

# North Lanarkshire Council

## Report

### Environment and Transportation

approval  noting

Ref NP

Date 06/05/20

### Pump Track Plus Programme

**From** Head of Environmental Assets

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#### Executive Summary

A series of meetings have been held with Socialtrack, Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) and other key internal and external stakeholders to develop options both short, medium and long term for the development of further pump tracks throughout North Lanarkshire. The focus would be to emulate the social success of the development of a pump track at Wishawhill Wood in improving the life chances of young people within and beyond the local community.

Whilst existing opportunities for pump track creation will be embraced, extensive discussions have been held internally and externally on the integration of features, including pump tracks into the developing Hub models and developing park masterplans and connectivity strategy, ensuring communities get a level of facility and investment that best suits the needs of that particular community. Where current opportunities exist for pump track creation, these are also being explored.

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#### Recommendations

That the Environment and Transportation Committee note:

- The continued close working with Socialtrack and CSGNT to create a pump track strategy to underpin the investment in further facilities across North Lanarkshire;
- The continued efforts to source funding and support for both the physical infrastructure and Socialtrack investment at a further four existing sites in the short term;
- That in the medium and long term, plans to link open space development within the emerging Campus model to the developing Open Space Strategy, Sports Pitch, Play and Growing Strategies will ensure that each Campus is developed according to the needs and wishes of a particular community to ensure maximum social impact and outcomes, and
- The development of the Pump Track Plus programme, ensuring an appropriate hierarchy of pump tracks across North Lanarkshire, maximising investment opportunities.

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## **The Plan for North Lanarkshire**

Priority                      Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities

Ambition statement    (17) Ensure we keep our environment clean, safe, and attractive

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Pump track success at Wishawhill Wood has been achieved through leadership, community support and strong internal and external stakeholder working. This partnership model has delivered the construction of a pump track at Wishawhill Wood via VDLF Funding and Socialtrack, a new social enterprise company established to encourage positive use of the site, demonstrate local ownership of the track by the community, and develop a wider network of bike training and repair.
  - 1.2 The physical construction of the pump track has exceeded expectations beyond any typical investment in outdoor play facilities. A year after its April 2018 opening partners were citing outcomes exceeding expectations due to the change in culture associated with the site including:
    - Police Scotland noting a dramatic decline in anti-social activity associated with the site.
    - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service call outs minimised saving @ £2000 per call out.
    - A reduction in vandalism at the adjacent golf club.
  - 1.3 This paper proposes a sustainable vision to extend, over the Council's area more widely, the positive impacts of the Wishawhill Wood Pump Track and the work of Socialtrack. There is a recognition that this programme can deliver a range of benefits, from community-focused regeneration through to the impact of North Lanarkshire potentially hosting of the 2023 UCI World Championships.
  - 1.4 This proposal provides an immediate 3 year period over which to kick start the delivery of a number of pump tracks sites within a Pump Track Plus Programme. This will be within a strategic framework that delivers a number of new tracks, but also supports the modal shift that has clearly been seen through the work of Socialtrack.
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## **2. Report**

### **2.1 Emulating Success**

A team across North Lanarkshire, led by the Head of Environmental Assets will look to replicate the success of the pump track development at Wishawhill Wood across North Lanarkshire.

- 2.2 A series of meetings has been held with key NLC Officers including across key related sectors, both internally and with Socialtrack and CSGNT who have committed to exploration of further joint working in this area.

- 2.3 The group have collectively agreed that there is a core success criteria to the track at Wishawhill Wood that would need to be in place to emulate the success of the existing site. These factors include:

- Community desire for a pump track
- Community Support
- Support from a body like Socialtrack, to ensure the positive use of the site, and maximisation of the positive social outcomes.

- 2.4 It was further recognised that in addition to these key ingredients growth had to be at a rate that could be developed and supported both internally and externally.
- 2.5 Developed with Socialtrack and CSGNT, an approach to the development of pump track sites provides a shared vision and clear sense of direction, based on the range of impacts their construction can make. Proposals are specifically to ensure we secure both the localised regeneration the facilities can provide, but also take advantage of the opportunity to build a track suitable for the UCI World Championships (in 2023).

**A hierarchy of Pump Tracks**

- 2.6 The challenge is to recreate and exceed the success of Wishawhill Wood, fantastic as this has been. It is proposed that a hierarchy of tracks are built that are complimentary in their function to provide;
  - A) The potential location (via open competition) for the 2023 UCI Pump Track World Championships final via construction of a world championship standard track
  - B) The location for developing rider’s skills and interest in riding
  - C) Local tracks as part of community hubs to support the development of a cycling culture
  - D) Complimentary bike library facilities to support modal shift

Each has specific infrastructure and community needs that favour certain locations:

World Championships Standard Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Space for a world class track and facilities</li> <li>- Great transport connections</li> <li>- Community regeneration hub</li> <li>- Capacity to support visitor numbers</li> <li>- Active Cycling hub – offer additional cycling infrastructure</li> <li>- Wider visitor attractions</li> </ul>
Grass Roots Training Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Top class pump track</li> <li>- Skills development focus</li> <li>- Community regeneration hub</li> <li>- Good transport connections</li> <li>- Business hub</li> </ul>
Local Pump Tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community regeneration hub</li> <li>- Partnered with established community structures</li> <li>- Geographically spread across NL</li> <li>- Bike library satellite</li> <li>- Centre for community involvement</li> </ul>

- 2.7 In addition to this infrastructure, a range of other benefits can accrue as the roll out of the tracks builds capacity for local engagement and local demand:
  - o Schools and community focused work to build modal shift to bike use, a culture of active travel and sheer enjoyment of riding a bike
  - o Ever expanding demand for bikes creating a need for local mechanical support, assembly and manufacture, bike library facilities

**Priority Locations**

- 2.8 Based on an awareness of community need (disadvantage) and where there is established capacity to support the facilities and create centres for local benefit, the recommended locations are:

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Managing Partner(s)</b>
World Championship Standard Track	Strathclyde Country Park (North Motherwell)	Socialtrack / NLC
Grass Roots Training Centre	Wishawhill Wood	Socialtrack
Local Pump Tracks	Glenboig Forgewood Newmains	Glenboig Neighbourhood Centre Forgewood Housing Co-Op Newmains Development Trust

### **Infrastructure Demand**

2.9 Over the next three years, the new facilities the pump track plus programme would require are:

- 1 X World Championship standard dual pump track
- 4 X Local Pump Tracks
- 1 X MTB routes, bike hub – Strathclyde CP
- 1 X Skills facilities – Wishawhill Wood
- 4 X Bike library hubs at pump track locations (others may be demanded)

Through physical delivery, opportunities can also be found to support wider strategic objectives such as the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN). This is especially true especially where delivery is around disadvantaged communities, it potentially favours the re-use of derelict sites, and builds active travel infrastructure into the communities benefitting from the tracks.

### **Community Development**

2.10 The principle of developing further pump track sites in NL responded to the powerful outcomes from the work led by Socialtrack at Wishawhill Wood, Craigneuk. The impact on this community has been nothing short of remarkable. Whatever roll out there is of pump tracks and associated facilities over the next 3 – 10 years, the place of the community is critical.

2.11 A range of initiatives are embedded in the pump track plus programme and would be rolled out in partnership with other local community networks. The building blocks of the programme are to:

- Establish new pump tracks typically in areas of existing disadvantage on SIMD
- Enable existing community groups to take ownership of local delivery and site management
- Establish Community Active Travel Hubs with equipment and training delivered by Socialtrack (potentially through a lease agreement with NLC)
- Roll out the Socialtrack model for delivering modal shift to active travel i.e. by cycling, walking, E-bikes, scooters etc. (NB current statistics show a 38% modal shift from 350+ individuals engaged in Socialtrack programmes; Scottish Government target is 2%)
- Utilise social media and events management through Socialtrack to build connections with the cycling industry and sports entertainment

2.12 Key outcomes from this programme would be:

- Greater engagement with young people at risk of significant harm, a group that typically does not engage with traditional services

- Job creation opportunities for young people, particularly targeting those with low education achievement
- Volunteer opportunities for the retired and people with infirmities, again providing potential pathways to employment
- Engaged young people become more active, gain in self-confidence and experience reduced mental well-being issues
- Partnership work with Cycling UK (Scotland) delivers training in the new pump track curriculum
- Reductions in anti-social crime associated with track locations

### **Additionality**

- 2.13 Compared to other interventions that could be used to provide some of the above outcomes, the pump track plus programme can support both economic and cultural regeneration.
- 2.14 Preliminary discussions have already identified the potential to support the sustainable growth of the Scottish cycling industry, a benefit that could be directly secured in North Lanarkshire.
- 2.15 Targeting potentially hosting the 2023 UCI Pump Track World Championships would enable North Lanarkshire to become the national leader for wheeled action sports in Scotland with world class facilities, world class talent and training, centred in an ideal, accessible location.

### **Conclusion & Ongoing Success Criteria**

- 2.16 The Pump Track Plus programme offers North Lanarkshire a unique opportunity to achieve both grass roots regeneration that empowers particularly the younger age groups, and also greatly raises the profile of North Lanarkshire on an international stage. This programme will benefit from a collective approach that recognises the context for one that is provided by the other.
- 2.17 It has been clear during discussions within the group that to develop a successful pump track like Wishawhill Wood, the key success criteria need to be in place. It is crystal clear that the key indicator for success is the wish of the community for a pump track facility, as opposed to any other type of facility.
- 2.18 It is therefore considered important that as we move forward with consultation on each of the emerging Campus' that the development of the external environment and facilities meets the needs and wishes of the community are of primary importance. Where pump tracks are wanted and can be supported with an appropriate social enterprise model to encourage positive use, then they will be provided as appropriate.
- 2.19 It is equally important however to recognise that where a community wishes enhanced play facilities, a MUGA, natural play, community growing area etc, that these too are provided and tailored to the individual community. Provision of appropriate outdoor space and facilities in line with community consultations on each emerging campus are those most likely to see community ownership, a decline in vandalism and appropriate diversionary activities for young people.
- 2.20 Therefore going forward, recognising the strategic importance to North Lanarkshire of its Open Space, particularly the quantity, quality and accessibility of each type within communities, all decisions will be taken with due cognisance to the emerging Open Space Strategy 2020, recently commissioned from GCV Green Networks. The

emerging and associated Play, Sports Pitches and Growing Space strategies will also form key information for strategic decision making both within communities and throughout Council Services.

- 2.21 The Strategies in 3.5 will form the basis of decision making around the long term future model of provision and development of a true Campus model within Communities, assisting also in informing disinvestment decisions.
- 2.22 In order to successfully take forward the medium and long term planning, construction, management & maintenance of external campus features that three actions are taken;
  - a. That whole life costing is considered for facilities at the outset ensuring appropriate budget provision is built in for facility maintenance.
  - b. That appropriate maintenance models with partners and communities are explored
  - c. That in the Environmental Assets paper to be brought forward in Q4 2020, that the rationalisation of current resources is considered to streamline and simplify development and subsequent maintenance of assets, reducing the number of departments involved in maintenance of like assets and duplication within communities and streamlining decision making at strategic level reducing recharges and Officer time involved.

### **Wider Partnership Opportunities**

- 2.23 Meetings have been arranged following contact with Scottish Cycling and sportScotland regarding wider partnership working and incorporation within existing wider initiatives.

### **Future Reporting**

- 2.24 To ensure pump track development, management and maintenance is built sustainably into the community asset development of North Lanarkshire, reporting of pump track development will be built into the developing Open Space Strategy, Connectivity and Hub Development going forward. Whilst it is an important component, it forms only one aspect of the wider development of Open Space and Community facilities.

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## **3. Equality and Diversity**

- 3.1 Fairer Scotland  
The requirement to comply with The Fairer Scotland Duty does not apply in this case.
- 3.2 Equality Impact Assessment  
This additional work will benefit Communities and Citizens equally, and will have no impact on the Councils duties under the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty Regulations.

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## **4. Implications**

- 4.1 Financial Impact  
There will be significant financial implications to the Council, some of which may be offset by the disinvestment from end of life, poorly located or superseded facilities as

informed by a strategic overview using the Open Space, Play, Sports Pitch & Growing Space strategies to inform this.

- 4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact  
Principles woven into the emerging Open Space Strategy, Hub development, Connecting NL and Park Masterplans where appropriate.
- 4.3 Environmental Impact  
Potential significant benefit to the environment through more appropriate management of open space generally and ensuring linkage of facilities within the Campus model to active travel routes and the wider green network.
- 4.4 Risk Impact  
Failure to secure appropriate funding.

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## **5. Measures of success**

- 5.1 Provision of a hierarchy of pump tracks across North Lanarkshire that are either within Campus facilities, Open Spaces or that are important local sites, tailored through consultation and relevant community hubs.
- 5.2 Tackling key socio economic indicators within deprived communities.
- 5.3 Strategic decision making around open space including sports pitches, play provision and growing space.
- 5.4 Whole life costing of facilities ensuring long term appropriate maintenance.
- 5.5 Streamlined management and decision making.

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## **6. Supporting documents**

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Site proposals & Justification



**Nicole Paterson**  
**Head of Environmental Assets**



	Newmains	<p>travel hub and bike library.</p> <p>Early discussions have taken place over the past twelve months and confirm community and stakeholder interest. This site is a potential contender for CIF funding.</p> <p>Exploring the potential via VDLF to fund the extension of the Craigneuk facility to enhance the destination facility. The proposal is for a tandem for downhill racing at the St. Matthews site.</p> <p>Potential for a site at Newmains has been identified for a local pump track linked to an outdoor community hub development, which although adjacent to the new NCT Centre, will be aligned to the construction of Newmains and St. Bridgids Joint Campus development A bid for £1.2M has already been submitted for this facility to the RCGF, but was unfortunately unsuccessful. A submission is to be made to the SCDG Sub-Group to seek funding for proposals through the CIF.</p>
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