for children and young people
- I think the reason there is a rise in vandalism in Banchory is there is very little for young kids and teenagers to do. This is a place to hang out that IAN see able, cool and active. Win.
- Welcome addition to the poor play area down there, the whole place needs a revamp as always busy with families down there.

- The skate park will be a welcome and necessary addition to the area, as a lot of children bike and skate but have no safe place to practice at this time.
- I think the kids of Banchory would welcome a safe, well lit, purpose-built skate park that caters for all ages and abilities. Stonehaven has a good example of a skate park."
- A positive addition for the young people of the town
- "Banchory has a need for enticing children to be active and engaged. This has been something that my son would have used when he was younger. It's too late for him but would benefit the area. There is a great park but with little entertainment for teens.
- This would be a welcome facility. It's good to encourage physical activity in both children and adults in a safe (off-road) environment.
- An environment where all levels of skaters and bikers can improve and enjoy themselves would be a great asset to the town.
- A new skate park for the town is well overdue. All efforts should be made to ensure it is a first-rate facility.
- Desperately needed! The half pipe is not fit for purpose. To keep crime levels down people must be engaged in accessible activities - build skills, self-esteem, kudos, keep active, stay fit... all positive for good mental health which will keep people from using other services - GPs, prescriptions, Cornhill, etc.
- Personally, I wouldn't use it and have no family that would, but I don't think the present one. Is used a lot and is something good for kids to encourage them to get out and socialise.
- It will be good for the community because it will decrease potential anti-social behaviour and to introduce the young generation to a very entertaining sport
- My niece and nephew would definitely use a good facility. Also, I'd like to see something for active wheelchair users.
- A really good idea provides a great facility for kids to be active and creative
- Banchory has a real lack of kid friendly activities for the size of the village
- I personally wouldn't use it but know lots of people who definitely would
- Aberdeen /Aberdeenshire have missed years of opportunity to support and build on its long history of skateboarding. Too many people are unaware of the skateboarding history and innovation in the north east and this is a long-awaited development. This is my 40th year of skateboarding - through lean times and boom times -and I can only add one more voice to say build it, the health benefits alone are enough but skateboarding builds character, self-reliance and individuality, all life skills our children need for the future.
- My children are too young to use it at the moment, but I hope they would in the future.
- People, especially youngsters, need more to do in Banchory. This kind of thing is great for keeping teens and young adults busy and out of trouble. If a new facility were to be constructed it would need to be free to use to encourage more youngsters to use them and be located somewhere easy to walk to from both the high street area and hill of Banchory.
- Aberdeen needs a big skatepark like Glasgow has Kelvingrove and Dundee has dudhope so big area with a variety of features from beginner level to people who are good and get a bowl.
- My children love skateparks and BMX-ing and scootering and the one ramp just now is "boring and too plain" the boys say when the ramp was higher all the "druggies" and "the gang PEG" would go on it so I feel like if the skatepark was better then children in Banchory wouldn't get as bored and do drugs for fun. I think the skatepark is a very good development asset to Banchory and I hope one day my boys will enjoy the facilities.
- It would be a fantastic addition to available activities within the community. A brilliant activity for kids.
- Skateparks are fantastic facilities for all ages in a community and the Banchory Park is long overdue renovation
- It would be a great facility for kids/teenagers.
- Need a new skatepark urgently
- Any facility that encourages children to play outdoors should be supported.

- It would be hugely popular amongst Banchory's youngsters. The existing ramp we have is great but a facility something like they have in Stonehaven would be ideal as all abilities and ages can have fun on it.
- I think if us kids had a decent skate park we wouldn't get bored and people like us wouldn't do drugs! I feel this skate park would be helping the youth of Banchory return to being normal well behaved kids.
- Along with the play park Banchory facilities are very limited, bored kids get into mischief, so the skate park and better facilities can only help our kids getting bored. Along with the population of young kids in Banchory we get many visitors and what we have to offer is poor compared to Stonehaven & Arbroath beach front. I have taken my son there and played and ran about for hours. Making these facilities will only help our local village shops e.g. continental creams etc.

Considerations / Comments on Design

- Would be great to have a larger concrete space that would include scooters, skaters as well as skateboarders, more like space provided in Stonehaven.
- I wonder if two/three separate bits would be good, i.e. a bit for 0-5-year olds 5-10-year olds and teenagers. I find my 9-year-old is having to wait for the little ones a lot and also teenagers are waiting for my son.
- Some kind of shelter near/beside would be useful
- There should be space also for bicycles and younger children.
- Any type of play provision should be available with limited cosy but understand the need for the upkeep of the facilities.
- There should be a street plaza in the park
- "Ensure there are enough rubbish bins
- I think you should think of having a shelter of bike racks for when the weather is bad
- You could get artists to graffiti it, but the clean look would also be nice if that idea is stupid
- "An overall more comprehensive space would be nice. Boxes, rails, stairs etc. and existing mini-ramp.
- Also, anything that makes use of the brilliant natural slope at the current location."
- Bigger concrete area for flat riding grind rails. Manual pad
- Make it good.
- It has to be nicely integrated in the landscape of the Bellfield park
- I don't skate in the area and haven't used the existing park, so I can't accurately feedback on that. But I do prefer a floodlit park and normally chose to go to a park which has bright adjacent lighting because I can't go till later on in the day
- No trees should be cut down to make it
- Box jump and a spine
- Professionals need to be used in the creation of the park, otherwise a dangerous park could be made, or the space will not be put to best use.
- Have a beginner area and progress through to more complex area. May be costly to operate a fee per user, could do membership & get perks/competitions by joining?
- Installing solar or wind powered lighting so that nobody has to pay is the way forward.
- A large sized area To include an area for younger children 0- 4 yrs. separate from older children. A safe area where they can practice and have fun on balance bikes without the worry of older children knocking them over on their pedal bikes. Seating included for parents to supervise.
- You should put in box jumps
- Make it big enough for BMX's
- Make sure you do your homework into who does the design and build, I would suggest concreting. Good luck
- The design of the park has to involve skaters themselves, as well as contractors who are experienced in building out skateparks. Far too often councils and local groups pay contractors who do not understand the designs and requirements of skateboarders and designs that

complement the space available. This can lead to misallocation of funds when parks are built in such a manner that limits their potential by the users. This then causes lack of use which in turn appears like lack of appreciation for the funds invested into the facility. It is imperative that users are involved from the start as well as invites along to oversee the build out as a kind of Clerk of Works.

- It would be good to ensure it was accessible to all sports such as bikes as well. I would suggest different levels i.e. section for younger children as the current ramp is mainly used by older children putting off younger ones from going on it
- "Please consider more general use of the area in your plan. Scooter and balance bikes should also be able to use this facility. It doesn't need to be pan flat for these, only gradients and features that younger children can use.
- Should be suitable for all abilities and for bikes as well as skateboards
- Perfect quarters, hip that can flow for regular and goofy riders a good spine jump box regular size ledges like the ones at union square and a good down rail
- Make it a good skatepark for all level of riders and good use for bikes, skateboard etc.
- I would like a skatepark with a bit of everything, but mainly jump boxes, bowl area, street section.
- A skatepark similar to Stonehaven would be very ideal in Banchory
- Please take in to account all ages, including balance bikes, roller-skates, skateboards and bikes
- There needs to be plenty of bins provided and a code of practice to abide by - see Highland Skatepark Associate which is run by volunteers, operated as a charity and as a result regulates proper use"
- There have been x2 skateparks built in the park in Banchory both are small and limited. You would be better creating in tandem with a skate a pump track to allow BMX and trials MTB these are both growing and popular sports. Facilities need to be multi use and not exclusive to one sport this will maximise usage.
- If going ahead, must stay in current position and not expand further into Bellfield Park as this Park was gifted for all Banchory residents.
- Please cater to street skateboarders as well as transition skaters.
- Could the facility be undercover to allow use in bad weather conditions?
- Large area that's suitable for all standards of skateboarding.
- Needs to be a big park
- Do not focus on Vert too much as quite a lot of the locals are street skaters
- I think it would be better if Banchory had a proper skatepark as the half pipe is holding back some people's abilities
- Make ledges and rails for skateboards. Stairs would be nice too
- cover it! light it! us solar power! or power light from the river get creative get the kids interacting Aberdeenshire is so far behind the times. lead show!!!!
- If there was left over money you could upgrade the play park
- The design Should consider small children on balance bikes and scooters too
- Looking at other skateparks, there needs to be a variety of ramps but also enough space. I don't think it should be floodlit as this would attract late at night cars which may create disturbance issue. Kemnay has no floodlights and we suffer from antisocial behaviour/ fast cars etc so this needs to be considered. Good luck
- If there was left over money you should use it to upgrade or change the kids play area and make it more welcoming
- Quality and varied course would provide a valuable resource for those in Banchory and surrounding area.
- Providing lighting would make the park accessible for older children/adults in the evenings, allowing all ages and abilities to have ample time to access it

Considerations / Comments on Management and Maintenance

- Would the site be covered by insurance?
- How would graffiti and litter be dealt with?

- Who would be responsible for inspection and maintenance"
- Paying for use of floodlights is ridiculous, surely the cost of the floodlights will be less than the potential "damages" caused by people turning to alternative options as there isn't adequate lighting.
- I really wouldn't want all your hard work end up as a druggie/numpty hangout where children are a bit scared to go and where parents are equally scared of who they'll meet/what they'll hear/see. I would love for them to just be able to go and skate/scoot. "
- feel the skate park would need to be supervised or else will be overrun by the bad kids in Banchory.
- "It must not become a drug dealer, or criminal activity area. CCTV coverage could be useful.
- Some thought given to possible accident cover. "
- I think there are plenty children who would use this facility, as long as it is in a place which is not hidden away, where it is safe for the kids who use it to go and not end up a place for kids to hang out for other reasons, if it were hidden. Therefore, flood lights might prevent this, or simply being as close to the car par at possible next to lighting already provided. Stonehaven skate park is well used, can be seen by people all around, making it a great place for kids interested in this to use it. Anything that encourages kids out in the fresh air is a good idea!!
- If a new skatepark is to go ahead it needs to be done quickly. I was part of the fundraising team for the current one, but by the time it was built we had all grown up and out of town. There also needs to be more security to ensure that people who want to use it aren't greeted by smashed bottles and drug paraphernalia. My daughter is currently 6, I'd like her to get involved in skating, but I have to reserve judgement. Perhaps it would be better to get indoor skate equipment for the new sports village.
- If a charge was generated for the use of this facility it would help maintenance costs.
- If the skatepark was to have floodlights, I feel that a fee is acceptable. If it does not, I struggle to see after it has been built what the moment could be used for unless it was specified that the skatepark would be maintained/extended
- Make it safe, min age restrictions, no toddlers running around
- Why can't council pay for the lighting?
- In my opinion any sport facility for young people is a good thing. I think it is unfair to charge. Surely a couple of fundraising events would cover the cost.
- "I think a lower charge for lights would be better.
- Floodlights should be thought of in the same way that street lights are. We need to encourage young people to be active - this will help.
- To make it attractive to youngsters, to provide a varied appeal to scooters, BMX and skateboarders. It be a long time coming!!
- better closing after dark to avoid anti-social behaviour
- "I would want to know the drug free status was high on the priority.
- Police liaison support
- Anti-bullying policy
- Friends of skatepark scheme for on-going funding

Comments / Consideration on User Groups and Usage

- "Could it be used for coaching and skills development sessions
- a set of rules? no snaking, no dangerous tricks which could affect others, no littering, no scooters, no smoking, no scooters, no scooters, no scooters
- Small lessons
-
- No scooters because they scratch everything and there is too many scooter kids
- Hopefully this could be opened up to BMX use as well
- Needs to be BMX friendly. Shouldn't become a hangout area for drinkers are.
- Should not be any charge, kids shouldn't need to ask for money to go out and play.

- Charging a yearly membership and a season one would be a great way to maintain the park. This has been adopted at other sites. I go to Hopeman every year with friends and the skate park there is well maintained and utilised daily. This is a small fishing village and has more teen engagement than Banchory."
- "Not sure about charging people for lighting.
- All these questions depend on the quality of the park and how it is to be maintained. Obviously, I would be willing to pay more for a good quality skate park that is safe and clean to use.
- Rather than pay as you go, a donation facility could be used. Young kids would struggle to cover cost on daily basis but any young adult with job wouldn't mind a few quid at a time
- There should be no cost to light the skate park.
- People are suggesting there be a ban on little kids running through the new skatepark if this does apply when it's built then if there is a surplus of money should it be used to build equipment for the children?
- This may cause difficulties in the fairness of who, especially because different people and groups will using the facility at the same time!!"
- Me and my 3 kids would use it and also be happy to pay providing it meant it would be looked after!

Concerns

- Although a skate park in Banchory might be good, it appeals to an extremely limited amount of and type of people.
- I think monitoring of any behavioural issues at the skate park is essential. The Hopeman one is well run and managed. Any issues such as swearing etc at the park and child loses their membership. They pay £15 a year to be a member and it's an amazing skate park.
- It tends to just create a place for drinking and taking drugs. Better if indoor
- The skate park at the moment is already filled with youngsters that shout abuse at the public. The skate park will just attract more of these drug users down to the park and cause the local park to become uninhabitable by anyone over 18, it is already an unsafe area to bring my family and this will just make it worse. I have been to the park multiple times and never have I felt safe.
- "There are far worthy requirements for the WHOLE community in Banchory
- This project would only benefit a minority of users
- The current facility is adequate and not well attended, especially in the winter months. This proposal could end up as a white elephant
- I started skateboarding because of the old skatepark, despite it being very poorly built. Aberdeenshire is really far behind with its skate facilities, looking at the recent skate developments Carnoustie, Arbroath, Inverness etc. All fantastic. The city is only just catching up, but it's great to see the next generation of skateboarders picking it up because of these parks appearing. Provides something to do, as well as a safe space to start experimenting with street art as well as learn the basics of park skateboarding.
- I am extremely concerned that this would be a magnet to groups of teenage boys hanging out drinking/anti-social behaviour. I am concerned that the area would become a no-go zone for teenage girls. How would the area be managed? To have a focal area for sporting activity is great but it would need to be really well managed.
- How to protect young skaters from negative role models - I know all these points are a bit negative but I have seen the effects of impressionable younger children mixing with drug fuelled older children without any acknowledgement of an issue from the organisers/community council.