



Belfast City Council

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| Report to: | Parks and Leisure Committee |
| Subject: | Mountain Bike Trail at Barnett Demesne |
| Date: | 6 December 2012 |
| Reporting Officer: | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure |
| Contact Officer: | Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager |

| 1 | Relevant Background Information |
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| 1.1 | <p>The Committee is reminded that the development of a Mountain Bike Trail at Barnett Demesne is included within the Investment Programme 2012-2015. Members may recall that there have been a series of reports regarding this item in the past. These reports have essentially considered three elements to this project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The issue of unauthorised jump trails at Cavehill County Park and Barnett's Demesne and the need to make provision for this growing sport and past time;2. The funding opportunity through the Rural Development Programme to support the development of a trail; and3. The funding opportunity through Sport NI and the Community Capital Programme to provide an enhanced mountain bike trail. |
| 1.2 | <p>The end result of this is that funding has been secured from both RDP and SNI and a 12km mountain bike trail will now be delivered at Barnett's Demesne. This will be a partnership project involving the Council, the two funding organisations and Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland. A site map illustrating the trail is attached as Appendix 1. Members will note that the trail has been designed to meet a range of mountain bike skills level from the novice / beginner through to the more experienced / expert user.</p> |

| 2 | Key Issues |
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| 2.1 | <p>The Committee is asked to note the following key points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contract for the construction of the trail has been awarded with effect from 6th November 2012; 2. Physical construction has commenced and is scheduled to complete by the end of March 2013; 3. Signage has been erected in advance of the work being commissioned and will be displayed prior to the commencement of the construction works; 4. A consultation event with the mountain bike trail users is being arranged, possibly prior to Christmas to consider a programme of events and put in place protocols for use. 5. A budget for a launch event is available through the Rural Development Programme and consideration is being given to this at present; 6. Operational maintenance of the trail will be undertaken by the Council. During year 1 this will be primarily undertaken by Council staff who have been trained in the maintenance of trails. In addition it is intended to enter into a call off contract with the contractor to support the work if required and this will be within quotation limits. |
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| 3 | Resource Implications |
| 3.1 | <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>This £400,000 project has been funded through support from the Rural Development Programme, Sport NI and Belfast City Council. Provision has been made within the Capital Programme.</p> <p>In addition, £10,000 has been provided through departmental estimates to meet the annual maintenance requirements of the trail.</p> |
| 3.2 | <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications at this time, a review of the maintenance element will be undertaken at the end of year 1.</p> |
| 3.3 | <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>This trail will provide a much needed resource for this growing sport. It will also enable the Council to more effectively manage unauthorised use of its sites for mountain bike.</p> |

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| 4 | Equality and Good Relations Considerations |
| 4.1 | There are no equality implications |

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| 5 | Recommendations |
| 5.1 | It is recommended that the Committee note the report. |

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| 6 | Decision Tracking |
| | None |

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| 7 | Key to Abbreviations |
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| 8 | Documents Attached |
| | Appendix 1 – Site map illustrating the trail |