

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 14 May 2012

ITEM No. 6 (h)(ii)(j)

Title: Council Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget Proposals - Battle Hill Kids Club

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

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Glynis Barrie

Report from Directorate: Community Services

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Wards affected: Battle Hill, Collingwood, Howdon, Riverside, Weetslade

PART 1

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information to enable Cabinet to consider the options available in relation to Battle Hill Kids Club and wider Kids Club provision across the borough as agreed by Cabinet on 28 March 2012.

1.2 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Cabinet consider the options available in relation to Kids Club provision outlined in this report.

1.3 Forward Plan

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

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the Budget 2012/13 and Council Strategic Plan for 2012/15.

1.5 Information

1.5.1 The Implementation Plan agreed by Cabinet on 28 March 2012 in relation to the Strategic Plan 2012/15 and the 2012/13 Budget proposed that a report be brought forward to Cabinet in relation to the Battle Hill Kids Club and Kids Club provision in general across the borough.

This report is submitted in response to that request.

1.5.2 In relation to current provision, there are five Kids Clubs operating on a weekly evening term time basis at the following locations: at Battle Hill Primary School, Howdon Kids Community Centre, Seaton Burn Community House, St Pauls Community Project Willington Quay and Whitehouse Primary School. A team of 3 playworkers at each site provide a range of onsite activities including arts and crafts, games and informal sports for children aged 8 to 13 over 32 weeks per year. The staff are managed by two Play Development Officers.

Twenty five pence per child per session charge is levied, which provides approximately £1,000 per annum income. In 2011/12 there were 4,000 visits to the 5 Kids Clubs across the borough with an average of around 25 children per session.

Cabinet's original business case proposals reflected the reduction of part time play supervisors and playworkers and subsequently delivering a fortnightly service at all Kids Clubs including Battle Hill.

The Council's agreed Budget 2012/13 proposed that the Battle Hill Kids Club be retained on a weekly basis and other Kids Clubs on a fortnightly basis.

There are therefore three options for Cabinet to consider.

Option 1

Implement the original Cabinet proposals to reduce the frequency of provision from weekly to fortnightly.

Continue with the proposed reduction for all five Kids Clubs to operate on a fortnightly basis, with a view to re-establishing weekly provision in the future if additional funding was identified.

Option 2

Accept the changes agreed in the Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget. Battle Hill Kids Club would continue on a weekly term time basis, resulting in a difference between Battle Hill Kids Club and the other four Kids Clubs, which would operate fortnightly. This would create an inequitable balance of provision across the borough.

Option 3

Accept the changes agreed in the Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget but ensure all Kids Clubs are treated equally.

This option would require a further review to be undertaken, considering available resources and changes to the duties of the Play Development Officers towards a more direct delivery approach. This along with an increased use of Playwork Apprentices and Volunteers could enable the Kids Clubs to continue on a weekly basis within existing budgets.

1.6 Decision Options

The options are set out in Section 1.5.2 above.

1.7 Reasons for Recommended Option

As part of the Implementation Plan for the 2012/15 Council Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget it was agreed that options for Kids Club provision across the borough would be

considered at the April meeting of Cabinet. Cabinet are therefore requested to consider the options set out in the report.

1.8 Appendices

None.

1.9 Contact Officers

Paul Gowans, Head of Cultural and Customer Services. Tel: (0191) 6437401.
Paul Youlden, Senior Manager for Sport and Leisure. Tel: (0191) 6437430.
Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager. Tel: (0191) 6437038

1.10 Background Information

- Briefing to Cabinet Member on Play Provision 20th January 2012.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and Other Resources

Cabinet's original Business case for the changes to Play and Urban Games reflected the reduction of part time play supervisors and playworkers delivering a fortnightly service and make budget savings of £0.030m per annum. The service would be provided fortnightly across all five sites (and not weekly as at present).

The financial implications will depend on which option is agreed by Cabinet.

Option 1

The original Cabinet proposal would generate a saving of £0.006m over and above the budget approved by Council on 1 March 2012.

Any decision to adopt this option would generate additional resources. Unless an alternative proposal is agreed, any such amount would be added to the Strategic Reserve and its future use would be determined in accordance with the Reserves and Balances Policy.

Option 2

There are no financial implications arising from this option as this is the provision included in the 2012/13 Council Strategic Plan and Budget.

Option 3

There are no direct financial implications of this decision. Any subsequent proposals to change provision may have financial implications and these would be reported to Cabinet as appropriate.

2.2 Legal

Determination of the proposals contained in this report are a matter for Cabinet. There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

Legal advice will be sought when appraising any options and the legal implications identified.

2.3 Consultation/Community Engagement

2.3.1 Relevant internal consultation was carried out by officers from Cultural and Customer Services in relation to the Mayor and Cabinet Members proposals.

2.3.2 External consultation took place during December 2011 and January 2012 with users and parent/carers and elected members.

2.4 Human Rights

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and Diversity

Should Cabinet agree Option 2 this will lead to inequality of Kids Club provision across the borough.

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 relevant environment and sustainability implications 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