



YOUTH CAPITAL FUND PLUS

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Youth Capital Fund Plus (YCFP) was set up by the Government in April 2008 to enable fifty Local Authorities (LAs) to develop plans for new or refurbished youth facilities in neighbourhoods meeting certain criteria.
- 1.2 The potential location of this facility in key wards has been considered, particularly taking into account levels of ASB and youth crime, and the availability of good quality youth facilities.
- 1.3 The conclusion is that the facility should be located in Mackworth, based on the existing Mackworth Community Centre, which is in an excellent location to support the development of youth activities.
- 1.4 It is proposed to establish a young people's reference group, to ensure that Mackworth Centre will be of similar standard to that achieved at Derwent Youth Centre, and to involve trainees from Derby College's Construction Training Unit at Mackworth in the refurbishment programme.
- 1.5 Expenditure must commence this financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

2. To approve the allocation of the £452,000 of Youth Capital Plus Grant to refurbish the existing Mackworth Community Centre into a modern youth and community facility.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 After a study of possible locations, Mackworth has been chosen following an independent partnership study of key neighbourhoods based upon the following criteria:
 - The lack of youth facilities and activities
 - A higher than average number of recorded anti social (ASB) incidents
 - A higher than average perception of the fear of anti-social behaviour.

- 3.2 Up until April 2000 Mackworth had an excellent free standing youth centre, located on the Derby College site. This was demolished due to major structural problems, and replaced by a smaller terrapin facility. The City Council have recently been informed that this terrapin facility will also be demolished in July 2009, as part of Derby College's capital building programme, which leaves Mackworth without a specific youth facility/centre.
- 3.3 This recommendation is supported by the DCSF Youth Task Force Unit which is keen to see quick progress on the use of the funds.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Youth Capital Fund Plus (YCFP) was set up by the Government in April 2008 to enable fifty Local Authorities (LAs) to develop plans for new or refurbished youth facilities in neighbourhoods with above average levels of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), and which currently lack sufficient good quality youth provision.
- 4.2 The YCFP is co-ordinated nationally through The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Youth Task Force (YTF). The funding programme is closely linked with the YTF's new Challenge and Support Project, which is co-ordinated locally through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 4.3 A joint management group comprising of representatives of the Children and Young People's Department (CYPD), and the CSP has been established to develop priorities and plans linked to both funding streams. Officers in other Departments' teams, including Estates and Sport and Leisure have also been consulted. The potential location of this facility in key wards has been considered, particularly taking into account levels of ASB and youth crime, and the availability of good quality youth facilities. The conclusion is that the facility should be located in Mackworth, based on the existing Mackworth Community Centre.
- 4.4 When compared to the rest of the City, reports of youth nuisance involving alcohol and criminal damage, stand at 46% and 14% higher than the city average respectively. The Community Safety Partnership's most recent ASB perception study highlighted that litter, 'teenagers hanging around' and parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children as the most commonly perceived ASB problems in Mackworth, with perception levels being more than 20% higher than the city average in each case.
- 4.5 Having studied the Mackworth area, it is proposed to extend and modernise the existing Mackworth Community Centre, located on Prince Charles Avenue adjacent to St Francis Church.
- 4.6 The YCFP regulations require any new or refurbished building to be owned by, and managed by the Local Authority and this will require the Youth Service to take over management responsibility of the building, which is presently held by the Mackworth Community Association. The Management Committee fully support the proposal provided the present use by older members is guaranteed.

- 4.7 This use amounts to one afternoon a week, and will be guaranteed. Indeed, the YCFP criteria actively encourage the Local Authority to promote a wide range of inter-generational work within newly refurbished centres and this is supported by Derby's Older People's Forum. It is envisaged that the present older people programme will be extended over the next two years.
- 4.8 It is hoped that all existing usage can be maintained at the centre, although there may be a requirement to alter the weekly timing of evening sessions to meet the needs of young people.
- 4.9 The Community Centre is in an excellent location to support the development of youth activities. It is sited on the edge of a park area, which has recently been improved through the building of a sports wall and two youth shelters. A football pitch is also located on the park, which has promoted the development of a large number of junior football teams. The refurbishment of the youth facility will enhance these developments, and provide a wider range of youth activity for an increased number of young people.
- 4.10 The building is also located away from residential properties, thus reducing the risk of nuisance youth behaviour.
- 4.11 A recent youth consultation undertaken by the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) concluded that young people in Mackworth wanted more things to do, and a place they could call their own.
- 4.12 The Youth Service has just completed a similar refurbishment at Derwent Youth Centre, where young people were at the centre of the development. It is proposed to establish a young people's reference group, to ensure that Mackworth Centre will be of similar standard to that achieved at Derwent Youth Centre.
- 4.13 In addition, we also propose to involve trainees from Derby College's Construction Training Unit at Mackworth in the refurbishment programme. The Youth Task Force are very keen that we establish this partnership with Derby College, to ensure young people's active involvement and additional ownership of the new facility.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Other key wards in the city were considered before Mackworth was recommended. Many other wards, including Arboretum, Normanton, Sinfyn, Abbey and Derwent have relatively high levels of ASB and youth crime. However, all of these wards have relatively good youth facilities and youth provision compared to Mackworth.
- 5.2 In the 1990s Mackworth had one of the best and busiest youth centres in the city. The loss of that facility and the impending forced closure of the smaller replacement facility this year underline the need for a modern youth and community facility in Mackworth.

IMPLICATIONS**Financial**

- 1.1 The Council have been allocated £452,000 of capital funding, and it is intended to approach other partners to see if further capital funding can be secured.
- 1.2 Expenditure must commence this financial year and we intend to commission production of plans and all associated capital costings through the Council's Property Services team. All capital expenditure linked to the programme must be completed by 31st March 2010.
- 1.3 Following the award of the YCFP capital grant, the Council were allocated an additional Youth Opportunity Funding for 2009/10 and 2010/11 of revenue funding to support the establishment and sustainability of this new facility.
- 1.4 It is intended to utilise this funding to establish a full-time youth worker post, a cleaner in charge post and a range of part-time youth worker posts, to develop a comprehensive programme of youth activities including Friday and Saturday nights. The funding bid will be submitted to the Youth Opportunity Fund Panel in May 2009. Existing rental and part-time staffing costs at present allocated to the Derby College facility will be transferred into the new facility, to support a sustainable business plan

Legal

- 2.1 The Mackworth Community Association's lease on the building expired in 2008. The lease has not been renewed, and it is intended that the Youth Service will take over full responsibility for the management and upkeep of the building. Arrangements will need to be made to transfer the responsibility for building management and maintenance over to the Youth Service.
- 2.2 Consideration will need to be given to establishing an appropriate partnership agreement, to enable trainees from the Derby College Construction Training Unit to participate appropriately in the refurbishment programme.

Personnel

- 3.1 New Youth Worker posts attached to the facility will be established on JNC pay and conditions of service, with a particular emphasis on Friday and Saturday evening work.
- 3.2 All part-time youth worker posts transferred from the Derby College site will remain with their existing terms and conditions of service.
- 3.3 It is also intended to establish a 0.5 (18½ hours per week) cleaner in charge post for the facility.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 This facility will be refurbished within the requirements of DDA regulations. The building will remain a single storey facility, and it is intended to establish both specialist and integrated provision for young people with special educational needs.
- 4.2 The facility will enable more young people to access youth provision in Mackworth than has previously been the case.
- 4.3 Young people at risk of being involved in crime or NEET (not involved in education, employment or training), will be key target groups, along with teenage parents.
- 4.4 The facility will promote positive inter-generational links between older and young people, and enable older people to utilise a modern facility.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. These proposals support the Corporate Plan priorities of **Making us Proud of our Neighbourhoods** and **Supporting Everyone in Learning and Achieving**.

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Background papers:	Mapping Targeted Youth Provision in Derby City - CSP Document October 2008
List of appendices:	Directory of Youth Support Activities in Derby City - CSP Document October 2002 Appendix 1 - Implications