

# Public Document Pack



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## **GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (REVIEWS)**

**(REVIEW OF SKATEBOARDING BY-LAW)**

### **TO FOLLOW**

**DATE: THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2010**  
**TIME: 10.00 AM**  
**PLACE: COUNCIL HOUSE, PLYMOUTH, (NEXT TO THE CIVIC CENTRE)**

**Committee Members–**  
Councillor Coker , Chair  
Councillors Ball and Martin Leaves

*Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.*

*Members and Officers are requested to sign the attendance list at the meeting.*

BARRY KEEL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## **GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (REVIEWS)**

5.c. Estimated costs of deterrent measures to city centre furniture and paving **(Pages 1-2)**

Members of the task and finish group will be provided with estimated costs of deterrent measures to city centre furniture and paving.

5.d. Further opinions upon skateboarding **(Pages 3-16)**

Members of the task and finish group will be provided with further opinions upon skateboarding.

Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 4 February 2010.

Estimated costs of deterrent measures to city centre furniture and paving.

It is considered that the main purpose of this exercise is to deter skateboarders by deterrent means. The main areas of concern, although City Centre wide, are the two heavily pedestrianised areas, mentioned above. To undertake such measures for the whole City Centre would not be cost effective.

Estimated figures only:

- To protect the seat edges within the two areas to prevent them being used as riding rails would cost approximately £8,400. (£600 / bench)
- As an alternative measure preventative "tactile" paving in the form of granite sets (cobles) can be installed around the bases of the benches, to prevent run over, at a cost of £16380.(£1170 / bench)
- As can be seen, costs to provide a criss – cross, type pattern, to prevent long free running surfaces, within the entire areas under consideration, would be prohibitive. This would also involve Planners, Architects, etc.

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## Skateboarding Review Public Consultation Consultation Survey Results

Client: Assistant Director for Development & Regeneration (Transport & Highways)  
Release: Final  
Version: 0.6  
Date: 01/02/2010  
Author: Jamie Yabsley / Tony Davis / Kim Hayden

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## Document Control

### Revision History

Release	Version	Date	Reason for Change
DRAFT# A	0.1	24/11/09	Initial draft
DRAFT# A	0.2	25/11/09	Additional work to document
DRAFT# A	0.3, 0.4,0.5	26/11/09	Additional work to document by Tony Davis / Kim Hayden
DRAFT # A	0.6	28/01/10	Supplementary Information further survey / responses received.

### Distribution

This document has been approved by the following.

Release	Name	Post
Version 0.5	Gill Peele	Business Manager
	Tony Davis	QA & Support Manager
	Jamie Yabsley	Senior Project Officer
Version 0.6	Gill Peele	Business Manager
	Tony Davis	QA & Support Manager
	Jamie Yabsley	Senior Project Officer

## 1. Background

### 1.1 Introduction

The Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel met on Wednesday 28 October 2009 to review Plymouth's Skateboarding By-Law. One of the actions to come from this meeting was to carry out a small informal Public Consultation to gauge public opinion with regard to Skateboarders using public spaces in the City Centre for recreational skateboarding. The results of the consultation are to be available for the next meeting of the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel on Thursday 3 December 2009.

The consultation is to be carried out by questionnaire in the city centre; with a target of one hundred samples across as diverse a cross section of the public as can be achieved. The questionnaire is not designed for the skateboarders; they will be the subject of a separate consultation carried out by the Youth Parliament.

The Public Consultation was carried out successfully during weeks 33 and 34 by Officers from the Plymouth City Council Development and Regeneration Department Business Support Team. The results are shown in section 2 of t and s.

Subsequent to the public consultation referred to above, the opinion of some Council Officers who are front line workers based in the Civic Centre was obtained. These officers were chosen because they and their customers have to pass through the area used by the skateboarders. These results are shown in section 5.

A summary of the consultation of both the Public and Council Officers is given in section 6.

## 2. Results – Public Consultation

### 2.1 Overview

This consultation exercise was carried out across two days at the beginning of November. The exercise was aimed at capturing the thoughts of the residents of Plymouth on skateboarding within the City Centre.

The survey was designed to only keep the customer for 30 seconds with the option for the customer to spend more time talking candidly if they wished to do so.

For this survey, the personal details were split as such.

**Gender:** Male or Female

**Age:** Over or under 30 – This was estimated by the surveyor.

**Assisted Walking:** Walking or not walking with aid

The questions for this survey were as follows.

We asked the customer if they had an opinion on skateboarding in the City Centre.



This question gave us a yes or no answer, a no meant the end of the survey and a yes was followed with the remainder of the survey as follows.

- Are you for or against skateboarding in the City Centre?
- Do you think there should be an outright ban on skateboarding in the City Centre?
- Do you think Plymouth City Council should provide an alternative site for skateboarders?
- If necessary do you think Plymouth City Council should build an alternative site for skateboarders?

At the end of the Yes or No responses the customer was asked if they had any specific suggestions or comments to make regarding skateboarding in the City Centre. These responses are shown later in this document.

Given the increasing number of charities and other companies trying to stop passers by it was a difficult task to get people to stop and speak for the fear of us trying to get money from them or to sell them something. This said, the majority of customers over 30 were willing to stop to give their thoughts and the under 30s were not so willing.

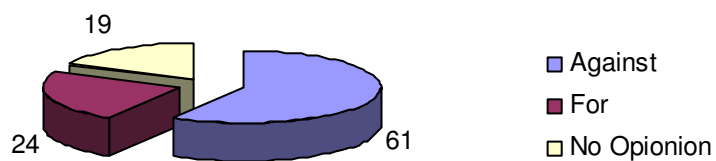
This simply meant asking and stopping more under 30s until we were happy we had a balance view.

## 2.2 The Results

The number of customers surveyed for this consultation exercise was 104.

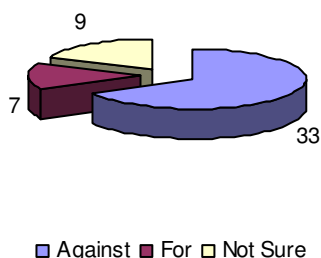
- 104 customers surveyed 49 were over 30, 55 were under 30, 51 were male and 53 were female and 11 relied on assisted walking.
- 61 were against skateboarding in the City Centre, with 24 for it, and 19 with no opinion.

**Are you For or Against Skateboarding In the City Centre?**

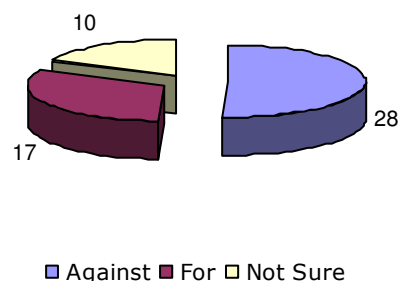


- There was no significant gender related difference.
- There was a small age related difference with more under 30's being for skateboarding than over 30's. However in both cases the majority were still against.

**Over 30s For or Against Skateboarding in the City Centre**



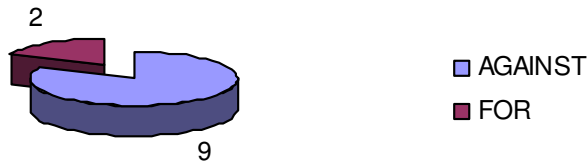
**Under 30s For or Against Skateboarding in the City Centre**



- Of the 11 customers who rely on assisted walking a large majority were against skateboarding.

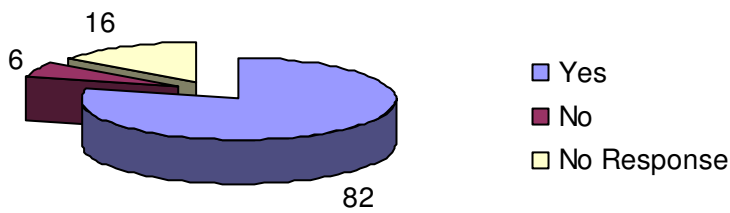
**Are you For or against Skateboarding In the City Centre?**

Response from the Assisted Walking Group Surveyed



Out of the 93 people who had a view about skateboarding in the city centre, 51 would be seeking an outright ban but an overwhelming 82 out of the 93 wanted an alternative site provided by Plymouth City Council. The chart below represents the number of responses.

**Do you think the Council should provide an alternative site?**



There is a very even split in the demographics of those that would like an outright ban of skating within the City Centre.

### 2.3 Open Feedback

Some of the open suggestions by customers, for alternative sites and suggestions in general were as follows

- Already have skate parks provided – not used
- Anywhere away from City Centre
- As long as not on or near war memorials
- As long as they don't bother individual
- Ban specific areas of City Centre only
- Central Location / On Bus Route
- Central Park
- West Hoe or The Hoe
- City Centre built for Skateboarders with so much concrete
- Must be close to City Centre
- Concerned about walking around town / with young children
- Concrete parks needed, metal parks are rubbish in the wet
- Don't want somewhere built that will cost too much
- Damage already done / alternative sight would not be used
- Damage to decorations, intimidation due to large groups
- George Park & Ride
- Use old Woolworths building
- Make it accessible and appealing for kids
- Must have somewhere to go
- Needs to be proper skate park
- No ban required as skateboarders have nowhere else to go
- No real skateboarding done, just messing about
- Not personally concerned / concerned for elderly
- Outside Civic Centre - nice open space
- Provide more parks in city
- Signs already ignored
- The flyover by Sainsbury's

These suggestions should be taken into account if Plymouth City Council decides to act on the issue of skateboarding.

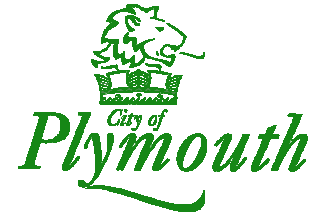
### 2.4 Summary

The results of this survey show a clear majority, 72% of those who expressed an opinion, in favour of banning skateboarding from public areas in the City Centre. There was an equally clear majority 74% of those who wanted a ban, were also in favour of providing an alternative site for the skateboarders, before introducing a ban.

The customers surveyed were divided into groupings based on age, gender and whether they required assistance walking (walking sticks, wheelchairs etc.). We achieved a very even split between age and gender and surveyed a significant number who required assisted walking. There was no statistically significant difference in the results from these groupings.

**Appendix A**  
**3.1 Copy of Questionnaire**

**Skateboarding**  
**Review**



Excuse Me:- The Council is conducting a review of skateboarding in the City Centre.

Do you have a view about skateboarding in the City Centre

OK – What are your thoughts.

Yes	No
-----	----

Thank you for your time.

Prompt:- Are you for or against.	For
	Against

Do you think there should be an outright ban in the City Centre.

Yes	No
-----	----

Do you think the Council should provide an alternative sight.

Yes	No
-----	----

Do you have any alternative suggestions.

--

If necessary do you think the Council should build an alternative site.

Yes	No
-----	----

Thank you for your time..

Age

<30	>30
-----	-----

Gender

M	F
---	---

Assisted Walking

Yes	No
-----	----

## Appendix A 3.2 –Table of Survey Results

Responses >	Yes / Against						Total	No / For						Total	Not Sure						Totals
	Gender		Age		Mobility			Gender		Age		Mobility			Gender		Age		Mobility		
	Male	Female	Over 30	Under 30	Assisted Walking	Non Assisted Walking		Male	Female	Over 30	Under 30	Assisted Walking	Non Assisted Walking		Male	Female	Over 30	Under 30	Assisted Walking	Non Assisted Walking	
<b>Survey Answers</b>																					
Do you have a view about skateboarding in the City Centre?	44	49	46	47	11	82	93	7	4	3	8	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Are you For or against Skateboarding In the City Centre?	29	32	33	28	9	52	61	10	14	7	17	2	22	24	12	7	9	10	0	19	19
Do you think there should be an outright ban in the City Centre?	22	29	30	21	7	44	51	22	20	16	26	4	38	42	7	4	3	8	0	11	11
Do you think the Council should provide an alternative sight?	41	41	42	40	10	72	82	2	4	3	3	0	6	6	8	8	4	12	1	15	16
If necessary do you think the Council should build an alternative site?	35	39	36	38	8	66	74	4	9	9	4	1	12	13	8	9	4	13	2	15	17
Do you have any alternative suggestions?																					

### Survey Statistics

Number of Persons Surveyed	104
Male	51
Female	53
Under 30	55
Over 30	49
Assisted Walking	11
Non Assisted Walking	93

## 4. Further Feedback from Staff Members of Plymouth City Council and Customers to the Civic Centre.

### 4.1 Introduction

The Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel met again on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 to review Plymouth's Skateboarding By-Law. One of the actions to come from this meeting was to carry out another small informal Staff and Public Consultation to gauge opinions with regard to Skateboarders using public spaces in the City Centre for recreational skateboarding. The results of the consultation are to be available for the next meeting of the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

The consultation is to be carried out by questionnaire/feedback. The questionnaire is not designed for the skateboarders; they will be the subject of a separate consultation carried out by the Youth Parliament.

The Consultation was carried out successfully by Officers from the Plymouth City Council Development and Regeneration Department Business Support Team. This document shows results that were obtained.

## 5. Results

### 5.1 Overview

This consultation exercise was carried out with the Civil Enforcement Officers across two days at the beginning of January, and the feedback from Customer Services was from the previous 12 month period. The exercise was aimed at capturing the thoughts of Visitors and Members of staff to the Civic Centre on skateboarding within the City Centre.

The survey was designed to only occupy the member of staff for 30 seconds with the option for the staff member to spend more time writing candidly if they wished to do so.

For this survey, the personal details were split as such.

**Gender:** Male or Female

**Age:** Over or under 30 – This was completed by the staff member.

**Assisted Walking:** Walking or not walking with aid

The questions for this survey were as follows.

We asked the customer if they had an opinion on skateboarding in the City Centre.

This question gave us a yes or no answer, a no meant the end of the survey and a yes was followed with the remainder of the survey as follows.

- Are you for or against skateboarding in the City Centre?
- Do you think there should be an outright ban on skateboarding in the City Centre?
- Do you think Plymouth City Council should provide an alternative site for skateboarders?
- If necessary do you think Plymouth City Council should build an alternative site for skateboarders?

At the end of the Yes or No responses the customer was asked if they had any specific suggestions or comments to make regarding skateboarding in the City Centre. These responses are shown later in this document.

## 5.2 The Results

**For the purpose of this paper we have not documented the responses by gender, age or walking ability.**

The number of customers surveyed for this consultation exercise was 15 Civil Enforcement Officers and staff located at the First Stop Desk within the Civic Centre.

- 15 responses were handed back from the Civil Enforcement Team of those surveyed 2 held no opinion and no further comments were noted.
- 13 responded in that they had an opinion on skateboarding.
- Only 1 person felt that there should not be an outright ban, 12 were for an outright ban on skateboarding in the City Centre.
- 8 of those who wanted to see an outright ban however, thought the Council should provide an alternative site and the other 4 felt that this should not be the case.
- Of those 8 who wanted to see the Council provide an alternative site also felt the Council if necessary should build one.

There is a very even split in the demographics of those that would like an outright ban of skating within the City Centre.

The responses/comments that we received back from Customer Services within the Civic Centre are that over the last 12 months they have received 1-5 Customers verbally complaining per month. However, these have not been formal complaints. The general comments have been added into the Open Feedback section.

### 5.3 Open Feedback

Suggestions by CEOs, for alternative sites and suggestions in general were as follows

- Marsh Mills Playing Field
- Millbay Docks
- Victoria Park
- Stonehouse Creek

#### General Comments from CEO's

- I feel they should have somewhere safe to skate, instead of in the City, damaging benches, bars etc causing concern to young children the elderly and disabled.
- Skateboarders should have a safe place provided by Plymouth City Council. Skateboards put their own lives at risk in car parks and on main roads.
- Against the damage they create

#### Comments from visitors to the Civic Centre

- Skateboarders crossing their pathways
- Skidding along benches , concern over damage issues
- Large groups gathering around doors / cashiers side doorway
- Skateboarders flying off their boards and falling to the ground (boards then flying in opposite direction)
- Knocking over the elderly – Although no further details given
- Noise Created

These suggestions should be taken into account if Plymouth City Council decides to act on the issue of skateboarding.



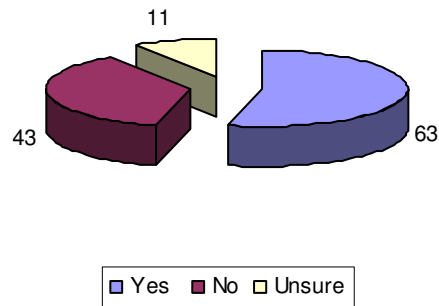
## 6. Summary

The results are conclusive in that of those asked whether they would want an outright ban on skateboarding Within the City Centre the majority vote was yes but only in if another location was provided. This is the case for both the Public Consultation and the Council Officers who were consulted. This is shown in the pie charts below.

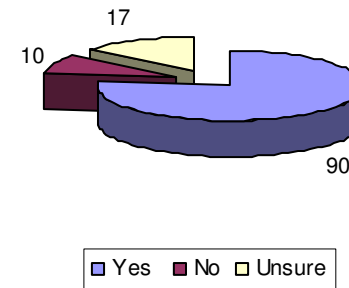
There is as always the usual health warning with public consultations. A random sample of 119 members of the public and Council cannot be considered definitive. However in this case we have such a clear outcome that we can use it as a good indicator.

This also agrees with the Police perspective in that in order for them to enforce a ban in the City Centre, Plymouth City Council would need to provide an alternative location.

Do you think there should be an outright ban in the City Centre?



Do you think the Council should provide an alternative sight?



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