

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 14 May 2012

ITEM 6 (h)(ii)(g)

Title: Strategic Plan and
2012/13 Budget Proposals
- Youth Facilities

Portfolio(s): Children Young People and Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr David Lilly

Report from Directorate: Children, Young People and Learning

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Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to set out proposals for a revised Youth and Play Capital Investment strategy in the light of the changes to the Council Capital Plan as part of the Council's Budget setting process and the 2012/2015 Council Strategic Plan. If approved this report seeks approval to award grants to the relevant/appropriate organisations.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) Approve the revised borough-wide Capital Investment Programme for the youth and play investment strategy to enhance positive activities for young people; and
- (2) Authorise the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Learning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning to finalise the process for the allocation of funds.
- (3) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Learning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning, the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources and the Head of Legal, Governance and Commercial Services, to:

- (a) Undertake a selection process of appropriate providers based on expressions of interests received;
- (b) Award a grant agreement(s) to successful applicants and
- (c) Deal with any ancillary matters arising from the above recommendations.

1.3 Forward plan:

This report appears on the Forward Plan for the period 1st May 2012 to 31st August 2012.

1.4 Council plan and policy framework

Council Strategic Plan 2012-15:

Priority 2. Maintaining excellent education, training and employment opportunities, including apprenticeships and working in collaboration with partners.

1.5 Information:

- 1.5.1 Cabinet received a report at its meeting on 12 March 2012 outlining a Play Capital Investment Programme that would deliver a borough-wide network of youth and play facilities for children aged 8 – 19 in partnership with voluntary and community sector providers, key Council services, businesses, schools, the police and NHS services. The Council and its partners are committed to making North Tyneside a place where children and young people can grow and develop as happy, healthy, confident and safe individuals, with a sense of responsibility and respect for others and real aspiration and pride for themselves.
- 1.5.2 Cabinet in its initial Budget proposals had identified in its capital plan £1m for both 2012/13 and 2013/14 to enhance facilities for children and young people. This funding was identified to support the delivery of a number of projects including:
 - Youth Provision – Whitley Bay Dome.
 - Skills and Enterprise Centre – Dove Marine Laboratory.
 - North Bank of the Tyne Learning Village.

At an Extraordinary meeting of Cabinet held on 28 March 2012, an Implementation Plan was agreed in relation to the agreed 2012/15 Council Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget.

The decision by Council to defer the capital funding for 2012/13 means that the above projects will now no longer be able to be delivered as per the original Cabinet approval (minute CAB173/03/12 refers).

The Implementation Plan also indicated that a report on alternative funding for youth facilities would be submitted to Cabinet for consideration in May.

1.5.3 In addition to the information set out at 1.5.2 above, Cabinet have also previously agreed that any uncommitted capital balances from the 2011/12 programme would be used to launch a play and youth investment programme (Youth and Play Capital Investment Pot) to support youth and play across North Tyneside. The current level of funding available to support this initiative is £0.830m. The play and youth capital investment pot will:

- Strengthen partnership working and release additional potential within the voluntary and community sectors and across partner agencies to transform play and youth services.
- Develop a network of age appropriate facilities in town centres and neighbourhoods that are valued by children and young people aged 8 – 19 years.
- Provide new facilities in areas where there is currently a lack of youth provision or existing provision requires refurbishment to modernise.
- Provide opportunities for young people to develop their confidence, knowledge, skills and abilities and gain recognition and/or accreditation such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Civic Award or Youth Achievement Award.
- Improve Volunteering Opportunities for young people or for adults to work with young people.
- Demonstrate how capital asset(s) will improve the life of young people in North Tyneside.

Any funded activities will support the outcomes of the Children and Young People's Plan, benefit the local community and offer good value for money. The involvement of young people, especially disadvantaged young people, is central to this activity. Applicants will be expected to show how they have consulted young people; giving young people influence over local services is the most effective way of making sure they have access to positive activities which will lead to increased participation in positive activities.

In addition, the investment pot will act as leverage to attract additional funds from the charitable sector, businesses, partner agencies, and from national government through the Positive for Youth programme that will deliver a borough-wide network of youth and play facilities. Delivery agents will be invited to bring forward proposals to develop new facilities or revitalise existing provision.

Subject to Cabinet approving the recommendations for this report, it is proposed that any expressions of interest for funding via the Youth and Play Investment Pot will target those communities identified as 'hotspots' for anti-social and/or risk taking behaviour by young people and increase or improve the facilities which target young people who are "at risk" or come from "complex and challenging families".

1.5.4 Criteria

Once expressions of interest have been received, applications from interested organisations will be assessed against the grant award criteria. Applicants must clearly demonstrate the necessary infrastructure to run the project safely. This will include providing information to include the following:

- A track record or the capacity to develop a successful record of working with children and young people and how young people have been / will be involved in the design of the project and will be involved in its management.
- The organisation is able to demonstrate the need for the project in that community.
- Appropriately constituted and validated organisation(s).
- Appropriate policies and procedures in place including child protection, Health and Safety / Risk Assessment.

- The project demonstrates value for money for the investment involved.
- The organisation is able to demonstrate that the project will be potentially sustainable for at least 3 years.
- The expression of interest explains clearly how the project will be marketed to young people, fees or charges made, how the project will work (including opening times), number of young people to be involved, monitoring and evaluation methods.

1.5.5 Timescale

It is proposed that subject to approval of the recommendations of this report, initial applications will be invited by interested organisations for submission by end of June 2012 with decisions made by end of July 2012. Should expressions of interest or allocations not fully commit the available grant, a further bidding opportunity would be considered in September 2012.

1.6 Decision options:

- (1) To agree the proposals that take forward the revised youth and play investment programme for the borough.
- (2) Not to agree the proposals and for the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Learning to consult further and formulate alternative delivery arrangements.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

The Council is no longer able to support the investment opportunities at both Dove Marine Laboratory and Whitley Bay Dome during the 2012/13 financial year. Cabinet is asked to approve Option 1.

Youth and play continues to be an important and valuable part of the borough's offer to young people. By continuing with the Youth and Play Investment Pot and the establishment of diversionary activities, the aims of Priorities 3 and 5 as outlined within the Council's Strategic Plan 2012-15 are fulfilled; this will allow young people to contribute to their community and also help improve the life chances of vulnerable young people.

1.8 Appendices:

None

1.9 Contact officers:

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Iain Betham: Senior Manager – Education Capital Planning – tel: 643 8092

Anthony Gollings, Finance Business Manager supporting Children, Young People and Learning and Finance and Resources - tel: 643 8071

1.10 Background information:

- 14 November 2011 Cabinet Report: Response to the Recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny regarding Youth Facilities
- 12 March 2012 Cabinet Report: Development of Youth and Play Provision in North Tyneside
- North Tyneside Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2014
- HM Government National Youth Strategy: Positive for Youth

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The Council's Budget 2012/13 deferred Capital Plan expenditure of £1.000m on youth facilities for a period of 12 months.

The proposed youth and play investment programme across North Tyneside will be funded through the uncommitted capital balance from the 2011/12 Capital Plan reprogrammed into 2012/13 (Youth Facilities reference ED177). The total amount available for use within the 2012/13 financial year will be £0.830m.

2.2 Legal

The responsibility for the proposals referred to in the report are a matter for Cabinet.

Legal advice will be sought regarding the terms of the grant agreement and any state aid implications arising.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal consultation

The Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Learning along with young people via the Young Mayor and her Cabinet have been fully consulted in relation to the proposals.

2.3.2 External consultation/engagement

Consultation has been held with the Children in Care Council, schools councils and with users of the services through the Council's Engagement Team has shaped the youth and play programme. This on going dialogue will ensure that any activities commissioned through this fund are based upon what children and young people are requesting and wish to see in place in the borough.

2.4 Human rights

The youth and play programme supports the rights of children and young people to a secure and enjoyable childhood.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

The youth and play offer is available to all children and young people in the borough and particular regard is placed upon ensuring children with a disability engage safely with a full range of youth and play activities.

2.6 Risk management

The proposals will be appropriately risk managed to ensure the Council and partners are not exposed to unmanageable operational risks.

2.7 Crime and disorder

The proposals support the action plans of the Children and Young People's Plan and the Safer Communities Strategy to address issues of crime and disorder amongst young people.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Strategic Director(s)
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager for Policy and Partnerships

Report authors:

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