

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Report

Subject : Community Conversations Bemerton Heath Pump Track Report
Committee : Planning Committee
Date : 29 January 2024
Author : Sarah Gregson, Communities Manager

1. Report Summary:

- 1.1. This report gives an overview of the Bemerton Heath Pump Track project, led by Wiltshire Council, in collaboration with Salisbury City Council Officers, in support of a presentation given, at this meeting by officers from Wiltshire Council - Stuart Honeyball, Director of Business Transformation and Professor Kate Blackburn, Director of Public Health.
- 1.2. This committee is invited to ask questions of the directorate leads and discuss the proposals.
- 1.3. The committee are then asked to vote on the recommendation.

2. Background:

- 2.1. This project has been developed in response to the work of the Community Conversations Team from Wiltshire Council, Based at Bemerton heath since early work in September 2022.
- 2.2. Community conversations is a programme intended to *“recognise the inequalities which affect our population and to provide a bold, holistic, and innovative approach to understanding the lived experience of residents across the county, developing new sustainable methods of support, which are based in communities themselves.”* (Cabinet Report – March 19 2024)
- 2.3. The project in Bemerton Heath is led by Adele Owens, who presented to the Salisbury City Council Community Services Committee in January 2024, to provide councillors with an overview of the work, including early conversations around a Pump Track project.
- 2.4. The Pump Track project has been approved by the Bright Ideas Community Panel (29 February 2024)
 - 2.4.1. “The Panel agreed that Bemerton Heath has several green spaces and using part of an existing area which already has play equipment installed to have a pump track would help to improve the lived experience of residents and their families, help to encourage cycle sports for future generations and encourage people to be active and enjoy local outdoor spaces. In addition, an all-weather pump track is not exclusive to bicycle users; it may be used by scooters, skateboards and wheelchairs, making the pump track accessible and helping to improve the mental and physical health of Bemerton Heath residents.”
- 2.5. This project would be funded by a combination of UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Wiltshire Transformation funding, the procurement and delivery of the construction would be managed by Wiltshire Council with the track itself installed under licence on a green space owned by Salisbury City Council.
- 2.6. Once complete, Wiltshire Council Proposes that ownership of the Pump Track as an asset, along with all associated warranties, is proposed to be transferred to Salisbury City Council.

2.7. Next Steps

2.7.1. Early Market Engagement

It is proposed that Wiltshire Council hold an Early Market Engagement event which would enable Wiltshire Council, Salisbury City Council any other interested parties to liaise and engage with potential suppliers, in advance of commencing a formal procurement process. It offers both Wiltshire Council and suppliers an opportunity to gather information from subject matter experts regarding the required services and design options. This will then help to inform and facilitate a procurement and tendering process, as well as develop understanding of the ongoing support and maintenance requirements.

2.7.2. Procurement and tendering process

Subject to discussions (including legal) between Wiltshire Council and Salisbury City Council, it is proposed that Wiltshire Council carries out a procurement process, working closely with Salisbury City Council, to develop a joint specification and identify a suitable supplier for carrying out the necessary pump track planning, design and works.

2.7.3. Other

During the implementation process, considerations will include any consultation with residents, particularly residents in the vicinity of any proposed site, planning application and future maintenance will be included.

2.8. Timescales and Milestones

2.8.1. As per the recommendation below, Wiltshire Council and Salisbury City Council will work together to ensure alignment of Wiltshire Council's mandatory procurement timescales and funding-related milestones which have non-negotiable time constraints.

2.8.2. UKSPF funding must be spent by the end of this financial year 2024/25 which has influenced the speed with which Wiltshire Council have sought the involvement and support of Salisbury City Council in these early stages.

2.8.3. Early Market Engagement must take place as soon as possible to ensure the delivery of the project within the required timescales

2.8.4. It is proposed, by Wiltshire Council that a joint early market engagement event is held with prospective suppliers who are experienced in delivering a pump track that will meet the needs of the community, as described above, to gather as much information to facilitate and inform the procurement and tendering process, as well provide the detailed information required to support planning.

3. Salisbury City Council and the Bemerton Pump Track Project

3.1. There have been general discussions about the proposed site, with one site visit.

3.2. The Head of Environmental Services and The Head of Community Services have been invited to join the procurement consultation and evaluation processes and have already attended two meetings.

3.3. Wiltshire Council Leaders requested an opportunity to brief Administration Leaders and the Planning Committee in July 2024 to ensure full and open discussion of the plans and related implications in advance of a formal planning application or market engagement.

3.4. Further detail of Salisbury City Council's ongoing role in the process and possible responsibilities for the pump track are yet to be defined.

3.5. It is currently the intention for Wiltshire Council to take responsibility for and manage the build and to then transfer responsibility for the facility back to Salisbury City Council.

4. Recommendations

4.1. It is recommended that

4.1.1. the committee supports the progression of this project, as outlined above, including Early Market Engagement, in lieu of formal planning applications and specific agreements between the two parties with regards leasehold or land licencing maintenance and any area of defined responsibility for the pump track itself, which must be in place before commencement of construction.

4.1.2. the committee supports SCC Head of Service and Officer involvement in the procurement, planning and consultation processes, as outlined above, with Wiltshire Council leading the process in full.

5. Wards Affected: Bemerton Heath Ward

6. Background papers:

6.1. Appendix 1 – Community Conversations Bemerton Heath Pump Track Presentation Slides

7. Implications:

7.1. **Financial:** There are implied significant/ongoing financial implications but these are yet to be defined.

7.2. **Legal:** Normal legal implications would apply in this matter including contract and property law, but are also unclear at this stage.

7.3. **Personnel:** The time of two service heads in the processes of procurement and project planning, led by Wiltshire Council, to deliver this project.

7.4. **Environmental Impact:** Minimal

7.5. **Equalities Impact Statement:** None in relation to this report