

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 14 May 2012

ITEM 6 (h)(ii)(i)

Title: Strategic Plan and
2012/13 Budget Proposals
- Wallsend Boys Club

Portfolio(s): Leisure, Culture, Tourism
and Safer Communities

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Glynis
Barrie

Report from Directorate: Community Services

Report Author: Paul Gowans, Head of Cultural and Customer Services (Tel: 0191 643 7401)

Wards affected: Wallsend, Battle Hill, Howdon, Northumberland

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The Implementation Plan agreed by Cabinet on 28 March 2012 proposed that a report be brought to Cabinet to consider the 2012/2015 Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget proposals in relation to Wallsend Boys Club. This report is provided in response to that request.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1) Note the support previously and currently being provided to Wallsend Boys Club;
- 2) Note the status of the Station Road site leased to Wallsend Boys Club; and
- 3) Grant delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Head of Cultural and Customer Services, the Cabinet Member for Leisure Tourism and Safer Communities, the Head of Legal, Governance and Commercial Services and the Elected Mayor to take any decisions on the future of the site and to deal with all ancillary matters relating thereto.

1.3 Forward Plan

This report does not feature on the Forward Plan as the decision to receive this report was agreed by Cabinet on 28 March 2012 and after the deadline for submission of items for the Forward Plan.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to Priority 2 number 8 in the Council Strategic Plan 2012-2015.

1.5 Information

On 29 February 2012 Wallsend Boys Club (the Club) demolished the building they had occupied on land leased from the Council at Station Road, Wallsend since August 1964. This demolition was a consequence of the collapse of a gable end wall in January 2012 due to high winds and a subsequent structural engineers report commissioned by the Club which condemned the building.

1.5.1 The Club has subsequently confirmed to the Council that the two main issues it faces are:

- (a) The need to manage its finance in the short term so that the service can continue to be delivered without putting the Club's long term future under threat; and
- (b) In the long term, the need to build a new facility to replace the one demolished at Station Road, their preferred site for this being at their sports pitch facility at Bigges Main, Wallsend.

In order to deal with the short term issue, the Club has downsized some of its operations and made a number of members of staff redundant. It has also asked the Council for support in maintaining as many of its activities as possible.

1.5.2 With regard to support offered by the Council and taken up by the Club since the closure of their Station Road premises, this has included:

- Providing indoor 5-a-side football space at The Parks Sports Centre at a preferential rate. The Club has booked two Saturday morning sessions;
- Providing office facilities at Avon Avenue with the Club using this as a base for some of their staff and additionally running one session per week; and
- Provision of support via the Council's Redundancy Support workshops and information on relevant vacancies available to the Club.

In addition the following has also been offered but not yet taken up:

- Use of outdoor 5-a-side football facilities at The Parks Sports Centre at a preferential rate;
- Free use of outdoor 5-a-side football facilities at The Parks Sports Centre for one day for a fund raising event;
- Desk space at Wallsend Town Hall; and
- The opportunity to occupy/use space at Howdon Community Centre.

As well as the support from the Council the operators of Centurion Park (formally Wallsend Sports Centre) have offered the Club use of facilities on a short term basis.

1.5.3 In addition to current practical support, the Council has provided ongoing financial support to the Club over recent years. In total, since 2006/07 the Club have received £679,000 of funding, including capital grants of £140,000 in 2007/08 and £161,000 in 2008/09 to support the development of its playing pitch and changing room development at Bigges Main. The full breakdown of payments is shown below. The Club also received a grant of £1million from the Football Foundation for this project.

Council Contributions to Wallsend Boy's Club since 2006/07

Main Funding	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	Total
Capital		140,000	161,000				301,000
Chief Executive's Office	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	10,000	80,000
Children, Young People & Learning		3,726	19,420	5,360			28,506
Community Services	27,633		200	800			28,633
Finance and Resources	407						407
Total	42,040	157,726	194,620	20,160	14,000	10,000	438,546
Positive Futures							
Children, Young People & Learning			3,796	55,754	23,795		83,345
Community Services		10,000	94,030	30,110	1,800	700	136,640
Youth Capital				19,000	1,116		20,116
Total	0	10,000	97,826	104,864	26,711	700	240,101
Combined Total	42,040	167,726	292,446	125,024	40,711	10,700	678,647

A successful joint application by the Council and Wallsend Boys Club to the Football Foundation secured Positive Futures funding of £240,101 since 2007/08. The Council and partners matched the Football Foundation funding through contributions from: Youth Services, Youth Offending Service, Sport and Leisure and the Crime and Disorder Partnership.

The Club delivered during this time a successful and focused diversionary activity programme for vulnerable young people.

The programme was extended for one year (2009/10) through Big Lottery funding, with the Council continuing its match funding.

In 2011/12 the Club also received a Widening Horizons grant of £10,000 to deliver diversionary activities for young people.

For 2012/13, the Club has been offered a portion of the LAA reward grant as part of a partnership, involving Sub 21, Wallsend Memorial Hall and the Club. The purpose of this grant being to reduce the percentage of young people engaging in anti social behaviour and increase participation in positive activity. In addition, the Club have been offered a Widening Horizons grant of £3,750 to increase diversionary activity for young people in the Wallsend area. The Club had originally asked for £15,000 and they are currently re-shaping their programme in line with the level of grant offered.

1.5.4 The Club currently has three leases from the Council.

The first two cover the site at Station Road, Wallsend which extends in total to 0.2579 hectares (0.64 acres) or thereabouts. The terms are for 99 years from 1st August 1964 at a low fixed rent for the whole period.

The third lease covers 8.17 hectares (20.2 acres) or thereabouts of land at Rheydt Avenue, Wallsend and is for a term of 80 years from 11th January 2012 at a peppercorn rent. The Club used this site for its football pitch and changing room development. It is now in part used as a base for home matches for the Club's 11-a-side football teams.

1.5.5 The Council Strategic Plan 2012/15 and Budget for 2012/13 proposed that the Council should ring-fence any capital receipts for the sale of the existing Wallsend Boys Club site (Station Road) and that this should be given as a capital grant to Wallsend Boys Club to help them towards a new facility.

The Implementation Plan agreed at Cabinet on 28 March on the Council Strategic Plan 2012/15 and the Budget 2012/13 outlines that Cabinet has responsibility for the disposal of land surplus to requirements and accepting any sale proposals.

1.5.6 Outside of the reference in the Strategic Council Plan 2012/15, the question of development of the site for an alternative use has not arisen. However, should the issue arise in the future a 'marriage' of the Council's freehold interest and the Club's leasehold interest would be necessary to facilitate disposal and redevelopment of the land. The development value arising, subject to receipt of planning permission, would be shared between the Council and the Club. The respective shares would be a matter to be negotiated.

Since the closure of the Station Road site, Council officers from the Youth Service, Community Engagement and Sport and Leisure teams have held ongoing dialogue with the Club.

Over and above this, engagement has been undertaken with the wider community and voluntary sector in the Wallsend area as part of a review and mapping exercise of youth provision in the area, to help inform future funding priorities. A summary of existing provision is enclosed at Appendix 1.

1.6 Decision Options

There are two options for Cabinet to consider:

Option 1

Accept the proposals set out in the agreed Council Strategic Plan 2012/2015 and Budget 2012/13 to ring-fence any capital receipts from the sale of the Station Road site and give this as a capital grant to Wallsend Boys Club.

Option 2

Note the support previously and currently being given and the status of the Station Road site and grant delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Head of Cultural and Customer Services, the Cabinet Member for Leisure Tourism and Safer Communities, the Head of Legal, Governance and

Commercial Services and the Elected Mayor, to take any decisions on the future of the site and to deal with all ancillary matters relating thereto.

1.7 Reasons for Recommended Option

Cabinet is recommended to accept Option 2 for the following reasons:

- To enable the work being undertaken on mapping the voluntary sector youth offer in the Wallsend Area to be completed; and
- To consider the options available for the development of the site and any subsequent disposal and the Council's interests in determining any proposal relating to the development of the site.

1.8 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of Engagement

Appendix 2 – Financial implications linked to the disposal of the Station Road site which are not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. This Appendix can be found at Item No. 8(a)(ii).

1.9 Contact Officers

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1.10 Background information:

Grant agreement between NTC and Wallsend Boys Club 2007.

Grant agreement between NTC and Wallsend Boys Club 2008.

Widening Horizons grant applications by Wallsend Boys Club.

List of grants given to Wallsend Boys Club since 2007.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and Other Resources

There are no financial implications for the Council resulting from the support given to the Club since its Station Road premise closed.

The financial implications linked to the disposal of the Station Road site are included in Appendix 2 which is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

2.2 Legal

Should any disposal of the site be undertaken the Council must ensure that it obtains best consideration under section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 or alternatively that any such disposal complies with the relevant General Consent Order for disposal. Legal advice will be sought in connection with any proposed disposal and with appraising any development opportunities for the site.

2.3 Consultation/Community Engagement

2.3.1 Ongoing dialogue has taken place with Council officers to ensure that the Council continue to actively support Wallsend Boys Club through the difficulties caused by the collapse of the wall at their Station Road site. The Elected Mayor and Cabinet have been regularly briefed on the support offered by the Council.

2.3.2 Members of the local community and the voluntary and community sector in Wallsend have been involved in offering venues and other support to Wallsend Boy's Club. This dialogue is ongoing.

2.4 Human Rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and Diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk Management

There are no relevant risk management implications arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and Disorder

There are no relevant crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and Sustainability

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

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

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

Appendix 1

Summary of Engagement and other activities for young people in the Wallsend area

Sub 21

A successful social marketing pilot project, Sub 21 is funded by extended services and charitable funds. It provides short activity programmes offered to young people from the South West locality via the two high schools in the area. The activities are provided by 'sub contractors' and are predominately small group work such as nail art, cooking and skateboarding. The sessions are held at venues across the locality, (Wallsend People's Centre, Willington Quay).

Wallsend Memorial Hall & People's Centre

Wallsend Memorial Hall and the Wallsend People's Centre have merged to form a new charity. The charities had previously worked predominantly with adults but are now diversifying.

The Memorial Hall is nearly fully refurbished and is due to open in June. At present many sessions for the community are held here covering leisure and education sessions. The new annex will be specifically for youth work offering activity and office space.

At present there are two youth sessions held on a Monday & Friday evening and staffed by Universal Youth and Connexions Service (UYCS) staff. These sessions aim to engage with young people from the area who would eventually become the youth steering group for the centre and have input into how the annex would be used. At this time there is a core group of 8 – 12 young people attending these sessions.

The overall aim of the youth provision in the building is to offer training & work clubs during the day and youth sessions in the evening. It will also specialise as a 'music & arts hub'. Sub 21 offers nail art from this venue one evening a week – an external provider is sub contracted to provide this session.

St Paul's Community Association

St Paul's is a community association that is linked to St. Paul's church. They have recently employed a Community Development Worker on a part time basis to manage and develop the work they do with the community. At the present time the association provides various clubs to and with community groups. They have fitness sessions, a women's group, singing group and lunch clubs. Both UYCS and Sub 21 provide youth sessions. UYCS provide two universal sessions per week. The sessions are staffed by NTC staff and supported by volunteers from the association. On some occasions Sub 21 provides a skate ramp and tutor – these run alongside the youth sessions.

Willington Quay Boy's Club

The Club provides football sessions during the week. Three evenings a week UYCS provide staff to run youth sessions including sexual health and C card. The session on a Friday is staffed jointly with NTC staff and a worker from Northumberland Clubs for Young People. The NTC worker has close links with the association, providing support with bid applications for youth provision and training for volunteers. A meeting is planned on 25th April with the management committee to identify the partnership roles and to plan for future youth provision. The sessions are always busy and the young people are fully engaged in universal, project and community events and sessions.

The Council will be opening a new Multi Use Community Centre in Battlehill. This will be a base for some Youth Work sessions.

Engagement of the voluntary sector working with Young people in the Wallsend Area:

Engagement takes place on a regular basis involving all of the voluntary organisations that provide youth services through the South West Area Children and Youth Provisions Group. This group brings together the major providers of play, youth work and other services to plan and co-ordinate activity.

In addition Council Officers from Cultural services, Youth Services and the Community Engagement Team have met with Wallsend Boys Club over the past three months.