

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Infrastructure
DATE	17 May 2016
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Catherine Street Court
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/16/012
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval to develop the Catherine Street Court, working in partnership with the Denis Law Legacy Trust (DLLT) and the Johan Cruyff Foundation, to deliver Scotland's first 'Cruyff Court', a modern recreational facility.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Committee is requested to:

- a. Approve development of the site to create a Cruyff Court.
- b. Approve an external tendering process to appoint a contractor to undertake development works with contract value not to exceed the figure and with Council contribution set out within the related report within Committee's exempt business.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are contained within the related report with Committee's exempt business.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Legal agreements are being developed with support from Council solicitors to be agreed by DLLT, Johan Cruyff Foundation and the Council prior to any tendering activity.

Organised activities would be delivered by Streetsport, part of DLLT.

Appendix A provides background information on DLLT, Johan Cruyff Foundation and Streetsport.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The proposal is to upgrade the multi-use games area on Catherine Street in partnership with the Johan Cruyff Foundation and the Denis Law Legacy Trust. The court is owned and maintained as part of the Council housing estate. The court is currently in poor condition, is underused and has attracted significant amounts of antisocial behaviour. An upgrade, part-funded by the charities, would provide a modern community facility. The new Cruyff Court would be open to the public, and also have a range of organised activities co-ordinated by Streetsport, also involving local volunteers, several times a week.

The proposed works include removing embankments to open up visibility of the area; new fencing to enclose the court; new lighting; an astroturf pitch; and new goal posts. Appendices B and C show the site plan and examples of Cruyff Courts in other areas.

- The current condition of the court makes for an intimidating environment and as such, the facility is underused. The proposed development would **improve access to recreational facilities** for children and young people nearby and thereby be meeting a number of health objectives relating to the impact of sports activity. Streetsport will also offer coaching and volunteering schemes which are designed to provide improved opportunities for local residents to develop their **confidence and employability skills**.
- Due both to underuse, as well as poor visibility from the surrounding streets into the facility, the court and surrounding area have attracted a significant amount of antisocial behaviour including street drinking and youth annoyance. Since April 2015, Streetsport have been running weekly sessions which have seen the number of antisocial behaviour calls decrease markedly on the day they are held. A Community Safety Analyst has prepared a report on antisocial behaviour in the area and the impact of diversionary activities such as Streetsport. The evidence on the impact of current Streetsport provision suggests that an increased provision of these services, especially if targeted on problem days will meet a number of objectives relating to **decreased antisocial behaviour** in the area and the associated measures of increased wellbeing for residents.
- Due to both the design and the condition of the current facility the surrounding area appears run-down and situated between a number of major roads with little accessible green or leisure space in the neighbourhood. Considering its location in a cul-de-sac and opposite a community centre an upgraded Court could provide **valuable enhanced leisure and amenity space**.

Currently the court is accessible to the public at all times, but rarely used other than during Streetsport sessions.

The court and surrounding area is maintained by the Council's Environmental and Building Services and this arrangement shall continue following the recommended development.

The following will be the main direct benefits realised through the proposed improvements:

- Improved access to modern recreational play space and with this, improved rates of activities among children and young people
- Decreased levels of antisocial behaviour

Further it provides an opportunity for the city of Aberdeen to support the legacies of two football legends, this is especially important with the recent passing of Johan Cruyff.

A simple evaluation framework has been developed to assess future impact.

Community consultation has taken place with local Council tenants and residents; elected members; community council; Catherine Street community centre; and a Youth Group with overwhelming support for the project. 95% of individuals responding to a questionnaire support the project demonstrating the proposal is strongly supported by the local community.

With Committee approval the estimated completion date is by May 2017.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

- Improved access to modern recreational play space and with this, improved rates of activities among children and young people
- Decreased levels of antisocial behaviour

Improving Staff Experience –

The project provides new project management experience for staff involved in developing the proposal. Its is also giving experience in collaborating with the third sector and the community for mutual benefits that should inspire similar activity in the future as we progress neighbourhood planning and regeneration.

Improving our use of Resources –

Currently the site proposed for redevelopment is in poor condition and is not utilised for recreation to the extent that it should be. There is also little alternative recreational facilities in the locality. The proposal will deliver a modern recreational facility on the site and secures financial contributions that otherwise are unlikely to be provided.

Corporate -

The proposal supports delivery of Smarter Aberdeen objectives and in particular the following priorities: Smarter Governance (participation), Living, People and Environment.

Community Safety, Health and Wellbeing, and Learning and Workforce priorities within the Single Outcome Agreement are supported by the proposal.

Public –

This report is of interest to the public and in particular the local community. There is already positive media interest generated with further opportunities through the project development and implementation. A joint communications strategy is in place with the Council leading on media activity.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

We have been working on the proposal with our partners over the past 12 months. A decision is now required to commit to the development otherwise there is risk that we will lose the investment opportunity currently made available by the Johan Cruyff Foundation and DLLT.

Preliminary discussions have been held with the Planning Team, with regard to this proposal. These discussions have indicated that this proposal is likely to be considered in conformance with the Local Development Plan, subject to consultation on the developed detail of the proposal'.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Housing Budget 2016/17, Finance, Policy and Resources committee 3 December 2015

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix A

Johan Cruyff Foundation

When Johan Cruyff was still playing football in the USA, he lived next door to a young boy with Down's syndrome. This boy did not play with the other children in the street because he couldn't but mostly because he did not fit in. The boy was very open and accessible towards Johan. Johan started playing football with him one-to-one and throwing the ball up in the air so that the boy headed it back to him etc. This bond of confidence led to the boy jumping unannounced into the swimming pool behind Johan's house. This was dangerous because the boy could not swim, but due to the extraordinary bond between these two people Johan could teach him to swim himself. One day Johan returned from a match and saw the boy playing football in the street with the other children. This story proves the power of sport and forms the basis of the Johan Cruyff Foundation which was founded in 1997 to give children the opportunity to play and be active.

Sport and children have become the pillars beneath the Johan Cruyff Foundation, particularly children with a disability.

Since its start the Johan Cruyff Foundation has become an organisation which gets and keeps young people exercising every day. The Foundation does this by initiating and supporting projects which stimulate sport and games. This always takes place in cooperation with associations, schools, sporting federations, businesses and government authorities, because: "you can't do anything alone, you have to do it together".

Mission

The Johan Cruyff Foundation gets children active. This is necessary to keep them healthy and help them live together in a complex society. Sport and exercise help children to develop, which is why no single child should be left out. By organising projects for disabled children, building Cruyff Courts and equipping playgrounds and primary schools, the Cruyff Foundation contribute to a better and more enduring society. Every week they get more than 100.000 children active. The Cruyff Foundation is supported by People's Postcode Lottery, AkzoNobel, Seacon Logistics, Coop Supermarkets and Unilever Benelux.

Vision

Sport and exercise are important for good and healthy development in children. They are just as important as learning to read and write. It is no accident that the right to sport and exercise are enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Things are different in practice. In the Netherlands as elsewhere, children are becoming less and less active. The consequences for the health of young people are already visible. Studies also demonstrate negative consequences in the social arena, development and integration. The Cruyff Foundation wants to get children moving, for their own happiness - now and later.

Website: www.cruyff-foundation.org/en

Website: www.worldofjohancruyff.com/cruyff-foundation

APPENDIX A

The Denis Law Legacy Trust

The Denis Law Legacy Trust, a registered charity based in Aberdeen was established in honour of Dennis Law the iconic footballer. It runs the Denis Law Soccer [Tournament](#) and in 2012 it also erected a [statue](#) of him in tribute. The trust wants to help young people access sport in their communities, whatever their background or environment. "Streetsport" is their initial vehicle for delivery.

They plan to encourage discipline and team spirit in a caring, constructive and sporting environment due to the social and economic position that many of these children find themselves in.

The Main Objectives of the Trust are as follows:

- To provide support for our young people in this region
- To give young people from our community and local area, access to professional coaching and training in their chosen sport
- To give young people the opportunity to participate in an annual football tournament in honour of Denis Law, named Denis Law Soccer Tournament to be played in Aberdeen
- To raise funds for [Streetsport](#), a socially inclusive project, that aims to reduce instances of youth crime and anti-social behaviour, through sport, physical activity and creative endeavour.
- To work with all parties who share these common objectives for the benefit of our community, individuals and established organisations
- To raise funds to achieve these objectives
- To utilise the legendary figure of Denis Law as a focus for all of the above objectives

Website: <http://www.denislawlegacytrust.co.uk/>

APPENDIX A

Streetsport

Established in 2006 Streetsport aims to assist with crime prevention through intervention and diversionary activities. They have worked strategically in partnership with a wide range of partners including Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership, Absafe, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in an effort to achieve this.

They support underprivileged communities with high levels of unemployment and poverty, mainly targeting activities for 10-16 year olds. Some of these activities include football, dance, art and Panna Ko.

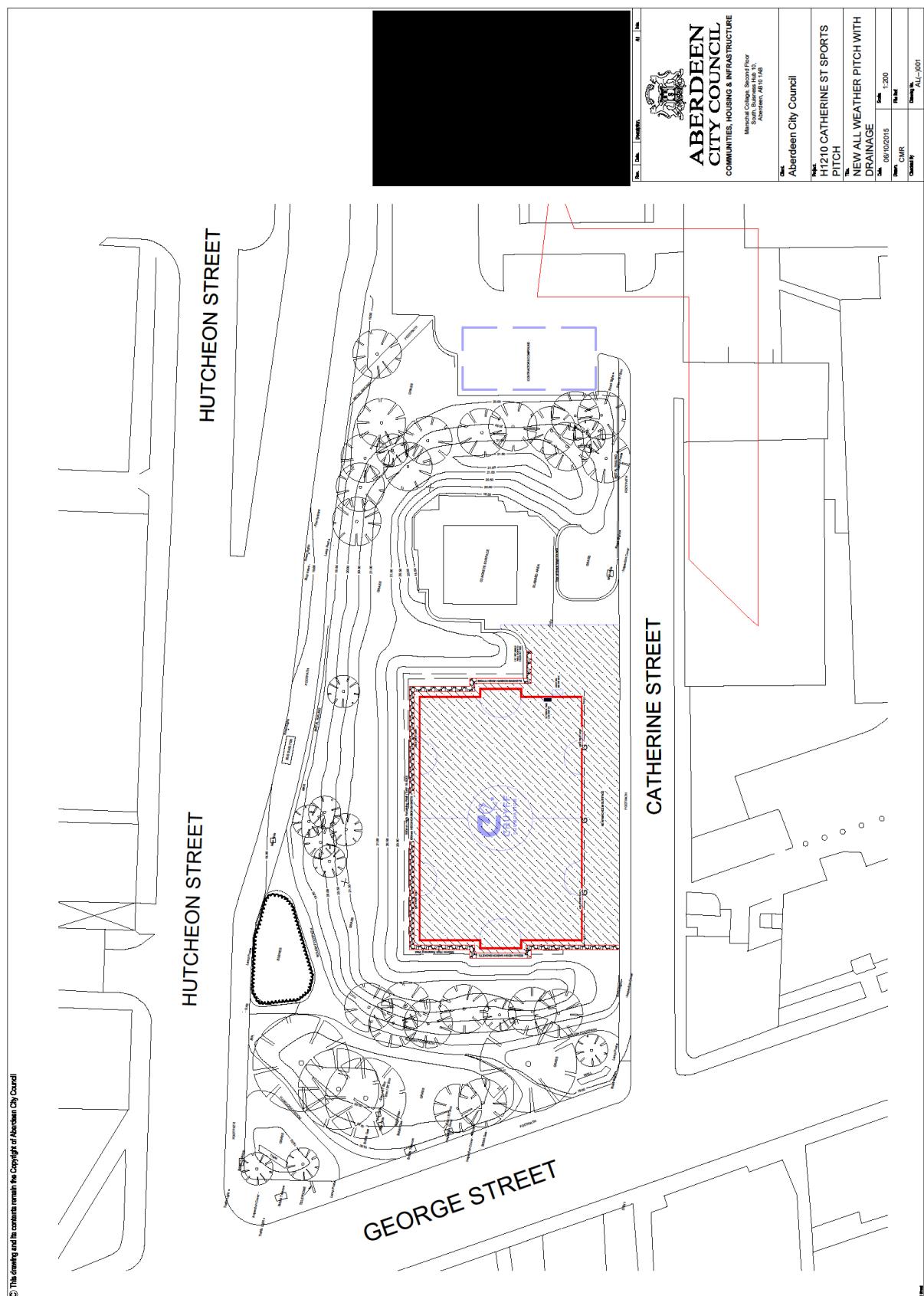
Existing impact measures of the Streetsport programme include instances where they have contributed to reducing complaints and instances of youth crime, anti-social behaviour and wilful fire raising by over 60%

They help to eliminate barriers with hard to reach individuals and involve youths in current community matters.

Since the launch of the project more than 1600 deployments have taken place across Aberdeen with over 30,000 attendances, assisted by a variety of Streetsport Volunteers, City Wardens, Active Schools Co-ordinators and Youth Workers. Between 15 and 50 young people (both male and female) regularly participate on a nightly basis

Website: <http://streetsport.org/>

Appendix B – Site Plan



Appendix C – Examples of Cruyff Courts

