

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET06 March 2025Report by Director of EnvironmentOVERLEE PUMP TRACK**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of a community-led proposal for the construction of a pump track on an area of Overlee Playing Fields, Clarkston, and to seek approval to provide match funding for the construction of the facility from the Economic Development regeneration capital budget.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Cabinet is asked to:
  - a) Approve the proposal for a new pump track (undulating circuit for wheeled play) at Overlee Playing Fields; and
  - b) Agree to approve the match funding commitment of an estimated £87,379 from the Council's regeneration capital budget for 2025/26.

**BACKGROUND**

3. Local Action Plans are being developed, with input from local communities, for towns and neighbourhoods across East Renfrewshire. These form part of the Economic Development team's approach to community engagement on placemaking. Extensive community consultation took place to inform the local priorities within each Local Action Plan area. The provision of a pump track or skateboard park for wheeled play was identified as a priority within the 2024 Local Action Plan for Clarkston.
4. Netherlee and Stamperland Community Council have been the main driver behind the proposal. The group contacted the Council in January 2024 seeking support to establish a pump track within their ward area. Since then, officers from Economic Development have been working with the Community Council and with other relevant internal and external stakeholders to further develop the concept and inform the business case.
5. The Community Council team has carried out a local survey, which has identified overwhelming support for a pump track. The survey was aimed at potential users who live locally, targeting schools, family centres and parent groups. Of the 314 responses from young people and parents / carers, 89% said that they would use a pump track. Engagement with pupils at Williamwood and St Ninian's High Schools is currently ongoing.
6. A pump track is a hard surfaced and undulating circuit, used for cycling, skateboarding and scooting. Early-stage concept designs and associated cost estimates have been

undertaken. The estimated budget required for the project is £349,517, which includes design and costs and an allowance for inflation. The proposal requires the submission of a number of funding applications. The proposal also requires match funding from the Council, to be drawn from the Regeneration capital budget.

7. The first funding application deadline is for the Sportscotland Cycling Facilities Fund for the maximum available grant of £100,000. A condition of an application to this fund is that the Council agrees to meet 25% of the total project cost. Sportscotland also requires an application for Planning Permission to be submitted prior to applying for grant funding and plans to fulfil this obligation are being put in place. Approval of this proposal by the Cabinet will allow the submission of an application to Sportscotland.

## REPORT

8. The initial budget for the project is estimated at £349,517 based on a concept design produced by 'Velosolutions', a leading pump track provider who undertook a site visit in July 2024. A contingency allowance of 20% has been included in the budget as well as an inflation uplift of 3%.
9. As well as the application to Sportscotland, the balance of funds required will be sought as set out in table below. The Council's Economic Development team will support the Community Council and other stakeholders in the development of funding applications and where appropriate or required, will make applications directly. Subject to approval and all funding being secured, construction of the pump track is expected to take place in 2026/2027.

The proposed funding plan is:

Funding body	Amount of funding requested	Application submission deadline	Comment
Sport Scotland Cycling Facilities Fund	£100,000	01/04/2025	This is the maximum available from the fund. Subject to approval.
East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund	£100,000	30/09/2025	Positive feedback from initial enquiries. Subject to approval.
East Renfrewshire Council	£87,379	01/04/2025	Matched funding of 25% of the estimated budget must be agreed prior to the submission of the Sportscotland Cycling Facilities Fund application. It is intended this be earmarked from the Regeneration capital budget for 2025/26.
Place Based Investment Fund	£52,138	14/08/2025	New allocation of funding from Scottish Government for 2025/26 programme has been announced. Subject to approval.

Stamperland and Netherlee Community Council	£10,000	Ongoing	Local Fund Raising.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£349,517</b>		

10. A number of potential locations were considered, before the selection of Overlee Playing Fields as the most suitable location. The park is owned by the Council and protected by Fields in Trust, who champion and support the UK's parks and green spaces by protecting them for people to enjoy. Fields in Trust have confirmed the suitability of the project. The Economic Development team has also met with the Leisure Trust who manage the pitches at Overlee Playing Fields.
11. In East Renfrewshire, the proportion of young people under the age of 17 is higher than any other local authority in Scotland. Overlee Playing Fields is central to many surrounding neighbourhoods including Busby, Stamperland, Netherlee and Clarkston, as well as being close to neighbourhoods in Giffnock and Newton Mearns. According to the 2022 National Records Scotland survey, there are approximately 7,200 children under 17 who live within a 15-minute cycle journey of Overlee Playing Fields. It is important to note that age is no barrier and pump tracks can be used by people of all ages and varied abilities.
12. Initial discussions with Sport Scotland have taken place and the Council has been advised to apply to the final round of the Cycling Facilities Fund, which closes on the 01 April 2025.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSAL**

13. The proposal seeks to influence positive lifestyle choices and foster interest in cycling sports while adding fun to people's lives by:
  - Increasing the range of sporting opportunities available for Clarkston and surrounding communities;
  - Encouraging more cycling between home and school;
  - Providing accessible, safe and inspiring facilities that enable and encourage young people from the Clarkston area and further afield to engage with cycling and other wheeled activities;
  - Encouraging interest in cycling and wheeled sports by providing a facility suitable for training at a range of levels and disciplines;
  - Promoting the development of a club by inviting competitive clubs to give demonstrations and by working with the national coaching community, and;
  - Encouraging use of the facility by anyone regardless of their background, gender, age, ethnicity or ability.

**SCOPE OF THE PROPOSAL**

14. Pump tracks can be designed with a wide variety of different shapes and sizes. The concept developed with Netherlee and Stamperland Community Council has the following features to attract the highest level of interest and encourage regular users:
  - Can be used by a wide variety of age groups and abilities on different wheeled devices;
  - Is large enough to offer different experiences and opportunities;

- Is complex enough to develop skills and hold interest;
- Can be used during winter nights;
- Has low maintenance requirements;
- Is within the Netherlee and Stamperland Community Council Area;
- Is on land owned by the Council;
- Dose not impede access for other park users; and
- Is free to use.

15. A concept design and outline costs have been produced and a customer brief, for tendering and planning application purposes, has been drafted.

## POLICY CONTEXT

16. This proposal compliments the East Renfrewshire 2023 Sports and Physical Activity Strategy Mission Statement - to develop and support an inclusive sport and physical activity systems in East Renfrewshire that reaches all households.

17. The project contributes to the 6 Active Scotland Outcomes:

- We encourage and enable the inactive to be active;
- We encourage and enable the active to be more active;
- We develop physical confidence and competence from the earliest age;
- We improve our active infrastructure, people and places;
- We support wellbeing and resilience in communities through physical activity and sport; and,
- We improve opportunities to participate, progress and achieve in sport.

18. The East Renfrewshire 'A Place to Grow, Strategic Vision and Community Plan' refers under Pillar 3, "we all live well", to supporting play through active travel and specifically: *Our residents will "be empowered to make healthy choices and have access to high quality sports and physical activity facilities"*.

19. The project will support the emerging East Renfrewshire Local Transport Strategy by enabling more wheeling and cycling.

20. The project will contribute to the outcomes for the Council's Children and Young People Plan in relation to developmental indicators and obesity levels.

## FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

21. The estimated cost of construction is £256,000. Once fees, contingencies and inflation are factored in, the estimated total project cost is £349,517.

22. The funding commitment required from East Renfrewshire Council to match the Sport Scotland Cycling Facilities Fund application is 25% of the total project costs, which is £87,379. The application to the Cycling Facilities Fund is for £100,000, which is the maximum available.

23. The remaining funding is intended to come from local fundraising by the Netherlee and Stamperland Community Council and grant applications to ERREF and the Place Based Investment Fund. If any of the grant funding applications are not successful, the project will be suspended, unless or until an alternative source of funding can be found.

24. Tendering of the project will specify low ongoing maintenance requirements. The asphalt will require no significant maintenance or repair in the first 10 to 15 years of use. After which, treatment and ongoing repair will be required.
25. The site is owned by the Council and the new facility will become part of Neighbourhood Services' play offer. The team is content that the day-to-day maintenance of the facility can be absorbed into the other activities in the adjacent play park and Council staff will be responsible for any other maintenance requirements, which occur. The Council's Road Service will meet lighting maintenance and electricity costs from existing budgets.

## **CONSULTATION**

26. In 2024, the Local Action Plan process identified wheeled play as a key priority for Clarkston. The local community initiated this proposal and East Renfrewshire Council has involved residents and community groups in progressing the potential pump track. A range of Council services, East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Fields in Trust have been consulted, and the feasibility and viability of the project has been discussed with Scottish Cycling and Sportscotland.
27. Key stages in the development of this proposal and key contributors are as follows:
  - Initial approach made by Netherlee and Stamperland Community Council to East Renfrewshire Council;
  - Demand identified through the Local Action Plan process;
  - Site appraisal of potential locations undertaken involving the Community Council;
  - Feasibility study drafted; and
  - Business case drafted.
28. East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust is supportive of the proposal for a pump track within Overlee Playing Fields. The Trust team is content that the pump track can be accommodated between the football pitches and has made some recommendations to be factored into the detailed design of the project and monitored as it becomes operational. Liaison with the Trust will continue as the project design evolves.
29. The Economic Development team has reached out to East Lothian Council, which has built pump tracks within its parks recently and staff have provided advice on their experiences.
30. Advice has been provided from Scottish Cycling on the design and future uses, and the Local Active Schools and Sport Hub coordinators are engaged in the development of the proposal.

## **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

31. A steering group has been set up to oversee funding bids, procurement and construction of the proposal. The group comprises officers from Economic Development, Neighbourhood Services, and the chair of the Netherlee and Stamperland Community Council. Other officers will be invited to attend the group as appropriate such as Planning, Estates, Property and Technical Services, Procurement and the Leisure Trust.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

32. There are no staffing, legal, IT, Subsidy Control, equalities, or sustainability and climate change implications associated with this report.
33. The pump track will become a registered asset of East Renfrewshire Council maintained by Neighbourhood Services.

## CONCLUSIONS

34. The proposed pump track will provide a new and attractive opportunity for young people in East Renfrewshire to access wheeled play, particularly in this area, where there is a recognised deficit.
35. A new pump track within Overlee Playing Fields will encourage sustainable transport, promote healthy lifestyles and interest in wheeled sports.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

36. The Cabinet is asked to:
  - a) Approve the proposal for a new pump track (undulating circuit for wheeled play) at Overlee Playing Fields; and
  - b) Agree to approve the match funding commitment of £87,379 from the Council's regeneration capital budget for 2025/26.

Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place.  
[michaela.sullivan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:michaela.sullivan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

Report Author: Michael McKernan, Economic Development & Inclusive Growth Manager  
March 2025



APPENDIX 1 – CONCEPT DESIGN PUMP TRACK IMAGES



*Example of a 185m Pump Track, Cheddar, England*



*Suitable for a wide range of users and abilities*

BLANK PAGE