

# Skateboard Facility at Burntwood Leisure Centre

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member leisure, Parks and Major projects

Date: 9 April 2024  
Agenda Item: 6  
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Key Decision? NO  
Local Ward Members: Chasetown Ward- Councillor Darren Ennis and Councillor Laura Ennis



Lichfield  
District Council

**Cabinet**

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The current skate park provision is located at Cherry Close in Burntwood at the rear of the Cherry Close Youth Centre.
- 1.2. Staffordshire County Council (SCC) are due to redevelop the site which includes the removal of the skate park and building on site. The current skate park is not suitable to be relocated and as such SCC will remove with no cost to the Council.
- 1.3. Council now proposes to install a skate park at Burntwood Leisure Centre to ensure the provision for local groups is still available
- 1.4. An initial costing exercise has taken place, this has indicated to put in a new provision will be possible for the budget.
- 1.5. **Annex A** provides an outline proposal.
- 1.6. Full plans will need to be drawn up along with applying for planning permission and permission from the Coalfield Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) who own the land that the Council lease for the Burntwood Leisure Centre.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Cabinet approves the installation of a new Skatepark facility at Burntwood Leisure Centre with operational management and responsibility for maintenance assigned to the District Council.
- 2.2. Cabinet delegate to the Deputy Leader and Property Services and Estates Manager responsibility to agree all necessary agreements to facilitate the project subject to financial implications being within Approved Budgets.
- 2.3. Cabinet recommends to Council to include a project in the Capital Programme for the new Skateboard Facility of **£106,000** with **(£86,000)** of funding provided by Section 106 and a contribution from Burntwood Town Council of **(£20,000)**.

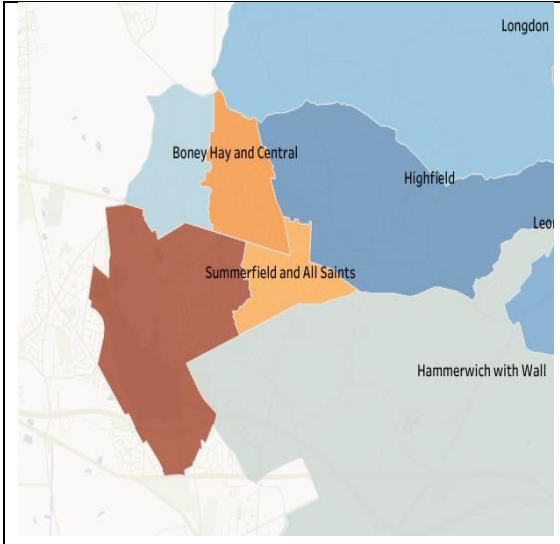
## 3. Background

- 3.1. The current skate park provision is located at Cherry Close in Burntwood.
- 3.2. The Council held a lease with SCC for the skate park and this lease has now ended.
- 3.3. SCC are due to redevelop the site which includes the removal of the skate park and building on site. The current skate park is not suitable to be relocated and as such SCC will remove with no cost to the Council.

- 3.4. The Council are committed to preserving and developing leisure activities in the district as evidenced by the recent approval of leisure investment across the District including the new Leisure Centre at Stychbrook Park, and therefore working together with Burntwood Town Council a replacement facility is proposed.
- 3.5. This facility will ensure skaters of the district will continue to have a place to practice, meet, and enjoy the facilities in a safe and secure location.

Alternative options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To not replace the facility.</li> <li>To advocate for replacement of the facility by Staffordshire County Council or another organisation.</li> <li>The skate park is provided at a different park within the Burntwood locality.</li> <li>More funding is identified, and a larger, managed facility is installed.</li> </ul>
Consultation	Consultation has been undertaken with Ward Members and any views provided will be shared with Cabinet.
Financial implications	<p>The projected capital cost of the new facility in 2024/25 is <b>£106,000</b> and funding will be provided by Section 106 retained by the District Council of <b>(£86,000)</b> and a contribution of <b>(£20,000)</b> from Burntwood Town Council.</p> <p>The costs of operating and maintaining the new facility will be funded from existing Approved Revenue Budgets.</p>
Approved by Section 151 Officer	Yes
Legal implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject to approval from the Coalfield Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) given the Council lease the land.</li> <li>Subject to approval from Planning Committee.</li> <li>Annual Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) inspection required annually.</li> </ol>
Approved by Monitoring Officer	Yes
Contribution to the delivery of the strategic plan	<p>This facility will support the strategic plan through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy communities</li> <li>Making the district more active</li> <li>Supporting local youth with free to use facilities in Burntwood</li> </ol>
Equality, diversity and human rights implications	An Equalities Impact Assessment will be required.
EIA logged by Equalities Officer	Yes
Crime & safety Issues	BLC has had in the past significant Anti-Social Behaviour. Since Lichfield West Midlands Traded Services (LWMTS) has taken over running of the centre there has been a significant reduction using onsite security and the installation of new Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) across the exterior and interior of the site. However as recent as February 2024 youths broke into the High Voltage (HV) station at the rear of the site, triggering a power outage, resulting in a closure of the pools on the following day.

	<p>There is a real risk that a skate park bringing additional Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) to the Leisure Centre vicinity, this could then bring on additional costs that will need to be passed to the Council from LWMTS around onsite security.</p> <p>The centre staff do have a good relationship with local police and community safety officer. However general management of any ASB will be down to the centre staff to manage, possibly placing them at further risk.</p> <p>The location of any new skate park at BLC will need constant supervision and management. The previous facility at Cherry Close was subject to significant ASB, from local youths, drug dealing, setting of fire, letting off fireworks and abuse to BLC centre users on the Astro pitch.</p> <p>As a high-risk sport / facility any injuries will need to be supported by centre staff until emergency services can attend site, with significant national press around response times from the National Health Service (NHS) any injuries could use significant BLC staff time dealing with these things as the park would be on our site and therefore our responsibility.</p>
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<p>Data assessment</p>	<p>The facility will be in the Chasetown Ward and is surrounded by the areas shown below and the main components of the Social Progress Index (scores are 0 to 100 where 0 signifies worst and 100 best performance) for the Ward is summarised below:</p> <div data-bbox="411 954 1501 1496" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Progress Index <b>42.6</b> being 22 out of 22 Wards.</li> <li>• Basic Human Needs <b>46.3</b> ranked 20 out of 22.</li> <li>• Foundations of Wellbeing <b>46.3</b> ranked 22 out of 22.</li> <li>• Opportunity <b>36.0</b> ranked 22 out of 22.</li> </ul> </div> <p>The replacement facility will potentially improve some of these elements at both the Ward and District level.</p>
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<p>Environmental impact (including climate change and biodiversity)</p>	<p>No implications from this proposal.</p>
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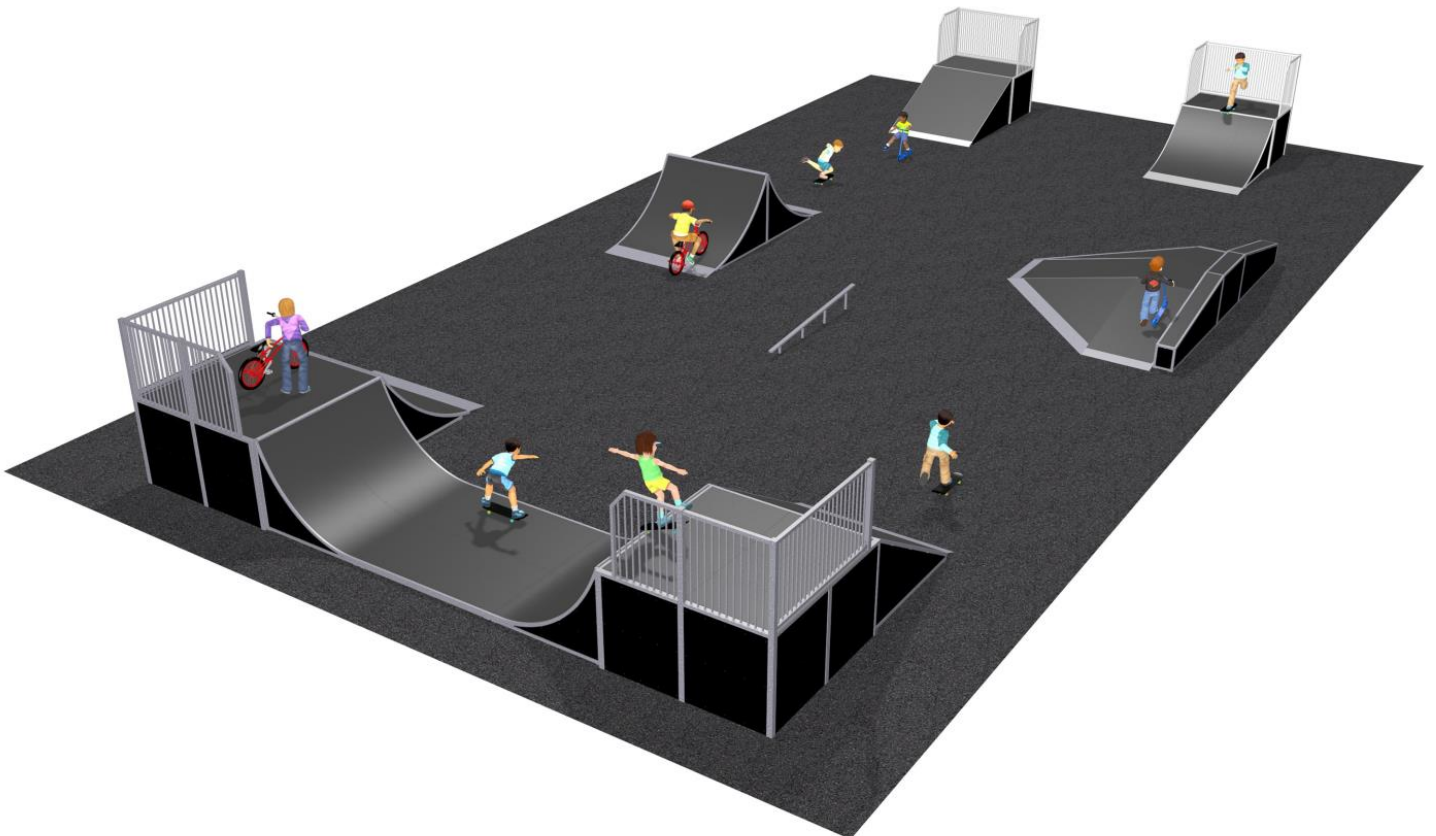
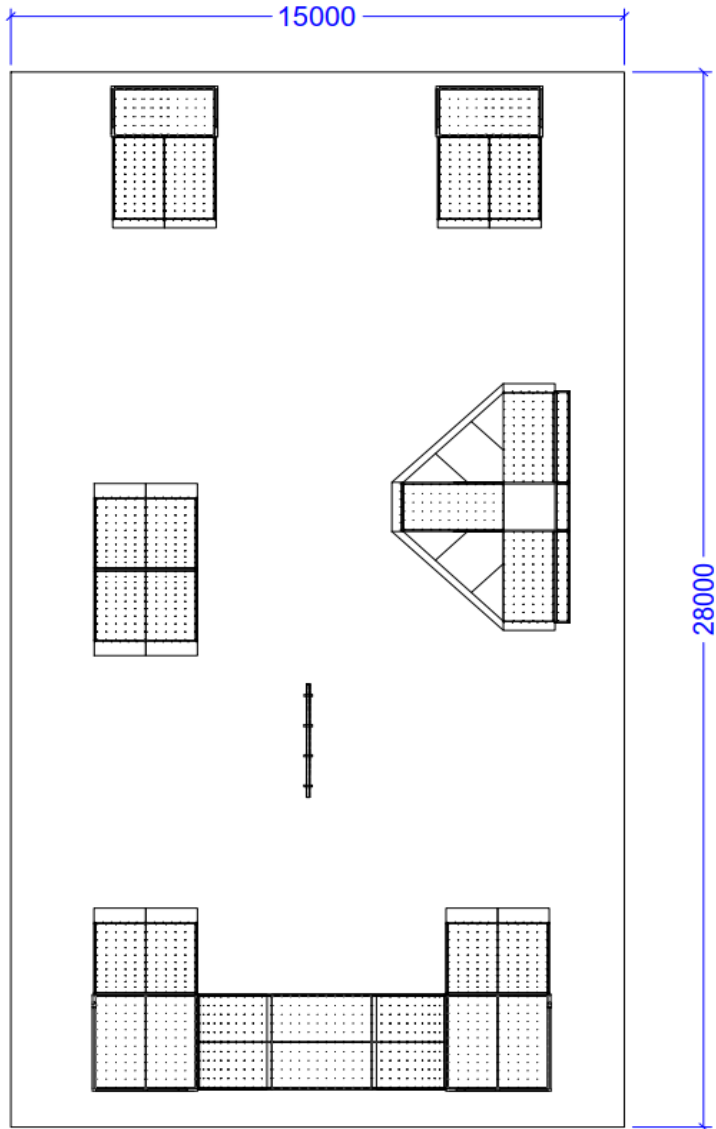
<p>GDPR / Privacy impact assessment</p>	<p>No implications from this proposal.</p>
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	Risk description & risk owner	Original score (RYG)	How we manage it	New score (RYG)
A	The capital cost of the new facility exceeds the Approved Budget	Risk - Yellow Likelihood: Yellow Impact: Yellow	The project will be managed through LWMTS and will use an experienced project manager. The Leisure Services manager will also be involved in the process. LWMTS will go out to 3 companies for quotes in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, a maximum budget will be assigned for tender to ensure the project does not go beyond allocated funding.	Risk - Yellow Likelihood: Green Impact: Yellow
B	The operational and maintenance cost for the facility cannot be managed within Approved Revenue Budgets	Risk - Yellow Likelihood: Yellow Impact: Yellow	The facility will be managed by LWMTS located at Burntwood Leisure Centre. It is expected that as this is a new facility 5 year maintenance will be low. The Skateboard Park will be subject to an annual ROSPA inspection.	Risk - Yellow Likelihood: Green Impact: Yellow
C	CISWO do not grant approval for the installation onto their land	Risk - Yellow Likelihood: Yellow Impact: Yellow	LDC Property will write to CISWO requesting permission explaining the positive impact to the local community and that the skate park will be a free to use facility.	Risk - Yellow Likelihood: Yellow Impact: Yellow
D	Planning permission is required and will include statutory consultees to include sport England, based on playing pitches on site they may object.	Risk - Yellow Likelihood: Yellow Impact: Yellow	We will look to work with an experienced installer/contractor in advance of submission of the application on site to find the best possible location.	Risk - Yellow Likelihood: Yellow Impact: Yellow

<b>Background documents</b>	Approved Medium Term Financial Strategy – Council 27 February 2024.
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<b>Relevant web links</b>	
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Exact Layout and Location at BLC to be agreed



**Possible Location options at BLC – Agreement needed before submission of planning application**

**Location 1** – Overflow car park. This site will remove around 20 parking spaces from the overflow car park during peak times. Located next to residential this may bring objections due to proximity. Located in the corner this site would be subject to the most ASB.

**Location 2** – Basketball court. This site will remove the basketball court which is not often used. It would likely come with a reduction in cost as the existing surface could likely be used. It would also be more secure as it is currently fenced and gated. This location would come with less ASB and is easier to watch over by centre staff. It could also be locked off during the evenings.

**Location 3** – Rear of the centre. This location is between two playing pitches. We would expect objection from Sports England on this location and local residents as it backs onto residential property.

