

Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
**Stoneygate, Spinney Hill, Castle**

## **FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**

**Cabinet**

**27<sup>th</sup> September 2004**

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### **Developing options for the governance of Highfields Youth and Community Centre**

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#### **Report of the Corporate Director of Education and Lifelong Learning**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the establishment of a Partnership Board to oversee the development of a strategic plan and development of recommendations regarding the engagement of the community in the governance of Highfields Youth and Community Centre.

##### **2. Summary**

- 2.1 Highfields Youth and Community Centre is a major facility in the heart of Highfields delivering a range of lifelong learning services. It has been in receipt of close to £5million of capital funding to develop and expand the centre both as a lifelong learning facility and a sports centre.
- 2.2 The Highfields Community Association has worked in close partnership with the city council to secure the funding for the capital programme. The Association also has a longstanding aspiration to be engaged in the governance of the centre.
- 2.3 Following the successful capital bid a project board was set up to oversee the capital programme and a review of the management arrangements for the centre. An external consultancy Timiti was engaged to carry out the management review and they reported back earlier this year. The Director of Education is expected to report back to Cabinet with proposals for the strategic plan and arrangements for the professional leadership and community engagement following this review.
- 2.4 It is proposed that a new Partnership Board be set up to oversee this phase of work with a remit to
- 1 Develop and consult on a strategic plan to deliver high quality lifelong learning services
  - 2 Advise on appropriate professional leadership arrangements for the expanded centre
  - 3 Consult on and evaluate options for community governance of the centre with recommendations for Cabinet.
- 2.5 The Partnership Board would need to ensure there is appropriate representation and the membership might be as follows:

The Cabinet Link for education and lifelong learning  
 Local Ward members  
 Highfields Community Association  
 Service Director Lifelong Learning  
 A representative of staff  
 A representative from the principal funding organisations  
 A representative from Education Finance

2.6 The Partnership Board would be supported by a Project Manager who would ensure the remit of the Board was met and a report to Cabinet prepared.

**3. Recommendations**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- a. Request the Corporate Director to set up a Partnership Board to oversee the next stage of development of the Highfields Youth and Community Centre
- b. Comment on the proposed membership of the Board.
- c. Request the Corporate Director to bring a report back to Cabinet setting out recommendations from the Partnership Board for the future direction of the Centre.

**4. Headline Financial and legal Implications**

4.1 A number of financial implications and risks could arise from any change in governance because of the conditions attached to the grant funding that has been used to build the new centre. These will need to be identified, assessed and managed through the proposed Partnership Board.

4.2 The costs of the Project Manager and Partnership Board will be met from the Lifelong Learning and Community Development budget.

(David Wilkin, Head of Education Finance, ext 7750)

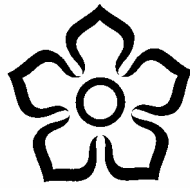
4.3 any legal implications arising from changed governance arrangements will need to be contained in any future report to Cabinet..

**5. Report Author/Officer to contact:**

John Crookes, Service Director Lifelong Learning and Community Development,  
 Contact: 2294381

**DECISION STATUS**

<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	No
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)



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## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1. Report**

- 1.1 Highfields Youth and Community Centre (HYCC) is a major council facility in the heart of the Highfields area of the city. It provides a wide range of lifelong learning services – early years, youth, adult learning and general community services. Over the last three years the council has secured a significant capital programme of around £5million to develop and expand the centre. HYCC now has a much improved set of adult and community learning facilities as a result of a successful bid to the Learning and Skills Council and a high quality set of sports facilities from a successful sports lottery bid. The facility has played an important part in the life of the Highfields community and it is poised to play a central role in the continued regeneration of this deprived area.
- 1.2 HYCC is a council facility staffed by council employees. However there has been a close partnership with the Highfields Community Association (HCA) whose articles of association set out the aspiration of the association to be involved in the management and governance of the centre. These articles were established by the Director of Education in Leicestershire in 1977. The council recognises this aspiration and has always sought to work in partnership with the association over all matters concerning the centre.
- 1.3 The council and HCA worked closely on the securing of external funding for the expansion and development of the centre. In May 2001 the Corporate Director submitted a report to Cabinet seeking approval for the capital scheme and also for the approach to the management of the project. Cabinet resolved in relation to the management of the centre to:
- i) Note the views of Highfields Community Association and their support for a review of lay and professional management arrangements;

- ii) Approve the establishment of a joint management review by HCA and officers of the council to prepare recommendations for the lay and professional management of the centre;
  - iii) Request a report from the Director of Education, following the management review, setting out proposals for the strategic plan for the centre, the professional leadership of the expanded centre and the arrangements for engagement of the local community in the management of the Centre.
- 1.4 Shortly after Cabinet's approval of the capital scheme a project board was set up under the council's project management standards. This board oversaw the capital project and also oversaw the completion of a management review of the centre. The review was carried out by an independent organisation following a tendering process. The report was received earlier this year.
- 1.5 Whilst the capital project was being undertaken the Division was also completing its restructuring following its establishment in April 2001. The restructuring over this period of time has involved the creation of specialist leadership and management to oversee the delivery of services from council facilities.
- 1.6 It is now necessary to consider the outcomes of the Timiti report and put forward proposals for Cabinet to consider in relation to the strategic plan for the centre, professional leadership and community engagement. The previous project board was constituted largely around the needs of a capital project. It is timely therefore to review the arrangements for consideration of the report. The Corporate Director is therefore proposing to set up a Partnership Board to carry out this function. The Board would report to the Corporate Director and advise him in the preparation of a report to Cabinet as required by the resolution in May 2001.
- 1.7 The remit of the Partnership Board would be as follows to:
- Develop and consult on a strategic plan to deliver high quality lifelong learning services
  - Advise on appropriate professional leadership arrangements for the expanded centre
  - Consult on and evaluate options for community governance of the centre with recommendations for Cabinet.
- 1.8 The Partnership Board would need to ensure there is appropriate representation and the membership might be as follows:
- The Cabinet Link for education and lifelong learning
  - Local Ward members
  - Highfields Community Association
  - Service Director Lifelong Learning
  - A representative of staff
  - A representative of the principal funding organisations
  - A representative of Education Finance
- 1.9 The Partnership Board would be supported by a Project Manager who would be responsible for ensuring the remit is completed and a report prepared for cabinet within a year of its establishment.

## 2. **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 2.1 A number of financial implications and risks could arise from any change in governance because of the conditions attached to the grant funding that has been used to build the new centre. These will need to be identified, assessed and managed through the proposed Partnership Board.
- 2.2 The costs of the Project Manager and Partnership Board will be met from the Lifelong Learning and Community Development budget.

(David Wilkin, Head of Education Finance, ext 7750)

### **Legal Implications**

- 2.3 Any legal implications arising from changed governance arrangements will need to be contained in any future report to Cabinet.

## 3. **Other Implications**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	<b>No</b>		
Policy	<b>No</b>		
Sustainable and Environmental	<b>No</b>		
Crime and Disorder	<b>No</b>		
Human Rights Act	<b>No</b>		
Elderly/People on Low Income	<b>No</b>		

4. **Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**  
Highfields sports centre lottery bid Cabinet May 21<sup>st</sup> 2001

5. **Consultations**  
None

6. **Report Author**  
John Crookes, Service Director Lifelong Learning and Community Development,  
Contact: :2294381

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