

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Causeway Association of Urban Sports

13th October 2015

For Information

Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Prosperity Health & Wellbeing Cohesive Community
Lead Officer	Wendy McCullough – Head of Sport and Wellbeing
Cost: (If applicable)	Officer Input

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the development of an Urban Plaza/Skateboard Park in Portrush, located in the grounds of the Council owned Metropole Site.

Background

In December 2013 Causeway Association of Urban Sports (CAUS) presented to Coleraine Borough Council a proposal to develop a piece of land close to the former Metropole Hotel in Portrush, in the corner of the main Dunluce Centre grounds. The proposal was based upon research and consultation with local skateboard and urban sports enthusiasts, carried out by the group throughout the Triangle and nearby Ballymoney areas. The study was presented to provide proof of the need for a space to be developed which would cater for the needs of residents wishing to participate in their chosen sport, in an area which was designated for that activity, and which provided a safe environment for those individuals. It would also alleviate current difficulties caused by urban sports enthusiasts practicing their sport in areas not designed for the purpose, the risk of damage to street furniture and fears of injury to by-passers.

Following the presentation, Coleraine Borough Council took the decision to "... support in principle, the proposition and land request, however, any decision must be taken in context with the current strategic review of the Dunluce / Metropole and Recreation grounds sites".

In June 2014, following the presentation of the Recreation Grounds and Dunluce Centre V4 report, Council made the decision there was no perceived conflict between the future use of the Dunluce Centre and an urban plaza development on a section of the land, allowing officers to confirm the approval of the land offer and engage with the CAUS representatives with a view to securing a lease agreement. This would support grant applications by CAUS for project funding. The recommendation was supported and Council approved the offer of land to CAUS for an urban plaza/skateboard park at the Metropole Park in Portrush and requested Officers to prepare a lease agreement.

CAUS has continued its work to secure planning approval and funding from the Space & Place / Big Lottery Fund. Officers have also worked alongside the group to develop a memorandum of understanding sufficient to allow for the project's submission to Space & Place. As the funding stages progress documentation relating to the Lease will be formalised.

Update

CAUS has received notification from Space & Place confirming that the “Portrush Exercise Plaza” has passed the eligibility check and will be considered for funding under Tranche 4 of the programme. The letter of notification states “... Assessments for Tranche 4 projects are being placed on hold and we will be in contact with you in early autumn to arrange a site visit to discuss your project in more detail.”