



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Cllr Nick Worth, Leader of the Council
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Matthew Hogan, Assistant Director - Strategic Growth and Development
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Mark Humphreys, Head of Special Projects - Leisure
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	BMX cycle mounds at the Castle Sports site.
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To consider removing the mounds at the earliest opportunity as a means of preparing the site for the upcoming Health & Wellbeing Hub development, whilst remediating potential public safety and current public nuisance concerns.
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	No
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Spalding Castle Ward
<b>EXEMPT REPORT?</b>	No

#### **SUMMARY**

With the Council's success in securing £20m Round 2 Levelling-Up funding towards the development of the new South Holland Health & Wellbeing Hub, it is proposed that the outdoor areas at the Castle Sports site are reconfigured to include a new 3G football facility, new outdoor activity areas and relandscaping to improve thoroughfare, walking, cycling, and general exercise and wellbeing.

In delivering the project it will be necessary to remove some of the existing facilities, including the BMX cycling mounds located on the north-west of the site. The mounds have been in place since the 1980's and do not fully meet modern day safety considerations. Additionally, the Council is increasingly receiving reports that the area around the mounds is a source of public nuisance.

The portfolio holder is asked to agree the proposal to remove, by levelling, the BMX mounds at the earliest opportunity as part of initial site preparations.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

To agree the early removal of the BMX mounds at the Castle Sports site

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To enable early preparation of the site for the planned South Holland Health and Wellbeing Hub development, whilst also remediating potential public safety concerns and reports of public nuisance on the site.

## **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Doing nothing is considered not to be an option as it will be necessary to clear the site to make way for the Hub development, the potential new 3G football facility, and other external improvements in due course.

Waiting until work on the Hub development fully commences in mid-late 2024 before removing the mounds is a less preferable option due to concerns about potential public safety and regular reports of public nuisance in the area.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In January 2023 the Council successfully secured £20m of Levelling-Up Round 2 funding towards the £26m South Holland Health and Wellbeing Hub project.
- 1.2 The project aims to remodel the site to create a ‘health and wellbeing hub’ – a facility that meets a wide range of health and wellbeing needs, not simply leisure provision. Physical health, mental health, leisure, sport, recreation, and wellbeing.
- 1.3 It involves significantly updating and enhancing the indoor leisure, sports, recreation offer with new pools, splash pad, climbing play zone, fitness suite, studios, sports hall, and café, as a single modern venue. The current indoor bowls facility will be retained and re-clad for better thermal performance.
- 1.4 The hub will incorporate space for the co-location of non-clinical community health and wellbeing facilities in the form of multi-use community rooms and individual consultation rooms.
- 1.5 New outdoor facilities including 3G football pitch, community and sensory gardens, cycling and jogging routes, new/expanded outdoor play, and a multi-use games area are also proposed along with the creation of new cycling and pedestrian routes to improve access through the site, linking Pinchbeck Road to Albion Street and access to the town centre.
- 1.6 The eventual demolition of the old swimming pool building will create space for a further investment project – a potential Extra Care Housing scheme - securing the complete regeneration of the site.

## **2. REPORT**

- 2.1 The site currently houses a BMX cycling mounds facility in its north-west corner that was installed in the 1980’s. The facility creates potential public safety concerns, given its aged design, and has become an area of reported public nuisance issues.
- 2.2 Recent discussions have been held with representatives of PEDALS and specific stakeholders with an interest in the BMX facility. General understanding and support for the need to remove the BMX mounds was forthcoming from those discussions.

- 2.3 The investment plans make provisions for improving the cycling flow across the site, and outdoor facilities to cater for those with an interest in cycle-based activity. Initial discussions with British Cycling and PEDALS are being held to fully explore the opportunities for cycling as part of the development including the potential to lever additional funding.
- 2.4 It is timely and appropriate to consider the early removal of the BMX facility ahead of and in preparation for the upcoming development.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 In noting the concerns surrounding the existing BMX facility and with the exciting, sizable investment opportunity created through the LUF funded South Holland Health and Wellbeing Hub project it is sensible to take early steps to remove the BMX mounds.

### **4. EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP**

- 4.1 None

### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

#### **5.1 SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP**

- 5.1.1 None

#### **5.2 CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 5.2.1 This proposal supports the delivery of the South Holland Health & Wellbeing Hub project which, in turn, supports a wide range of corporate priorities.

#### **5.3 STAFFING**

- 5.3.1 None

#### **5.4 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.4.1 In reviewing the draft report, the Monitoring Officer has advised that the delegations to Cabinet Members in the SHDC Constitution set out that "No delegated powers under this Part (Delegations to Cabinet Members) shall be used where the matter in question directly affects the interests of the Ward of the Cabinet Member with delegated power to make a decision on the matter, or where the Cabinet Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary or other Interest under the Code of Conduct and such matters will be referred to Cabinet for decision." This report sets out that the matter directly affects the interests of the Ward of the Cabinet Member taking this decision so is captured by the above provision.
- 5.4.2 The report has subsequently been prepared as a Leader's decision.

#### **5.5 DATA PROTECTION**

- 5.5.1 None

#### **5.6 FINANCIAL**

- 5.6.1 None. The minimal funding required to level the mounds forms part of the project budget. The cost will be no more than £6,000.

## **5.7 RISK MANAGEMENT**

5.7.1 The site will be secured with Heras fencing during the levelling works, with appropriate notices displayed to keep the public out of harm's way. Once flattened the ground will be left suitably level so as not to cause a hazard to users.

## **5.8 STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES**

5.8.1 The Portfolio Holder is the Ward Member for the Spalding Castle Ward and has been fully consulted and briefed on the issues and this proposal.

5.8.2 A recent discussion was held with representatives of PEDALS to explore cycling development opportunities as part of the investment project and to reach an understanding regarding the need to remove the existing bmx mounds. The PEDALS representatives are understanding and supportive of the proposal.

5.8.3 Local residents have raised concerns about some of the activities taking place around the BMX mounds and have requested that the Council considers early intervention.

## **5.9 REPUTATION**

5.9.1 The Council could be seen to be withdrawing services from the public by removing the mounds and as such steps are being taken to ensure improvement considerations for cyclists and outdoor activity forms part of the development project.

## **5.10 CONTRACTS**

5.10.1 None

## **5.11 CRIME AND DISORDER**

5.11.1 None. The recommendation in this report would help to address the reports of public nuisance being received.

## **5.12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING**

5.12.1 None

## **5.13 HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

5.13.1 None

## **5.14 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.14.1 None. The spoil from the removed mounds will be spread and levelled on the area, avoiding the need to remove from site, and will potentially be re-used in preparing the site of the old pool after demolition in due course.

## **5.15 LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER**

### **MISSIONS**

**This paper contributes to the following Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.**

<b>Health</b>	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
<b>Wellbeing</b>	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
<b>Pride in Place</b>	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
<b>Housing</b>	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government’s ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
<b>Crime</b>	By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.

## 6. ACRONYMS

BMX – Bicycle Motocross

PEDALS – Spalding’s Cycle Action Group

### APPENDICES

None

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

### CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

### REPORT APPROVAL

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