

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

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Proposed Petworth Skatepark

1. Contacts

Report Author:

Tania Murphy – Divisional Manager - Place
Telephone: 01243 534701 E-mail: tmurphy@chichester.gov.uk

Cabinet Member:

Tony Dignum – Leader of the Council
Telephone: 01243 538585 E-mail: tdignum@chichester.gov.uk

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That Cabinet considers the update relating to the proposed change of location of the skatepark in Petworth and re-confirms its financial support to the project to Petworth Town Council.**
- 2.2 **That delegated authority is given to the Director of Growth and Place to release £70,000 previously allocated to the Petworth skatepark project to Petworth Town Council, subject to receiving evidence of spend and due diligence in accordance with our existing governance arrangements.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In October 2001 the Council's then Executive Board agreed that the proposal for a leisure centre in Petworth was not viable but allocated £1.242 million funding for other leisure proposals in Petworth and the surrounding area. An action plan of proposed projects was compiled which included a proposal from Petworth Town Council for a skatepark. A sum of £50,000 was allocated from the Petworth Leisure Fund to this project.
- 3.2 In 2003, designs and costs for the skatepark at the District Council owned Sylvia Beaufoy car park were prepared and planning permission granted. There was a condition on the planning permission requiring the skatepark to be locked overnight. Petworth Town Council was unable to meet this condition and this resulted in the skatepark not progressing any further.
- 3.3 The Town Council continued to look at a variety of alternative sites for the skatepark but no agreed location could be found. In 2015, Petworth Town Council informed CDC that they would like to progress the skatepark project. The Town Council were asked to develop their proposals to identify if there was still a need for a skatepark and identify a suitable location.

- 3.4 The Town Council identified an area within the District Council's Pound Street Car Park, Petworth, where they wished to introduce a skatepark. Cabinet in January 2017 resolved:

That agreement be given subject to the replacement of any lost parking spaces to at least seven spaces (in a scheme that estimates losing 11 spaces) so as to ensure no more than four spaces are lost, to Petworth Town Council to develop detailed plans for the provision of a skate park at the identified site in Pound Street Car Park.

and

(a) subject to planning consent and other necessary requirements being obtained appropriate agreements to be entered into to enable construction and use of the skatepark on Council land and

(b) A contribution of up to £70,000 be made available towards the project being £50,000 from the Petworth Leisure Fund and up to an additional £20,000 (subject to detailed costings).

Members acknowledged the balancing exercise involved in this matter, namely that the proposal was on the one hand an expression of local democracy and the desire to provide this recreational facility in the town centre rather than in an outlying area for young people who lived in Petworth and its rural environs and did not have many leisure opportunities. However, concerns were expressed as to the impact of the loss of parking spaces on local businesses and tourism.

- 3.5 Officers subsequently commissioned a specialist Civil Engineer Design Consultant to review the existing and potential design layout of Sylvia Beaufoy and Pound Street car parks in Petworth to determine whether additional spaces could be designed into the layouts. Skatepark designs were received from the Town Council, for consideration. Several meetings and discussions were held with the Town Council and a number of revisions to the plans were received and considered. All plans were considered in the context of meeting the resolution of Cabinet from January 2017.
- 3.6 Unfortunately the proposed layout from Petworth Town Council skatepark group does not meet the requirements of the Cabinet resolution – with there being a net deficit of eight spaces with the inclusion of the additional spaces into Sylvia Beaufoy car park.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 Petworth Town Council would still like to proceed with a project to introduce a skatepark into the town. They consider that this would provide a much-needed facility within the town and that it is well supported by the local community.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 Since consideration of a skatepark for Petworth began there has been significant progress with a Neighbourhood Plan for the town. This Plan has identified a potential site within the town which might be more suitable for a skate park. However, without assurance from CDC that the £70,000 as previously identified (£50,000 from Petworth Leisure Fund and £20,000 from Reserves) in funding towards the project

remains secure, the Town Council are not able to commit to an alternative location within the town.

- 5.2 It is proposed that Cabinet approve the agreement to provide assurance to Petworth Town Council that the £70,000 be allocated to the delivery of a skate park in Petworth. This assurance will provide the Town Council with the necessary guarantee to enable investigations into potential suitable locations and to seek additional funding from other sources.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 Continue with the proposed design in the existing proposed location. This scheme does not, however, meet the Cabinet resolution and would require consideration by Cabinet as to whether they are willing to amend the resolution as agreed in January 2017 regarding the number of spaces to be lost. Proceeding to a planning application with the existing layout would require a comment to be made in the report to planning committee as to the suitability of the location for this site. This is also contrary to policies in the Parking Strategy.
- 6.2 Revise the existing proposed design in the suggested location in the car park to reduce in size, in order that the loss of spaces meets the requirements of the Cabinet resolution. This will require a tree survey and structural engineer's report given that the proposed design would use part of the existing grass bank in the car park and would therefore result in tree removal, along with a retaining wall for which there has not been an adequate design submitted.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 £50,000 previously identified from Petworth Leisure Fund plus £20,000 from reserves agreed at Cabinet in January 2017. Release of these funds will be subject to receiving evidence of spend in accordance with our existing governance arrangements. Implementation of the project would be monitored by officers.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Petworth Town Council would be required to undertake consultation with the public and stakeholders as part of any planning application associated with this project.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1 Siting a skatepark in a location other than a car park assists with ensuring that parking spaces are retained for parking which meets with the requirements of the existing Parking Strategy.
- 9.2 There is a risk that no suitable site is found for the skate park by Petworth Town Council. In this case the £70k allocated for this project would not be released.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity		X

Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing The introduction of a skatepark may help to increase the level of physical activity undertaken in Petworth.	X	
Other (please specify)		

11. Appendices

None.

12. Background Papers

None.