

Report to Cabinet

04 August 2026



Lyme Valley Pump Track

Lead Member:

Cllr Andrew Fisher – Portfolio Holder for Residents Services and Neighbourhoods

Lead Officer:

Roger Tait – Service Director, Neighbourhood Delivery

Key Decision: Yes

Ward(s): Clayton

Appendices: Initial Design and Costing Proposals for Consultation

Report Assurance:

	Name	Date
Lead Officer	Roger Tait	24/06/26
Monitoring Officer	Olwyn Brown	
Section 151	Craig Turner	17/07/26
Chief Executive	Gordon Mole	17/07/26
Cabinet Member	Andrew Fisher	

Report Summary

The report seeks approval to transform an existing BMX Track in Lyme Valley into a modern pump track facility to cater for a range of wheeled sports, and to allocate existing Section 106 Agreement funding to the project. Public consultation will be undertaken online to gauge community views on options for the facility, which have been prepared by specialist design and build contractors.

Recommendations

That the Cabinet:

1. Approves the initial draft proposals received from specialist design and build contractors for consultation;
2. Authorises the Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Residents Services and Neighbourhoods, to approve the final design having considered the consultation responses, and to award the contract for construction of the facility to the lowest suitable tender subject to the full costs falling within the available budget;
3. Allocates the identified Section 106 Agreement funding totalling £135,000 to the project, and authorises officers to continue to seek additional funding to bridge the gap to the estimated total cost of £150,000.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Lyme Valley is one of the Borough Council's strategic parks, serving a large catchment area and providing a wide range of sporting and recreational facilities to cater for all ages.
- 1.2. There is an existing BMX Track in Lyme Valley which was installed around 20 years ago as part of the "Greening for Growth" programme which invested in green spaces across the North Staffordshire conurbation as a contributor to economic development.
- 1.3. Although popular, the BMX Track is in need of updating and remodelling to enable it to cater for other wheeled sports. The more modern version of this type of facility is a pump track, which can be used by BMX bikes, skateboards, scooters and rollerblades. A very successful pump track was installed at Newchapel Recreation Ground in 2021 as part of the Kidsgrove Advance Town Deal Fund, and another pump track is currently under construction at Bradwell Dingle.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The estimated cost of installing a pump track at Lyme Valley, based on previous similar projects, is around £150,000. To date, approximately £135,000 has been identified in existing secured Section 106 Agreement funds which can be allocated to the scheme.
- 2.2. The project would reprofile and extend the existing BMX Track and surface it in tarmac to provide a smooth riding surface for wheeled sports.

- 2.3. Specialist design and build contractors were invited to provide options for the facility within the prescribed budget envelope. The initial draft design options are attached to this report at Appendix 1.
- 2.4. It is proposed that the options are now subject to a public consultation exercise via the Council's website and with targeted stakeholders (ward members, community groups etc) for a period of around 6 weeks.
- 2.5. Subject to the consultation outcome, it is proposed that the final detailed scheme is approved and the contract is awarded to the lowest suitable tender in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Residents Services and Neighbourhoods. Following this, the construction contract would be let with an estimated build time of 10-12 weeks.
- 2.6. It is estimated that the facility would be open for use in late 2026, based on the above sequencing and subject to the full amount of required funding being secured.
- 2.7. The project would be managed by the Neighbourhood Delivery Service (Landscape and Community Team) by outsourcing to a specialist design and build contractor.

3. Strategic Approach

- 3.1. The Lyme Valley is a strategic park in the Borough and serves a large catchment area, providing a range of sport, play and recreational facilities catering for all ages. This project will enhance the offer in the park and provide further opportunities for young people to engage in outdoor activities which contribute to improved health and wellbeing.

4. Finance & Resources

- 4.1. The estimated capital cost of installing a pump track in Lyme Valley on the site of the current BMX Track is approximately £150,000.
- 4.2. To date, approximately £135,000 has been identified in secured Section 106 Agreement funds which can be allocated to the project. Officers will continue to review opportunities to identify additional funds but in the meantime, the brief to specialist design and build contractors specified an option within the current secured budget envelope of £135,000, and a provisional option for a scheme within a budget envelope of £150,000, which could be progressed if additional funds are secured.
- 4.3. Staff resources within the Neighbourhood Delivery Service are limited but have been diverted into initiating this project as members decided that it is a priority. This may impact on the ability to deliver other projects or workstreams.

5. Legal & Governance

- 5.1. The Council owns and manages the land in Lyme Valley Parkway and has the power to provide recreational facilities for the community in such sites.
- 5.2. There is a risk that the scheme costs could exceed the current budget. This has been mitigated by specifying the available budget envelope in the brief to the contractor, and by continuing to seek additional funding opportunities.
- 5.3. There is a risk of an adverse response to the consultation on the facility from the community. This will be mitigated by siting it on the existing footprint of the BMX Track where use of this nature is already established.

6. Supporting Information

6.1. Appendix 1 – initial design options and costings for consultation.