

# PADDLESports

GLASGOW



# WHAT IS THE GLASGOW PADDLESPORTS CENTRE?

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The Centre will provide an excellent all-year-round opportunity for the development of canoeing and kayaking skills, making a significant contribution to the promotion of general health and well-being of the surrounding communities and the city as a whole.

The Centre will accommodate general paddling, a whitewater course and canoe polo, all in a clean and safe environment, together with showers and changing facilities and classroom accommodation. It will include accommodation provided by local organisations and clubs to support their own role in the Centre.



Before



Proposed



Before



Proposed



## 04 Who is promoting the Centre?

The Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership is promoting the development of paddlesports in and around the Forth & Clyde Canal in recognition of the tremendous opportunity that the Canal presents to develop these sports in Glasgow.

The project will be developed and delivered jointly by British Waterways and Glasgow City Council Development and Regeneration Services, working in partnership together. They are supported by a Residents and Users Group, comprising representatives of organisations and groups that wish to be closely involved with the project.

## Where is the Centre?

The Centre will be located at Pinkston Basin on the Forth & Clyde Canal, immediately to the north of Glasgow City Centre with easy access from Junction 16 of the M8 motorway. This means that the Centre will be readily accessible not just to the residents of the city but also to most of the residents of the Central Belt, with a population in excess of 2.6 million people.

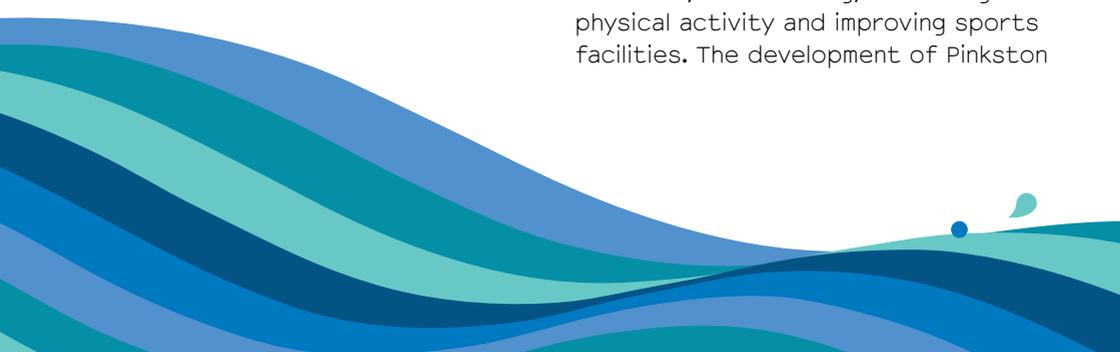
## Why is a Paddlesports Centre needed?

A recent independent annual survey commissioned on behalf of the Royal Yachting Association, the British Marine Federation, the Maritime and Coastguard Association and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute of adult participation has revealed that canoeing is the most popular and fastest growing water sport for the seventh year running.

However, within the City of Glasgow, there are currently no specific facilities for paddlesports. The nearest centres are at Strathclyde Park and on the island of Cumbrae. And whilst there are also centres elsewhere in the country, what is lacking in Scotland as a whole is a purpose-built whitewater course, comparable with the courses at Teesside, Nottingham and London south of the border and in Cardiff.

## How will the Centre meet the aims of the Scottish Executive?

The Scottish Executive has produced a number of specific documents relating to the development of the canal, volunteering, increasing physical activity and improving sports facilities. The development of Pinkston





Basin would clearly meet many of the objectives within these strategies.

## What is the role of the Centre in relation to health objectives?

There are some significant challenges in terms of the health and well being of many local communities in and around Pinkston Basin. 70% of the population in North Glasgow (71,426 people) live in neighbourhoods that are among the 15% most deprived in Scotland. However, the objectives going forward are to work with local communities to improve their health, and through early intervention, to encourage people to lead healthier lifestyles.

Pinkston Basin is ideally located as a venue to engage, in partnership with local health groups, local people in physical activity. The opportunities at Pinkston include canoeing, walking,

jogging, sailing and cycling and provide a diverse choice to attract local people.

## What were the key findings from the initial consultation exercise?

The consultation proved not only a need for additional permanent, accessible canoe polo and paddle sport facilities but a tremendous level of support from a diverse range of organisations including sport, health, community safety and inclusion, education, and regeneration. Each organisation has different objectives that will dovetail together and complement one another through the development of Pinkston Basin.

The regeneration of Port Dundas will provide a lively and vibrant facility encouraging participation in active recreation and sport, bringing positive

# WHAT ARE OUR OBJECTIVES?

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- Bathing quality water for general paddling, slalom and canoe polo
- Whitewater course for general paddling, slalom and swiftwater rescue training
- An opportunity to develop canoe polo and slalom at competition scale
- Support facilities in the form of changing accommodation, showers, toilets and car parking
- An area for clubs and organisations with an opportunity for them to lease space for their own accommodation
- Promote paddlesports in the north of the City
- A basis for the development of paddlesports at a local and national level



Dagger

08 experiences to a community currently surrounded by dereliction and the wider population of Glasgow and the Central Belt.

## Who will benefit from the Centre?

- Outward Bound Metro will run courses for 2,000 young people per annum
- Glasgow Community & Safety Services will run courses for young people to distract them from anti-social behaviour
- Culture and Sport Glasgow will run its taster sessions 'Paddle on the Canal'
- North Glasgow College will use the Centre as a basis for paddlesports as part of its HNC/HND courses in Outdoor Education
- The three Universities will locate their canoe/kayak clubs here
- The Centre will provide a home for the Glasgow Kayak Club, which will take on new members from the initial taster sessions
- The Emergency Services will use the whitewater course as a basis for swiftwater rescue training, enabling basic training to be undertaken in a

safe, clean and convenient location

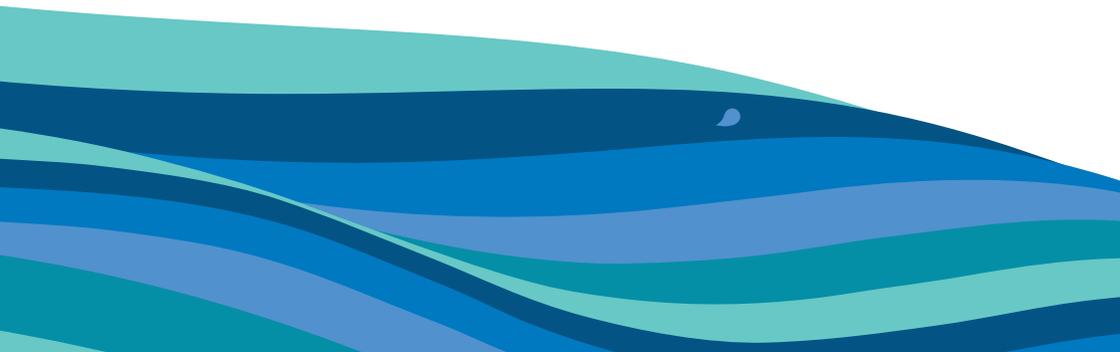
- Paddlesports enthusiasts from Central Scotland and further afield will be able to use the Centre at designated times

## What are the benefits of the Paddlesports Centre?

- An excellent opportunity to develop paddlesports in a controlled environment
- An opportunity for young people in particular to take up new sports and activities, to the benefit of their general health and welfare
- A convenient facility for clubs and organisations enabling more paddling to take place
- A high profile regeneration project to kick-start the wider regeneration of the Port Dundas area, especially in the wake of the closure of the Diageo plant.

## What are the wider regeneration aims?

The Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership is tasked with the regeneration of the Canal Corridor following the re-opening of the Forth & Clyde Canal as part of the Millenium





Link Project in 2001. The Partnership has drawn up masterplans for Speirs Locks and Maryhill Locks, to guide the regeneration, focussing on new housing and leisure developments at Maryhill and mixed use developments at Speirs Locks.

The Paddlesports Centre will increase the use of the Canal for sport and leisure purposes and will kick-start the wider regeneration of the Port Dundas area, which has significant areas of vacant and derelict land. This will also assist with the creation of new jobs in the area.

## How much will the Centre cost?

The overall cost is projected at £2.2m

broadly split equally between the works to the Canal Basin, the provision of the whitewater course and the works to provide the basis of the Centre and associated facilities. The clubs and organisations will raise their own funds for their accommodation.

## How will the Centre operate?

The Business Plan has been carefully designed to minimise the costs of the Centre and maximise the 'buy-in' from the users themselves. The running costs for the Centre will be covered from annual rentals for the users, a fee for each paddler to use the showers/changing

# WHO ARE OUR SUPPORTERS?

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“It’s great to see a canoeing facility being built in Scotland. It can only be a good thing for the development of the sport.”

**David Florence**

Olympic Silver Medalist  
Beijing 2008

World Cup Champion  
2009

X7 World Cup Medalist

“A facility like this would provide a crucial link in developing juniors to world class senior athletes within Scotland.”

**Kevin McHugh**

Performance Director  
Scottish Canoe Association





- 12 facilities, and a fee for each individual to use the whitewater course.

The costs have been minimised to providing clean water, cleaning/maintenance of the communal facilities and general maintenance. It is envisaged that the user group will take a proactive role in management of the Centre.

## Who is supporting the Centre?

The proposals have been designed by EPD Ltd for the Partnership and have been well-received by local paddlers, over 100 of whom attended a public meeting to launch the proposals in March 2009. As a result, a User Group was set up to support and assist with the development of the proposals.

The members of the User Group are Culture and Sport Glasgow, Glasgow Community and Safety Services, Outward Bound Metro, Glasgow Kayak Club, Scottish Canoe Association, North Glasgow College, Garnock Canoe Club, GCC Social Work Services, Sea Cadets, Royal Life Saving Society, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Services, and Glasgow Caledonian, Strathclyde and Glasgow Universities.

The Centre will provide changing and showering facilities and other communal facilities. In addition, individual organisations and clubs who have expressed an interest in becoming residents will be afforded the opportunity to provide their own storage and other facilities, based on a co-ordinated container system design.

## How will the Centre help meet the Scottish Canoe Association's objectives?

The key National Governing Body's priorities are listed within the Development Plan and Performance Plan, and focus on increasing participation, supporting clubs, raising the profile of the sport, coach development, access to water, developing facilities and identifying the next generation of talented Scottish canoeists across all disciplines. Pinkston Basin would provide both the grass roots 'introduction' and a permanent venue throughout the year for performance athletes. Young people from local communities could be learning to canoe alongside the next generation of Scottish medal hopes.

## How will the Centre help the development of Scottish Athletes?

Scottish athletes have won medals at the last two Olympics, Campbell Walsh 2004 and David Florence 2008. These athletes were joined on the GB Olympic team in 2008 by Fiona Pennie, making the GB Olympic Slalom team 100% Scottish.

Scots within British slalom canoeing teams regularly make up 40% of the GB athletes and in recent years have won a sizeable number of medals on the world stage.

The success of Scottish Sprint athletes continues to grow with the highest number of juniors ever seen in GB championship finals.



However, for these athletes to progress from promising junior to world class senior they have no option but to move south of the border. This is mainly due to the lack of suitable facilities north of the border, particularly in the case of Slalom athletes.

A facility like this would provide a crucial link in developing juniors to world class senior athletes within Scotland.

## What are the wider sport, exercise and health links with the Canal?

The Forth & Clyde Canal towpath provides a safe and attractive off-road route for walking and cycling, which starts at Pinkston and heads to Bowling in the west and Falkirk in the east. A series of sports and leisure proposals are being proposed and developed along the length of the Canal to encourage the use of the Canal itself and the towpath and help promote a healthy lifestyle for local residents.

Other attractions close to Pinkston include the Speirs Locks Cultural Quarter, with Scottish Opera, the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, the National Theatre and the Glasgow Academy of Musical Theatre Arts all providing opportunities for visits and performances.

## Other exciting proposals — The Urban Etive

The Glasgow Canal Partnership is also working on detailed proposals for the 'Urban Etive', an exciting artificial whitewater steep-creeking course beside the Canal at Maryhill Locks. The course will be sculpted from concrete to replicate some of the best drops and pools from around the world and create an exciting whitewater experience in the City. The course will also be used for canyoneering. Beneath the Urban Etive there will be an artificial caving system creating a visitor attraction for locals and tourists alike. At the base of the course and overlooking it, there will be a café/restaurant and associated visitor accommodation.

# WHAT ARE THE TECHNICAL DETAILS?



## Canoe polo and basic paddling

The arm of the Canal within the island site will be treated to provide outdoor bathing water quality standard with 1 permanent polo pitch, 1 semi-permanent and 2 smaller temporary pitches. This will be achieved by segregating the area of the Canal with sheet piling and raising the surface level of the water slightly above the rest of the Canal, so that it always flows outwards (canoes/kayaks can pass over it too). The water will be supplied via an inlet pipe from the Monklands Canal and incoming water will be treated with coarse filter and UV treatment. The depth will be 1200mm. The silt will be sealed with a cementitious binder.

## Whitewater course

A concrete channel will be provided adjoining the Canal, creating a whitewater course with slalom route (90m with 1.5m head) and a play feature (30m with 1.5m head), with a mitred gate in-between allowing an easy switch between the 2 courses. Tracks will be provided within the channels to which blocks can be attached to create a huge variety of rapids and features. The blocks can be moved by hand. The plan is to operate the course by a Smartcard system to minimise staffing requirements and maximise flexibility. Access will also be provided to the course to enable its use for Swiftwater Rescue training (emergency services).



## Paddlesports Facilities

To minimise costs and maximise flexibility, the facilities will be provided by the individual organisations and clubs using ship's containers within an overall planned concept. The area alongside the Canal will be decked, with the water level 300mm below the cope. The remainder of the container area will be decked with open mesh flooring which can be lifted for the installation of a container. A series of low level plinths will be provided over this area, which will enable the containers to be positioned in a variety of configurations. The floorslab will drain to the back to make it easy to drain the containers. Service connections

will be available at the front of the containers, with services charged for via a smartcard system. The system enables the containers to be removed, replaced or rearranged. A canopy is proposed over the fronts of the containers and decking area.

Communal facilities, to cater for changing, showers and toilets, are proposed by the Partnership from the outset, with classroom accommodation and other facilities identified for the future.

## Site Access and Parking

Access to the site is via a bridge over the Canal, which will be secured by a locked gate. Parking will be provided for 50 cars.