

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18th September 2008

Subject: Youth Facilities

Report of: Director of Children and Young People's Services

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Purpose / summary: To advise members of the progress made in the development of youth facilities in the borough.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: Options appraisal for Youth Capital Fund Plus is included in the report.

Recommendation / decision: That the geographical location identified in the report is confirmed and the final decision regarding the building chosen is delegated to the Director of Children and Young People's Services and Lead Member.

Key Decision: This report involves a key decision within ground(s) 1.

The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 30th September 2008

This item is not included in the Forward Plan.

Risks / Implications:

Financial: Grant of £452,000 has been allocated by the Youth Task Force to cover refurbishment costs. Revenue costs of £22,485 have been allocated as part of the Youth Opportunities Fund for the next two year.

Staffing: None

Policy: None

Equal Opportunities - Has a Yes

Diversity Impact Assessment

been conducted?
Wards affected:

Youth Capital Fund Plus will only affect Douglas ward.

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No, facility will be existing council property.

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A full diversity impact assessment has been undertaken and is attached as an appendix to this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution?	Yes / No *
Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget?	Yes / No *
Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	No

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:	x
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	x
Discussion	
Decision	x
Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
	Executive Briefing 4 th September 2008		3 rd September 2008
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
		18 th September 2008	

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer _____

Date _____

1.0 Background:

1.1 The purpose of this briefing is to outline the broad approach being developed in relation to the development of young people's facilities within the borough. We are seeking support to progress with our developments so far to enable us to take advantage of the funding available given challenging timescales.

1.2 Our overall aim is to develop a network of youth facilities across the borough on a 'hub and spoke' model. The development of a small number of 'hubs' across the borough delivering a wide range of positive activities, with smaller 'spoke' provision in the other areas providing a smaller range of activities for young people. Activities which take place may be the same or different dependant on the design of the facility and the resources available. The Youth Capital Fund project described below would be one such 'spoke'.

1.3 In line with the Ten Year Strategy for Young people this is likely to be a ten year plan of development as additional funding streams become available such as unclaimed assets funding.

2.0 National Context

2.1 'All young people should be able to benefit from high quality opportunities in their leisure time. While more are participating than ever before, it is still the most disadvantaged and marginalised young people who are missing out on enjoyable activities that offer the chance to mix with others and gain a sense of achievement. The challenge is to make services available that are both attractive to all young people and effective in reaching out to engage those who may not otherwise access them.

Many continue to face barriers such as cost, transport and safety – held back by where they live, how much money they have, or how good their local services are. Others lack the aspiration, confidence and motivation to try something different. The low level of investment and priority given to young people's facilities in their neighbourhoods, particularly in the poorest areas, is another major barrier to greater participation in positive activities.'

Aiming High for Young People: a ten year strategy for positive activities
July 2008.

3.0 Local Context

3.1 'Wigan values its children and young people and will positively promote investment in them. It will effectively involve them in decision making at both a local and borough wide level and deliver, in partnership with them, quality places, spaces and activities they actually need and that will enhance their development, enjoyment, safety, well being and successful transition into adult life. The approach will be inclusive and barrier free. Children and young people in Wigan should see this offer as a right, but accept that their responsibilities to engage in positive behaviour is an important factor and will contribute to its success.'

Things to Do, Places to Go Strategy
May 2008

3.2 Improve the range and accessibility of positive activities for all children and young people
Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2009

4.0 Project Requirements

4.1 The Youth Task Force has allocated to Wigan, Youth Capital Fund Plus (YCF+) funding of £452,000 for 2008/09 to deliver a high quality youth facility in a deprived neighbourhood where crime and anti-social behaviour are a problem.

4.2 The guidance on YCF+ sets out a number of steps that Local authorities need to go through in the development of projects.

- A local authority must evidence to the Youth Task Force that they have a thorough and up-to-date audit of what provision and facilities are available in their area.
- The audit of provision should be compared with an analysis of neighbourhoods with high levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and deprivation in order to identify which neighbourhood would benefit most from additional resources in youth facilities.
- The Local Authority must show how young people, parents and the community are actively involved in shaping and delivering the investment in the youth facilities in the identified neighbourhood.

4.3 Young people should retain the final decision over investment.

4.4 The Youth Task Force who are monitoring this programme on behalf of the DCSF are looking to have work well underway, if not completed by the end of the financial year. The Things to Do, Places to Go Strategy Group with representatives from Children and Young People's Services, Chief Executives, Community Safety, Wigan Leisure Culture Trust, Economic Regeneration, Fire Service and Wigan, Leigh Council for Voluntary Service and the lead member for Children and Young People's Services are working closely to progress this work.

5.0 Alternative options considered and the reason for the recommended option:

5.1 A small group representing the views of the Youth Service, Community Safety team, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust and Wigan Voluntary Youth Service considered the information available.

5.2 Undertook a Data Analysis/scoping exercise as determined by YCF + (all data provided through Community Safety Partnership). This was considered on a ward basis, and also at a micro level to factor in Hot Spot Areas.

- Considered the top 10% in the country most deprived wards.
- In Wigan 30 Super Output Areas fall within this category.
- Of those 30, 9 SOA's fall within the top 3%.
- Consideration was also given to the following data sets.
 - Youths causing annoyance.
 - Numbers of contact cards.
 - Numbers of YOT clients.
 - Numbers of NEETS (young people not in employment, education or training).
 - School absences.

5.3 This analysis resulted in a rank list of wards, with the top four being

Ince
Douglas
Wigan West
Leigh East

5.4 In order to comply fully with YCF Plus guidance and timescales other factors needed to be considered at this second stage.

5.5 Given the tight timescale for this project, and the challenges this presented re planning and procurement issues, it was felt that it necessitated a view that a Local Authority Building was the preferred option over other Community Facilities. This would clearly limit the choice of those buildings that were identified through the audit.

- Whilst Ince was the highest scoring ward it was acknowledged that a facility close to the Ince Ward was already under consideration for a Youth facility - Joint Services Centre (Town Hall Development). Funding for this project had already been identified. This development was part of the proposed Hub and Spoke 10 year development plan for Youth Provision.
- The Funds available are for one project only, and that would be a refurbishment programme as opposed to new build.

5.6 After applying these factors the Ward that was clearly ranked as first position was Douglas Ward (defined as Worsley Hall and Norley Hall).

5.7 However it was agreed that the next two ranked Wards needed to be considered to give us a fall back position.

- Wigan West presented us with the same issues as Ince due to its close proximity to the Joint Services Centre Development.
- Therefore it was agreed that Leigh East would be the second choice, and that Higher Folds in terms of deprivation and crime factors was the appropriate area for consideration.

5.8 Site visits were undertaken to these three sites to view potential buildings, and an options appraisal undertaken and shown in Appendix 1.

5.9 The preferred facility was identified to be The Meadows, Ridyard Street. Further work will need to be done to confirm the suitability of this building for refurbishment.

5.9 Consultation with young people and the local community needs to be undertaken to insure that.

- a) The development of such a facility is what is wanted.
- b) A vision of how such provision could and should look.

5.10 The types of activities which might take place in this or any other youth facilities are listed in Appendix 2.

5.11 If the consultation process is successful then the project would move to the design, planning and procurement stage. With building work commencing as early as possible in 2009.

6.0 Funding

In the future other funding streams will be explored, in order to make best use of other capital projects taking place over the coming years.

Youth Capital Fund Plus	£452,000	Funding for 2008/09 only to be used in area of high deprivation and anti-social behaviour.
Youth Capital Fund	£164,100	Funding for 3 years, currently in year 1. Young people determine how this money is to be used to support capital projects to improve youth facilities.
My Place (Big Lottery Fund)	Bids of between £1 - £5 million	First round of bids by end of September 2008, and second round early 2009. It is possible to submit more than one bid.
Unclaimed assets	tbc	No detail available as yet. Likely to be distributed via the Big Lottery Fund, as described in the Children's Plan 2007.
Positive Futures reserves	£750,000	Agreed that this could be used by the Local Authority to improve the opportunities available to young people in the borough, has been identified for young people's facility to be developed at the Town Hall.

7.0 Future developments

7.1 My Place funding aims to deliver world class youth facilities driven by the active participation of young people and their views and needs. Applications need the endorsement of top tier local authority to demonstrate any planned project responds to local needs and priorities and fits with local strategies for youth provision as identified and set out in the Children and Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement. Bids can be made for between £1 and 5 million. The first bidding round deadline is the end of September, with a further bidding round in January 2009. Wigan aims to bid for the second round to ensure all cross partner support across the local authority, private and voluntary sector is in place.

7.2 The development of the Joint Service Centre and Wigan Town Hall provides us with the opportunity to develop a town centre youth facility, with the relocation of the Connexions Service public office and the teams currently based in London House into the space in the Town Hall currently occupied by the library service. This is likely to be during 2011 and could be another 'hub'. The location provides us with a great opportunity to develop a 'one stop shop' for young people by working in partnership with other young people's services and voluntary and community partners. We are also keen to develop the space to deliver youth activities, and will consult with young people to establish what activities should be on offer. The Positive Futures Ltd reserves have been identified to enable to development of this facility into a place where young people will want to visit and spend time as well as accessing any support and advice they may need.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 That the geographical location identified in the report is confirmed, and the final decision regarding the building chosen is delegated to the Director of Children and Young People's Service and Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services.

Diversity Impact Assessment form

Section: Children and Young People's Services

Policy/Service Area: Youth Service

Person Completing Form: Sue Astbury

Date: 12th
September,
2008

Do any of the below groups suffer specific disadvantage (please indicate)

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Race	X		Disability	X	
Ethnicity	X		Gender	X	
Age	X		Religion	X	
Class	X		Sexual Orientation	X	

Is there evidence of disadvantage or associated problems?

The requirements for Youth Capital Plus funding requires an analysis of data relating to deprivation and rates of anti social behaviour. The Young people living in the areas identified as a result of the analysis of the data will experience some disadvantage as a result of the above or other identified need.

How was the information collected and/or who have you consulted with?

The data was collected predominately from the Community Safety Partnership. The Things to Do, Places to Go Strategy Group have led on this development. Partners involved include Youth Service, Chief Executive's Department, Community Safety Team, Economic Regeneration Team, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, Wigan and Leigh Housing, Fire Service, Wigan and Leigh Council for Voluntary Services and Lead Member of Children and Young People.

Action Plan – *What specific actions are planned to tackle any disadvantage identified?*

The development of a youth facility to be funded through the Youth Capital Fund +, aims to provide positive activities to young people living in the locality to support their personal development and reduce anti social behaviour.

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Is the policy in line with current equality legislation and relevant codes of practice?

Yes.

Timescale	March 2009
Responsibility	Youth Service
Comments	

Are the actions specified included in any other documents/plans?

Departmental Service Plan	Yes
Section/Team Plan	Yes
Other (Specify)	Things to Do, Places to Go Strategy.

Date for further review

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Youth Capital Fund Plus Appendix 1

Options Appraisal

Building	LA Owned	Exclusive Use	Building Space	Outside Space	Comments
The Meadows, Ridyard Street	✓	✓	Two sections, on two storeys. External floor areas 281.05 sq m 271.17 sq m	Good sized garden and hard standing area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large, permanent building offering potential for re-development/flexible use of internal space. • Space for external development. • Proximity to some residential properties could be an issue.
Shop Premises - Coronation Avenue	✓	✓	Specifications not available.	None.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small site with limited re-development potential. • Permanent building. • No real options for outside facilities.
Norley Hall Adventure Playground	✓	Shared with ULCT Play.	Specifications not available.	Good sized area with play equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary building only on site as present (portacabin). • Good adventure play facilities already developed. • Two possible issues are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the land adjacent has been sold for residential development. - access road to development planned.

Youth Capital Fund Plus Appendix 2

Potential activities to be delivered in and around the facility

"Rather than the provision of leisure activities in isolation innovative approaches will be used that relate to the social education process".

"There will be evidence of continuous involvement by young people".

"Young people and youth workers will negotiate the content and structure of projects and activities and will work in partnership to plan organise and evaluate".

Youth Service Curriculum Document 2007

Activities (Methods & Media)

- Group work and structure discussions.
- Issue-based workshops and projects i.e. Sexual Health, Bullying.
- One-to-one conversations and informal group discussion.
- Support and information giving.
- Sports-delivered within the facility and also in surrounding outdoor space.
- Creative and performing arts.
- Media and IT.
- Accredited services i.e. Duke of Edinburgh Award, ASDAN, AQA.
- Training activities.
- Peer education and peer led work.
- Volunteering opportunities.
- Trips out and visits.

Facilities could include

- Coffee bar/food area.
- TV / DVD - Recreational area
- Quiet/chill out areas, which could be used for homework/study.
- Multi-functional rooms/spaces to accommodate the activities listed.
- Interview rooms.
- IT/media Suite.
- Creche area.

Methods of delivery

- Building based youth work - leisure and educational.
- Outreach work into the Community to encourage and support young people to engage.
- Joint projects/delivery with Partner Agencies i.e. Connexions, CAIG Outreach delivery). Health Authority, PAYP, Extended School, Voluntary Sector, Wigan Leisure Culture Trust - Arts Development & Sports Development.
- Both Open and Targeted sessions to young people, including work with NEET young people, Young Parents. LDD young people and also activities that encourage Community Cohesion such as later generational programmes.

It is envisaged that with sufficient involvement of Partners and Community, delivery should be 7 days a week, with flexible programming throughout the day and evening. In particular Friday and Saturday evenings. It is also essential that the facility has a young person's management committee to ensure that the needs of young people are fully met.