

Report to: Cabinet



Date of Meeting 7 September 2022

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Cranbrook Pump Track

Report summary:

This report seeks support for

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That Cabinet agrees the principle of funding up to 25% of the total cost of the proposed pump track at Cranbrook in accordance with the fairer play principles for Town and Parish Councils and the forthcoming Play Strategy

That Cabinet recommends to Council that a capital budget is approved of up to £10k to support the proposed pump track at Cranbrook.

Reason for recommendation:

To support the delivery of a key facility for Cranbrook residents.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information

[Appendix A - Location map](#)

[Appendix B – Pump Track Draft Concept and Cost](#)

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

Better homes and communities for all

A greener East Devon

A resilient economy

1. Background and context

1.1 Cabinet considered a report at the June 8th meeting concerning the delivery of phase 2 of Axminster Skate Park. A proposal to reallocate capital funding to support the delivery of this project was endorsed alongside this acting as a pathfinder project to set out criteria for funding community play schemes which have 75% funding from s106 or the community and require further funding to allow them to progress. These criteria, to be incorporated in to the forthcoming Play Strategy and termed fairer play, are set out below;

- 1) The community own the land upon which the facility is to be located
- 2) The community have local support through a resident vote and from their Town or Parish Council
- 3) The community have a constituted group that will look after the maintenance of the equipment, insurance and cleaning of the area (or can contract to EDDC to do the same).
- 4) Have raised 75% of the project cost through CIL, s106 or other means.

1.2 The report emphasised the role that the Council can play in supporting organisations such as Town and Parish Councils and community groups to get a project across the line which otherwise could not progress and to ensure all our communities have fair and good access to important play provision.

1.3 This proposal concerns the delivery of a pump track in Cranbrook. Due to the particularly young demographic profile of this rapidly growing new town, this is considered to be an important addition to the facilities available to residents.

2. Cranbrook Pump Track

2.1 Cranbrook Town Council has been working in partnership with the Cranbrook planning team to agree a location for the proposed pump track. A site had been identified in the Stone Meadow areas of the Country Park which is owned by the Town Council (see Appendix A). The site is identified on the attached location plan and is adjacent to the proposed Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) and trim trail which is currently coming forward in conjunction with the Town Council's supplier. The site is adjacent to the off-road link from Phases 1 and 2 of the town to the Education Campus.

2.2 The Town Council has selected a preferred provider (Forte Trailscapes Ltd) on the basis of similar local installations at Braunton, Chudleigh, Heavitree, North Tawton and Whimble. Options for construction range from the cheapest (which are essentially mounds of earth) through to more costly designs and construction. In discussion with the preferred provider the Town Council's Asset Delivery Working Group has dismissed the cheapest option – which would cost in the region of £10,000 – as unsuitable for the location and require regular routine maintenance. Equally delivering the most expensive option is probably out of reach of the Town Council financially. A mid-priced track based on the Whimble example has been selected which has an initial budget estimate of £40,000 (see Appendix B).

2.3 The Town Council is able to identify £10,000 from its reserves toward the delivery of the pump track and agreement reached for Sport England to contribute a further £10,000. The Town Council are currently applying to secure further funding from third party sources, such as the Viridor tax credit scheme. Providing support through the fairer play proposals will play an important role in helping to secure the remaining funds and enabling the project to proceed.

3. Assessment

3.1 The proposal to support the delivery of the pump track was considered and supported by the Cranbrook Strategic Delivery Board on the 20th June. This includes representatives of the Town, District and County Councils.

3.2 In terms of the fit with the criteria set out in paragraph the Town Council own the land (1) upon which the facility will be provided and will be responsible for ongoing maintenance (3). Further consultation (2) with residents will be undertaken to help finalise the designs. Whilst presently the Town Council only have 50% of the funding secured, committing a further 25% in line with the fairer play proposals will help to secure the remaining funds. This forms the basis for the recommendation of this report.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Given the young demographic profile of the town, a pump track is a particularly important facility. In line with the fairer play criteria, the Council has the opportunity to support its delivery through the commitment of a 25% contribution to the project cost.

Financial implications:

A request is being made for a new capital budget to be approved of £10k.

Legal implications:

It is permissible to contribute funding to the scheme along the lines proposed. Legal will assist in drawing up any related agreements. Otherwise there are no legal implications requiring comment.