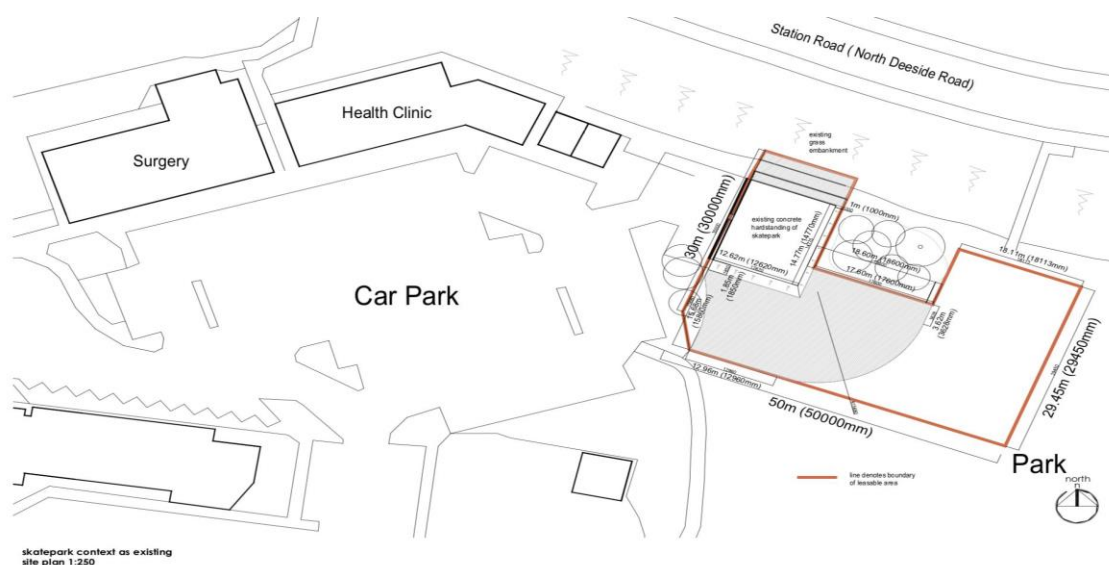


## Statutory Consultation with the Local Community under Part 8 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for Disposal of Common Good Land – For lease at Banchory Skatepark, Bellfield Park, Banchory

**Consultation dates: commences 11<sup>th</sup> February – closes 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

### What land is being consulted on?

The land is within Bellfield Park, Banchory; adjacent to and includes the area housing the existing skate ramp. It covers an area of 0.15ha and is to the east of Bellfield carpark. A site location map is provided below, with the area proposed to be leased having its boundary marked in red.



### What change is being proposed?

That Aberdeenshire Council should lease the site to Banchory Skatepark Group SCIO (Scottish Charity SC047788) for a period not exceeding 25 years.

### Why are we consulting?

Bellfield Park is Common Good Land – this means property owned by Aberdeenshire Council, which was inherited from one of the former 17 Burgh Councils situated within Aberdeenshire Council. When considering disposal of certain types of Common Good Land (whether by sale or lease), certain legal requirements must be followed. These are:

- Carry out a statutory consultation with the local community under Part 8 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015; and
- If required, seek approval from the Court under s.75 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

This consultation is being carried out to satisfy the first legal requirement and further guidance on the process can be found here.

[www.gov.scot/publications/community-empowerment-common-good-property-guidance-local-authorities/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/community-empowerment-common-good-property-guidance-local-authorities/)

Court approval will be sought if the Council decides to proceed with the disposal following the Consultation.

**What are the benefits of the proposal?**

By providing a long lease to Banchory Skatepark Group (BSG), it improves their ability to raise grant funding to enable a modern, fit-for-purpose skatepark to be built in Banchory and to manage the facility for the benefit of local residents & visitors who wish to participate in this sport. BSG carried out a detailed consultation about the project in 2018 (15th June - 8th August), to which 531 people responded. The overall response to the project was extremely positive, and when asked whether they would welcome the creation of a new concrete skate park in Banchory, over 99% of those who responded to this question answered Yes. The full results of this consultation and further details about the project can be found in *Banchory Skate Park Feasibility Study*, September 2018: [www.banchoryskatepark.com/](http://www.banchoryskatepark.com/) Reference copies are also available in Banchory Library.

**Are there any drawbacks to this proposal?**

The area of ground, within the red line, will be leased to BSG for a period up to 25 years and so will not be available for alternative uses during this period unless they are agreeable to this.

**Please answer the following question:**

Do you agree that Aberdeenshire Council should lease the site to Banchory Skatepark Group SCIO for a period not exceeding 25 years for the purpose of building and managing a new concrete skatepark?

Please circle or underline your answer: **Yes / No**

**Please provide any additional comments**

**Comments:**

**Contact details:**

<b>Name of Organisation or Individual</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Email</b>	

**What happens next?**

Aberdeenshire Council will consider and respond to any representations within eight weeks of the consultation closing date. The Council's final response will be published on the Aberdeenshire Council website (<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/community-empowerment/common-good-properties/>) along with **details of all representations to this consultation** (excluding address, postcode and email of respondent).

The Council will then take a decision having regard to the outcomes of this Consultation as to whether to proceed with the disposal.

Completed forms can be returned via email: [marr@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:marr@aberdeenshire.gov.uk), via post: Marr Area Office, School Road, Alford, AB33 8TY or by handing them in to Banchory Library.

**Please return forms by 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**