

Report of the Portfolio Holders for- Economic Development and Asset Management, and Environment and Climate Change.

New Skate Park Location – Stapleford

1. Purpose of Report

Members are asked to resolve the proposed location of a new Skate Park in Stapleford by supporting, in principle, that a new "wheels" park be created in partnership with Skate Nottinghamshire and Stapleford Town Deal Board at Pasture Road Recreation Ground.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that subject to funding and agreement by Stapleford Town Deal Board, Skate Nottingham, and the relevant statutory and regulatory permissions, the creation of a new facility for skateboarding and small BMX biking facility at Pasture Road Recreation Ground be approved.

3. Detail

Cabinet reviewed the progress on a replacement skate park facility in Stapleford to replace dilapidated wooden ramps that had to be removed from Hickings Lane Park in 2022. Consultation events have been held and the provision of the facility has been shown to be a continued un-met need. As Hickings Lane will be the site of the Community Pavilion, and cannot really accommodate a replacement, a number of locations were considered. The small recreation site at Central Avenue and Archer's Field Both parks were deemed not to be ideal due to close proximity of residential properties and concerns about access arrangements for emergency vehicles.

Another problem is that the Town Deal only allowed for a small budget of around £20,000 to improve the existing skate park. This funding is now at risk of not getting defrayed. Subsequently Skate Nottingham have made several applications and deployed Sport England Crowd funding. If Skate Nottingham are able to commit the funding raised to date, there is an argument that the Towns Fund could and should increase the budget using a portion of the cycling project funding.

Currently proposals are being looked at to create a non-motorised user corridor along Pasture Road itself. The same technical difficulties and risks of delay that have beset highways related projects for over two years are still unresolved. An off road route into Stapleford through Pasture Road Recreation Ground linking

into established rights of way and on in to Stapleford is therefore also under consideration. If this is given board approval – it should de-risk up to £1.2 million of funding in danger of not being defrayed by 31 March 2026.

The project parameters could legitimately include cycling facilities on the park and fusion with the skate park could create a recreational “wheels facility”. This will be discussed at the next Town Deal Meeting and should be achievable through the existing project allocation, without submitting a PAR (Project Adjustment Request) to Government.

The preferred location for the “wheels” park is to the western end of the Recreation Ground towards the commercial area and a minimum of 37m to the left of the current 7x7 pitch, and at least 31m to the north of the residential area. The local football club fluctuates over the years between using a 7x7 and an 11x11 pitch near that location, so the preferred site will abut the 11x11 size pitch (not currently marked, and if needed in future).

There are a number of surveys that will be undertaken prior to Planning Permission submission which include:

- Noise and Light Attenuation – residents should not be significantly impacted with noise or light spillage from the park.
- Biodiversity net gain – to ensure we improve the site’s ecology and/or planting.

In addition to surveys:

- Fencing around the “wheels” park – there is a children’s play area close by the proposed location and fencing has been proposed to protect the younger children from inadvertently walking into the area or skateboarding youths accidentally leaving the area will be a key consideration.
- There is a local issue with illegal encampments so while we are on site there is the opportunity to ensure that the sports facilities on site are protected from this eventuality which causes issues for the use and maintenance of the Recreation Ground.
- The addition of CCTV for this area of the Recreation Ground should be seriously considered with the aim of discouraging/preventing any potential activity that could impact residents, as required notices inform the public that CCTV recordings are made.

It should be borne in mind that there may be a need for some additional Towns Fund resources if all of the above additions are needed to complete the scheme.

It is important that alongside the Town Deal funding decision agreement to work on the Council’s recreational land is also secured.

Appendix 1 is a high level plan of the options for locating the facilities within the park. **Appendix 2** is information pertaining to the designs and facilities within the park. Given the success and popularity of these two sports nationally, including Olympic success in skateboarding there could not be a better time to

move forwards with plans and agreements to build these facilities. **Appendix 3** contains a detailed SWOT analysis, followed by **Appendix 4**, Not for Publication.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There is currently no budgetary provision within the Capital Programme 2024/25 for a new skateboard/BMX facility in Stapleford.

The Council will receive an overall allocation of over £21m from the Towns Fund Deal for investment in Stapleford Town Centre. The approved Capital Programme for 2024/25 includes £14.755m towards the various Stapleford Towns Fund schemes, including underspends carried forward from previous financial years as approved by Cabinet. It may be prudent to re-profile the approved budget in light of the progress being made with the respective projects. Any variation required to the budget profile will be presented to Cabinet for approval as part of a Capital Budget Variations report in October 2024.

This report proposes to repurpose part of the Towns Fund grant towards the net cost of the skate park. As such, the facility should be fully grant funded and not impact on the Council's own capital resources (prudential borrowing). If Members were minded to approve the scheme, the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer would determine the most appropriate and cost effective way of financing the scheme.

There is similarly no revenue budget provision at present for the inspection and maintenance of the new skate park facility. Whilst this data is not yet available, these ongoing costs will need to be calculated and considered as part of this approval.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council will be required to obtain the necessary regulatory consents (including planning permission) in order to carry out the skate park development; and in the event that the works are procured the Council should ensure it carries out the procurement in accordance with the Council's current rules and relevant legislation. In addition to this, title checks will need to be conducted on the proposed site to ensure there are no restrictive covenants prohibiting such use, Legal Services will produce a report on title on instruction.

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report contains OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.