



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
**All Wards**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD  
CABINET**

**6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2008  
17 NOVEMBER 2008**

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**Youth Capital Plus Fund**

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**Report of the Interim Corporate Director, Children & Young People's Services.**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring forward proposals for the allocation of the £453k Youth Capital Plus fund.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 Leicester City is one of 50 Local Authorities to receive the Youth Capital Plus Fund one-off allocation of £453k .
- 2.2 It's purpose is to fund new youth facilities or refurbish existing ones in neighbourhoods with high levels of deprivation, crime and anti-social behaviour, and to target those neighbourhoods which currently lack good quality youth provision. The primary aim is to improve the outcomes for young people living in Leicester in a cohesive and planned way and in line with the vision of One Leicester.
- 2.3 This report identifies the options in which the Children and Young People's Services can best utilise the fund. The options are formulated from analysis and in light of the existing plans for the development of our Integrated Youth Support Services.
- 2.4 The Youth Service's proposal, in a capital bid prepared in 2007/08, was to secure highly attractive social meeting places for young people, promoting cohesion and cross-communities work in each of the 8 Network Areas around the city.
- 2.5 The options considered, for making use of the fund, include:
- Funding construction of a new building.
  - Funding several centres to spread the benefit to young people and optimise usage across a greater area of the city.
- 2.6 The budget available would allow for one building no larger than 192sq ft (approximately equivalent in size to New Parks Youth Centre).
- 2.7 Several possible centres are identified using key target criteria such as Public Service Agreement 14 targets (PSA 14) together with a relative assessment of the existing youth premises.

- 2.8 Public Service Agreement 14 targets (PSA 14), collectively entitled Setting young people on the path to success, are as follows:-
- Reducing first-time entrants into criminal activity
  - Reducing young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)
  - Reducing misuse of drugs & alcohol
  - Reducing unwanted teenage pregnancies
  - Increasing no of young people engaging in positive activities (NI110)

### **3. Recommendations (or Options)**

It is recommended that the OSMB and Cabinet :-

- 3.1 Note the report
- 3.2 Agree the proposed allocation of the Youth Capital Plus fund (£453k) with its focus upon areas of ASB/ little or poor youth facilities
- 3.3 Agree that the Youth Opportunities/Capital Fund Panel are involved in this process by visiting the proposed centres and providing their advice along with the young people using the respective centres

### **4. Report**

- 2.1 Legislation requires all local authorities in England to secure an integrated youth offer for 13-19 year-olds comprising
- positive activities for all young people
  - targeted youth support for those at risk or who have additional needs
  - information, advice and guidance for all young people
  - the active involvement of young people in shaping, providing and reviewing services and opportunities
- 2.2 The Youth Service's proposal in a capital bid prepared in 2007/08 was therefore to secure highly attractive social meeting places for young people, promoting cohesion and cross-communities work, in each of the now 8 Network Areas , around the city, and working with our partners to provide a full range of integrated youth-focused services on a hub and spoke basis with a city-centre Youth Hub.
- 2.3 This proposal is contributory to the development of our Integrated Youth Support Services and improved outcomes for young people, by the improvement of places to go things to do, and links up with our development of weekend opening times in areas of high youth anti-social behaviour and crime.
- 2.4 It is not anticipated that the refurbishment of existing premises will lead to any significant, additional revenue costs but any that occur will need to be addressed within the overall deployment of the Youth Service budget.
- 2.5 The recent consultants report on this subject proposes that the city develops "magnet (youth) centres providing good quality activities and opportunities, information advice and guidance".

This capital investment will address One Leicester priorities in respect of Investing in Our Children and priorities from other levers: improving access to

preventative services, making healthy choices, shared strategy and values, improved co-ordination.

## 2.6 The Youth Capital Plus Fund

2.6.1 The City has been in receipt of Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds over the past two years with the 3<sup>rd</sup> year/round of funding applications having been launched in April this year, with decisions made on the applications in June 2008.

2.6.2 The aim of these funds is to “give a voice and influence to young people, particularly those facing disadvantage, in relation to things to do and places to go and convey a powerful message to young people that their needs and aspirations are important”.

2.6.3 The Youth Taskforce Action Plan launched in March 2008 also focused on getting young people into positive activities and announced the fast tracking of almost £23m through the Youth Capital Fund.

2.6.4 As a result, *“Youth Capital Fund Plus is a one-off addition to fund new or refurbished youth facilities in neighbourhoods with high levels of deprivation, crime and anti-social behaviour and which currently lack good quality youth provision.*

2.6.5 *YCF Plus should be driven by an ambition to deliver high quality facilities which signify major capital investment in the most deprived neighbourhoods. This investment should complement the level of ambition for facilities for young people across the whole local authority area. It should also inform the way that local areas plan and deliver facilities for young people, particularly the need for integrated and strategic planning.”*

2.6.6 Leicester is one of 50 Local Authorities receiving this fund, with a one-off allocation of £453k.

2.6.7 We were asked in early May by GOEM to profile the spending of this sum across 2008/09 with a carry forward option for any unspent monies. Taking advice from Property Services, GOEM were advised that we would spend £40k in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008/09 on site investigation and fees and carry forward the remainder to 2009/10. The thinking at that time, not having seen the full guidance which was embargoed, was that it could be put towards the improvement and development of local youth centre facilities, in support of the Integrated Service Hubs (ISH) and Integrated Youth Support Services roll-out.

2.6.8 A methodology and decision is, therefore, now needed on how best and where to allocate this funding, within the limits on its usage set out above from the guidance, and in support of the Integrated Youth Support Services roll-out.

## 2.7 Finding the basis for allocation

2.7.1 The funding available to provide a new building or to refurbish existing youth premises is £453k. The cost of new build is currently about £2000 per sq metre, assuming that we already own the land, and professional fees are 15%

of the construction cost. Allowing for the fees, this means that £385k is actually available for construction thus allowing for a building no larger than 192 sq metres. By way of comparison New Parks Youth Centre is 180 sq metres.

2.7.2 In view of this, it is proposed that it would be a better option to refurbish and improve one or more of our present youth centres. It is further proposed that both the roll-out of Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS), and improved take-up of services by young people, would benefit most by the improvement of a youth centre in each of the 3 current management areas rather than just 1 centre being improved.

2.7.3 To establish a basis for 3 centres, it is proposed to use Public Service Agreement 14 targets (PSA 14) targets which will be the basis for monitoring and evaluating IYSS, and a relative assessment of the existing youth premises.

2.7.4 Public Service Agreement 14 targets (PSA 14), collectively entitled *Setting young people on the path to success*, are as follows:-

- Reducing first-time entrants into criminal activity
- Reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs)
- Reducing misuse of drugs & alcohol
- Reducing unwanted teenage pregnancies
- Increasing no of young people engaging in positive activities (NI110)

2.7.5 The data on First-time Entrants into Criminal Activity, NEETs and drugs & alcohol misuse are sufficiently detailed and robust to provide such a basis.

2.7.6 There is currently no method for collecting figures, or assessing the level, for participation in positive activities by **all** young people 13-19; only those collected from the Local Authority Youth Service's provision and from Connexions provision. This challenge is yet to be addressed for the new NI 110 target.

2.7.7 The figures for Teenage Pregnancy are analysed by ward but only by whether they are well above the national average, above it, below it or statistically insignificant. They do not, therefore, provide sufficiently differentiated numerical detail to use, with the other data, for this analysis.

## 2.8 **Analysis**

2.8.1 The table attached as Appendix 1 combines the 3 sets of usable figures to provide a hierarchy by ward. The conclusion reached is as follows :-

2.8.2 In Area 1 (North) New Parks comes out highest on aggregate score across all 3 targets closely followed by Beaumont Leys, whereas Beaumont Leys is highest when taking First-time Entrants to Crime, the most important indicator for this fund.

2.8.3 If we then look at present youth facilities, New Parks Youth Centre could benefit from being bigger in area but is generally fit for purpose. In Beaumont Leys, the Healthy Living Centre in Barleycroft is used for youth provision but is not currently felt to be sufficiently fit for purpose as it stands but could be

improved, whilst Stocking Farm Youth Centre is fit for purpose but run down and in need of repair.

- 2.8.4 In Area 2 (East) Spinney Hill comes out highest on aggregate score across all 3 targets closely followed by Humberstone & Hamilton, whereas Humberstone & Hamilton is highest when taking First-time Entrants to Crime as the most important indicator for this fund.
- 2.8.5 Looking at present youth facilities, Highfields Centre is probably the best facility for youth provision in the city, having been extended and redeveloped at a cost of about £4.5m whereas the Armadale Centre in Humberstone & Hamilton has the potential to be a very good centre if money were spent on it for instance to bring a gym facility and computer room into use and to refresh the present sports hall.
- 2.8.6 In Area 3 (South), Braunstone & Rowley Fields comes out highest on aggregate score across all 3 targets, closely followed by Eyres Monsell, and remains highest, followed by Eyres Monsell, when taking First-time Entrants to Crime as the most important indicator for this fund. However, looking at present youth facilities in these 2 areas, Braunstone Grove is a modern well-appointed youth facility whilst the Magpie Centre in Eyres Monsell could be significantly improved by some investment in it. A merger between the Magpie Centre provision and the voluntary Leicestershire Clubs For Young People, some 200 metres away, has also been discussed and may be worth considering in this context.
- 2.8.7 It is therefore proposed that the £385k actually available for building work, allowing for 15% fees, is allocated between the following three centres on the basis of an assessment of what can be achieved at each site :-
- Area 1 - Barleycroft Centre
  - Area 2 - Armadale Centre
  - Area 3 - Magpie Centre, Eyres Monsell

## **5. Financial, Legal and Other Implications**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

- 4.1.1 The report is concerned with the allocation of the Youth Plus Capital Fund. There are no additional financial implications at this stage. The funding will be added to the capital programme in the period 4 corporate capital monitoring report to Cabinet.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance and Efficiency, ext. 29 7750

### **4.2 Legal Implications**

- 4.2.1 The funding identified has been allocated in accordance with the Government's 'Youth Matters' initiative and 'Youth Opportunity Fund and the Youth Capital Fund delivery Guidance 2008'. Section 570B Education Act 1996 (introduced by the Education and Inspections Act 2006) placed a duty on local authorities to secure young people's access to positive activities, to consider alternative providers and ascertain young peoples' views on provision.

4.2.2 The above Guidance makes it clear the fund is to be spent on targeting youth support to ensure the needs of vulnerable young people are identified and met to a good standard to achieve the outcomes identified in part 2 Children Act 2004, the 5 'Every Child Matters' outcomes. This is to be achieved through inter agency working and through children and young people taking a role in the strategic management of funds and the implementation of projects.

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<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Reason</b>	Is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	Yes
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)