



Cabinet

Item

10th September
2025

Public



Skateboard Facility and Pump Track Petition - Recommendation from Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair:		Councillor Edward Potter	
Portfolio Holders:		Councillor Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance Councillor James Owen, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Leisure	

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. This briefing report details a recommendation of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee following discussion of a petition presented to the Committee at its meeting on the 10th July 2025. The Committee asks that the relevant Portfolio Holder takes away the recommendation with a view to reporting back on findings to Cabinet on the 15th October.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 On the 10th July 2025 a public petition was presented to, and discussed by, the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as follows -

Title: Petition for Skateboard Facility and Pump Track in Oswestry

Statement: *We the undersigned petition the council to Pass the unused land to the North of Oswestry Leisure Centre to Oswestry Town Council on condition that it is used for a skateboard facility and pump track. Amenities like this are common in many much smaller settlements around Oswestry and the Town Council has the benefit of a Capital Receipt to fund the construction costs. Young people deserve to enjoy proper exercise facilities in our town and their lack increases the risks to them, and other residents, from anti-social riding and skating in public places. Being next to the Leisure centre, and adjacent to the urban extension area, this site is ideally located. Indeed, Planning permission for this type of use was given in 2008 and amended in 2012. Sixteen years later many young people have now missed out.*

- 2.2 Following the presentation of the petition and subsequent discussion the Committee agreed there would be numerous benefits to pursuing this opportunity and agreed to ask the relevant Portfolio Holder to investigate how this could be progressed.

3. Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommendation

- 3.1. That the relevant Portfolio Holder with officer support explore the possibility of transferring land to Oswestry Town Council for use as a pump track and skate park, and the most appropriate means of doing so.
- 3.2 That a report setting out the findings of the Portfolio Holder be presented to Cabinet on the 15th October.

Report

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 To be explored by the relevant Portfolio Holder with the support of officers.

5. Climate Change Appraisal

- 5.1. To be explored by the relevant Portfolio Holder with the support of officers.

6. Background

- 6.1 At the 10th July 2025 meeting of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee petitioners asked the Council to pass over a suitable section of land to the north of Oswestry Leisure Centre to enable them to provide a biking and skateboarding facility for the town. Local residents who attended this meeting explained how popular biking is to the young people of Oswestry, as well as the valuable mental and physical health benefits that having a skatepark locally would bring.
- 6.2 The petitioners confirmed that planning permission was granted for a BMX / Skateboard facility on this site in 2008, however this had not yet been developed. They also understood that Oswestry Town Council have prioritised this as an action, have the money to complete it, and have been negotiating with Shropshire Council on the subject of this land for some time.

- 6.3 It is believed that the development of this pump track will relieve stress and damage to nearby ancient woodland and protected bluebells, as this area is currently being used by large numbers of bikers who are unknowingly damaging wildlife, such as a protected species of bluebells. The petitioner confirmed that these bikers are using this woodland as they have nowhere else to go in the absence of a facility of this kind.
- 6.4 The petition itself states that Oswestry Town Council have the Capital receipt for this and would be fully funding it themselves, at no cost to Shropshire Council, other than the loss of land. Members heard from officers that this land, approximately two hectares adjacent to the leisure centre, is not currently being used. However, there may be a future need for expansion of the leisure facilities or car parking for the leisure centre, so the design and location of the pump track would need to take this into consideration. Equally if the pump track is not well used or falls out of favour the option to revert this facility back to Shropshire Council would be beneficial.
- 6.5 Members also heard from the petitioners that the local biking community would be enthusiastic in being involved in the running of this facility in some way.
- 6.6 Members discussed this request and were very enthusiastic as to the health benefits, and supportive of the opportunity to engage with young people in delivering a site to best meet their needs. They expressed frustration on hearing of the delay to date, since the 2008 planning permission had been granted up until now and were keen to see progress now being made.
- 6.7 The Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee does not anticipate any decisions from Cabinet today and instead requests that the relevant Portfolio Holder consider, with the support of officers, its recommendation and report back to the 15th October Cabinet meeting.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

[Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Thursday, 10th July, 2025 2.00 pm](#)

Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance Councillor James Owen, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Leisure
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