



# COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## *Committee Report*

**Public**

**Date of Meeting:** 29th March 2007

**Title:** PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF 1KM CYCLE TRACK AT  
THE SHEEPMOUNT ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL STADIUM

**Report of:** Director of Community Services

**Report reference:** CS 19/07

### **Summary:**

This Report was considered at Executive on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007 and sets out the background and proposals for the provision of a 1 Km Cycle Track at the venue at the Sheepmount Athletics & Football stadium.

### **Recommendations:**

The views of the Community O/S Committee are sought.

**Contact Officer:** Mark Beveridge

**Ext:** 7350

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: CS 15/07



# REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

## PORTFOLIO AREA: LEISURE, CULTURE & HERITAGE

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Date of Meeting: 19<sup>TH</sup> March 2007

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Public

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Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan: Yes

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Inside Policy Framework

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**Title: Proposal for the provision of a 1 Km Cycle Track at the Sheepmount Athletics & Football Stadium**

**Report of: Director of Community Services**

**Report reference: CS 15.07**

**Summary: This report sets out the background and proposals for the provision of a 1 Km Cycle Track at the venue at the Sheepmount Athletics & Football stadium.**

**Recommendations: The Executive**

- 1. Approve officers to draw up proposals for this project and investigate the financial implications prior to a subsequent report to the Executive for a final decision.**

**Contact Officer: Mark Beveridge**

**Ext: 7350**

**Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None**

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 1.1 The Council have for the past 5 years supported the development of Border City Wheelers cycling club both in terms of their club infrastructure and junior development programme but also in attempting to develop a cycle track for events and training purposes as well as generic cycle development initiatives. The support work that has been undertaken has culminated in Border City Wheelers achieving Clubmark status (Sport England's Club accreditation programme) in 2006.
- 1.2 The need for a floodlit training venue, has been identified by the British Cycling Federation (B.C.F.) as being critical in not only the long term development of the Border City Wheelers, but also for development of cycling generally and other clubs within the region. The B.C.F. have clearly identified a number of clubs within the region who would benefit from such a development and have stated that they see the provision of this facility as a centre for regional development encompassing North Cumbria, Scotland, Northumberland and West Tyneside.
- 1.3 In recognising the need to develop such a facility within Carlisle the B.C.F. have recently visited the Sheepmount site and have held preliminary discussions with the Sport & Recreation Manager and Border City Wheelers about potentially placing the cycle track at the venue. They see this as an ideal site for the location of a regional facility for North Cumbria and the surrounding area.
- 1.4 The B.C.F. have indicated that the cost of providing the Cycle Track would be in the region of £300,000 - £500,000 depending on the type of design and have verbally indicated that they would be willing to provide 90% of the cost (£270,000 - £450,000). The remaining 10% (£30,000 - £50,000) would have to be secured from other sources. CLL have indicated that they would consider investment in the project and this would need to be explored in detail and the cycling club itself have stated their commitment to generating funding for the project. The BCF have also stated that they will consider work in kind as a contribution which would cover the officer commitment from the Council to such a scheme if it progresses as well as the value of the land itself. Therefore it is not anticipated that the Council would need to commit a capital sum to the project.
- 1.5 City Council officers together with Carlisle Leisure Limited, have clearly identified the need to not only provide additional training and playing facilities on this site but to further develop the site as a multi-sports venue. This principle was highlighted in the Sports Feasibility Study the Council commissioned.

- 1.6 It is anticipated that such a facility will generate a minimum of £10,000 income per annum which would be offset against the current Carlisle Leisure Limited management contract, therefore reducing the City Council's management fee. The exact details would be subject to discussion with the BCF and CLL. Against this income would need to be offset the cost for maintenance and the operational costs, the former is anticipated to be in the region of £1500 per year and the latter is estimated at £2,000 p.a. The track is basically a road type surface and so would require period line marking and repair accounted for in the annual sum.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Executive approves officers to draw up proposals for this project and investigate the financial implications prior to a subsequent report to the Executive for a final decision.

## **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To support the further development of cycling with the Carlisle and surrounding areas and to provide a floodlit training and events facility at the Sheepmount, which will be recognised by the British Cycling Federation as a regional venue.
- 3.2 To enable the further development of Sheepmount sports facility as a multi sports use venue, working towards becoming an established sports village location.
- 3.3 To further develop and enhance the City's sports facilities as identified in the recently produced Sports Facility Feasibility Study.

## **4. IMPLICATIONS**

- Staffing/Resources – The work involved at this stage would be met from existing staff resources.
- Risk – The project would be subject to the Council risk assessment process and in addition due to location require a flood risk assessment
- Financial – This scheme is not currently included in the Council's capital programme, and a full business case will need to be verified by the Capital Projects Board and approved by the Executive before the scheme can progress. Potentially there is no cash outlay for the Council if the BCF agree that work in kind will be considered as a contribution to the cost of the scheme, but this will be confirmed in due course when an updated report is presented. Any revenue implications in relation to the management fee payable to Carlisle Leisure Ltd will be reviewed as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

- Legal – None at this stage
- Corporate – link to corporate priorities of learning city and cleaner greener safer. Provision for young people
- Equality Issues – Any proposed facility would meet all DDA requirements  
Environmental – Such a facility would help the development of cycling as a sustainable transport option in the area.
- Crime and Disorder – Would provide young people with more participation opportunities, would increase the number of opportunities available for training and participating in cycling as a sport.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 This project is at a preliminary stage and in order to determine the next stage, if indeed there is to be one, requires a decision to progress the informal discussions with the parties involved.
- 5.2 At this stage it is anticipated that the required input from the City Council would be officer time to develop the project. Prior to any further decisions being taken a report would be submitted to the Executive setting out the implications of developing such a facility at the Sheepmount.
- 5.3 The development of cycling as a sport would be a primary objective of such a track. However, it does present an opportunity for disability sport and the development of cycling skills in a safe environment. The latter aspect could assist in helping to increase the number of cycle journeys in the City which from an environmental and sustainability perspective are both important elements of our Cleaner, Greener and Safer Corporate priority.