

**ESTATES PRIDE BID
IMPROVEMENTS TO OSMASTON PARK BMX TRACK**

Report of the Head of Investment

1. SUMMARY

This report outlines a request from the Council to match fund planned improvements to the BMX track on Osmaston Park. The bid will be presented to the Operational Board meeting by Stuart Kitchen, the Council's Parks Development Officer. Afterwards the Board is asked to decide whether to support the bid, using available Estate Pride funding.

2. RECOMMENDATION

For the Operational Board to decide whether or not to support the bid. The pros and cons are summarised below.

3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 £1.1M of Estates Pride funding is available this year for large scale projects on our estates. The money is for improvements and maintenance to estates, generally to communal, outdoor areas that are typically not covered by other maintenance funding. The work has to mostly benefitted tenants and is tenant led, either directly or by suggestions provided to local housing staff.
- 3.2 In the past Estates Pride has supported improvements to some local parks, in areas where they are used by many tenants and where match funding has been provided from other sources.
- 3.3 The Osmaston Park BMX track was constructed in 2005, following local consultation, and also includes a skate/scooter track. Unfortunately it has fallen into decline through a lack of maintenance. The Council is facing major cuts, so the situation isn't likely to improve. The track's location in a popular local park should mean that it's well used and is next to one of our biggest areas of Council housing.
- 3.4 The Council's Parks service has asked that Derby Homes match fund the regeneration of the BMX track. Parks have been able to allocate £10k, although this is only available until March 2016. The total cost will be around £20k to £25k, based on historical quotes for similar works. So Estates Pride funding would be 50 to 60% of the cost.
- 3.5 Around two years ago, Estates Pride match funded the construction of a similar BMX track on Cotton Lane, also with a skate/scooter track. The remaining funding came from the National Lottery Fund.

3.6 The Osmaston Park track is in the same part of the City, being about 1.5 miles from the Cotton Lane site. However, it is on the other side of the ring road and is a very different setting, tending to attract different people. The park is more family oriented, with the track being next to a wide range of facilities in the park, including a play area, café and sport pitches.

3.7 Pros

- The project would bring a run down local facility back into good condition and should lead to it being well used again.
- The match funding would support the Council, which in its current financial position is not realistically going to be able to fully fund work like this.
- Supporting the Council emphasises the partnership working that is vital to what we do.
- A renovated BMX track on the park would attract different people than the Cotton Lane site.

3.8 Cons

- Estates Pride recently match funded a similar, new facility not so far away.
- Some tenants may feel that this is using their money to make up for a lack of maintenance by the Council.
- If the Council instead chose to close the BMX track, money would be saved more people would/could use the Cotton Lane track, which is new.

4. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

Osmaston Park Community Centre, which is a Community Interest Company run by volunteers, has pressed for the track to be brought back into full use, as part of efforts to rejuvenate the park and make it as widely enjoyed as possible.

5. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost to the Estates Pride fund is £10k to £15k. Some money remains from this year's allocation and this will come from existing funding, so does not create additional expenditure. The nature of Estates Pride is that it's a fixed pot of money and it's always a case of deciding where best to spend it, for the greatest benefit to estates. If this bid is not supported, the money will be spent on another useful project or projects this year.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Legal and confidentiality
Council
Personnel
Environmental implications

Equalities impact assessment
Health & safety
Risk
Policy review

If board members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact:

Richard Holman / Estates Maintenance Manager / 01332 888702 / richard.holman@derbyhomes.org

Background information: none

Supporting information: none