

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee
DATE	5 September 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Installation of Physical Exercise Bars (Callisthenic Station) in Parks
REPORT NUMBER	RES/23/264
DIRECTOR	Steve Whyte
CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Reilly
REPORT AUTHOR	Steven Shaw
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides a background to a petition presented to the Finance and Resources Committee on Wednesday 5 July 2023 and provides the information asked for by the committee. This includes the estimated cost of the Installation of callisthenic stations in four Aberdeen parks.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the full estimated, capital and revenue costs for the Installation of callisthenic stations in four Aberdeen parks.
- 2.2 Instruct the Chief Officer – Finance to refer this report to the Council’s budget setting process for 2024/25.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 A petition was presented to the Finance and Resources Committee on Wednesday 5 July 2023 (Item 4,1).
- 3.2 The ask of the petition is to install some Physical Exercise Bars (Callisthenic Station) e.g., Dip Bars, Pull-ups bars, Monkey Bars, Wall Bars, Pummel Horse. in Duthie Park in order to help to look after the community physical & mental health as well as their budget during this cost-of-living crisis by promoting healthy lifestyle initiatives within the park without incurring on expensive fitness centre memberships. Having a callisthenic station in Duthie Park would facilitate and encourage regular physical activity. It would promote a healthy lifestyle and would be a venue for families to be active together as well as encouraging new friendships and community engagement.

The full petition information is included within Appendix A.

3.3 The Committee resolved:

1. Note the petition and thanks the petitioners for bringing the matter before the Finance & Resources Committee; and
2. Agree to instruct the Chief Officer – Operations and Protective Services to prepare a report on the feasibility, options, and associated costs of installing public exercise equipment at all public parks, including but not limited to Duthie Park, and report back to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 5 September 2023.

3.4 Environmental Services consider four parks to have the suitable space to accommodate a callisthenic station. Duthie Park, Hazlehead Park, Seaton Park and Westburn Park.

3.5 In relation to current outdoor fitness equipment in the city, the service advises that it is generally underused and very expensive, although certainly something that should be considered in terms of public health etc.

3.6 Environmental Services has no capital funding available to purchase and install callisthenic equipment and has no revenue funding or staff resources to properly inspect and maintain this new equipment within our parks. Significant capital and revenue funding would need to be allocated to Environmental Services to see the project become a reality.

3.7 The estimated capital cost, per park to install a callisthenic station is £100,000. This includes for the necessary, premium, safety surfacing. This cost is based on information supplied by the market leader and is a good indicative cost for an outdoor gym covering an area of approximately 400M2.

3.8 The revenue cost, per park to maintain a callisthenic station is hard to gauge but is estimated at £5,000 per annum. This estimate is based on the in-house team's recommendations. This does not include staff costs for inspection and safety checks. These checks could be undertaken by the existing play area team, but as the team are currently at full capacity, adding new equipment and parks for them to inspect would mean that current safety checks and inspections of play areas would have to reduce. Any reduction increases the risk with our existing play areas.

3.9 Aberdeen's parks are regularly used by individuals and fitness classes who make very good use of the available green spaces without the use of equipment.

3.10 If new equipment was approved this year, the timeline for design and installation would be 18 to 24 months. This is dependent on officer resources available to take on the project.

3.11 Sport Aberdeen are investigating the possibility of installing outdoor gym equipment at two of their current sites. There is no current funding secured for this, but funding will be investigated for 24/25. Any equipment installed will be free to use by the public.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The estimated total capital project cost is £400,000 to £500,000. This cost is based on the installation of a good-sized callisthenic station in four parks. This includes the necessary, premium, safety surfacing. This cost is based on information supplied by the market leader and is a good indicative cost for an outdoor gym covering an area of approximately 400M2.
- 4.2 The estimated total revenue funding required is £20,000 per annum. This covers four parks but does not include staff costs for safety checks and inspection.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

- 7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve. Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *Taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified.	NA	L	Yes
Compliance	No significant risks identified.	NA	L	Yes
Operational	Environmental Services does not have the staff and resources to look after	Resources allocated to other service tasks such as play area inspection / maintenance will have to be reduced. This will	H	Yes

	additional exercise equipment in our parks.	be detrimental to existing facilities.		
Financial	Environmental Services does not have the capital or revenue budget to install or look after additional exercise equipment in our parks.	Budget allocated to other service tasks such as play area refurbishment, inspection and maintenance will have to be reduced. This will be detrimental to existing facilities.	H	Yes
Reputational	No significant risks identified.	NA	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified.	NA	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	Supports the delivery of Aberdeen City Council Policy through the Council's commissioning intentions, aligned to the LOIP key drivers, and stretch outcomes.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The Installation of Physical Exercise Bars (Callisthenic Station) in Parks will contribute to the city as a visitor destination linked to heritage tourism, specifically supporting the following areas of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26, "We will seek to develop a City of Learning approach that empowers people and communities to put

	<p>lifelong learning at the heart of their civic and cultural identities.”</p> <p>Key Driver 1.1 “Diversification of the economy into other growth sectors including wider energy related sectors; tourism; food and drink; life sciences; health and social care and construction.”</p>
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The project would have had minimal impact on the stretch outcomes and the recommendations will have no negative impact.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	<p>The Installation of Physical Exercise Bars (Callisthenic Station) in Parks supports the delivery of stretch outcome -</p> <p>13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.</p>
Regional and City Strategies	Contributes to the targets and objectives in a range of regional and city strategies including Regional and Local Transport Strategies, Strategic and Local Development Plans, Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Aberdeen Adapts, Local Housing Strategy and Net Zero Route map for the city.
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	No impact identified.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

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10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NA

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A. Petition - Installation of Physical Exercise Bars (Callisthenic Station) in Duthie Park

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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