

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

25 OCTOBER 2007

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET/COUNCIL DECISION

Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member- Councillor Cunningham

YOUTH CAFÉ DEVELOPMENT IN BILLINGHAM, THORNABY AND INGLEBY BARWICK

1. Summary

Initial youth café developments were supported by the Youth Capital Funding from central government in 2006/07. Cabinet in June, 2006 approved the development of a youth café in the Connexions one stop shop on Bishopton Lane. This was opened in June, 2007. Cabinet supported the development of further youth café provision to be made elsewhere in the Borough

The Youth Capital Funding for 2007/08 is £157,000. The Children's Trust Board, in March, 2007 recommended consideration of developments in Billingham, Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick and that consultation should take place with Area Partnerships and young people.

In June, July and August this year a comprehensive consultation process has been undertaken. This has been achieved through partnership working with the Area Partnership Boards and both statutory and voluntary organisations involved with young people. This draft report has also been shared with elected members from the areas identified and comments received appended to this report.

Consultation with young people has provided a vision for these developments and both Area Partnership Boards are supportive of the consultation outcomes and recommendations. These show that young people residing in all three areas would ideally like a youth café centrally situated in their town centre. Due to the timescales for town centre developments in Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick (the development of Romano Park) this is not achievable, given that the Fund has to be spent in this financial year. Further options have been considered; for Ingleby Barwick it is proposed to develop provision at Beckfields Community Centre, which would also compliment Children's Centre developments at the same site; in Thornaby, it is proposed to develop one of four possible options in South Thornaby and consultations are continuing. Within Billingham, it has been possible to identify a shop front in the town centre that could meet requirements.

The next stage in the development process will be to commission the construction work to develop the three café sites, with the active participation of local young people paramount to the project's success. Negotiations will also take place with local authority providers and the voluntary and community sectors over the development of operational services to support the youth cafes. The development of youth cafes will also be integrated into the wider development of integrated youth support services and embedded in cultural provision, for example, within the new café provision in the Green Dragon Music Studio.

2. Recommendations

1. Cabinet to agree the proposals for the development of the three youth cafes in Billingham, South Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick.
2. To agree the commissioning of the youth cafes through the commissioning principles and frameworks process, agreed by the Children's Trust Board.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

- The Children and Young People's Plan identifies the development of new youth provision as a priority and these development will contribute to that target area.
- The three areas identified Billingham, South Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick have limited youth provision compared to other areas, demonstrating the need for the location of these developments.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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SUMMARY

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet to agree the proposals for the development of the three youth cafes in Billingham, South Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick.
2. To agree the commissioning of the youth cafes through the principles and frameworks process, agreed by the Children's Trust Board.

DETAIL

1. For the financial year of 2007/08 £157,000 Youth Capital Fund has been identified to invest in youth café facilities in the Billingham, Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick areas. The need for such a development has arisen following the success of the Central Stockton Youth Café, based on Bishopton Road, now entitled 'The Chill Zone', and the lack of provision for young people in the three geographies identified. Cabinet, in June, 2006 agreed to the initial provision at Bishopton Lane, and agreed further developments to take place elsewhere in the Borough. The Children's Trust Board in March, 2007 recommended that further youth café developments should be considered in Billingham, Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick.
2. To make this development happen there has been ongoing consultation and partnership working with the two Area Partnership Boards involved to ascertain their views on the development and to gain their support in their implementation.
3. Throughout the months of June and July active participation events took place with young people residing in the identified areas to gain their views on the youth café development and location. In total over 200 young people were involved in this process and gave some very valuable insight and contributions to the proposal.
4. The results of the consultation identified a need for the youth café to be centrally located, ideally within their local town centre. For Billingham it is proposed to meet this recommendation through the development of a shop front in the town centre area. For Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick this is unachievable due to current town centre developments in Thornaby and the development of Romano Park in Ingleby Barwick. This is coupled with a need to spend the Youth Capital funding within this financial year.
5. Taking this into consideration the young people did identify other locations and based on their recommendations it is proposed to develop a youth café facility in the South Thornaby area and develop the same in the Beckfields Community Centre on Ingleby Barwick. There are potentially four sites in South Thornaby to consider. These include South Thornaby Community Centre, High Flyers Children's Centre, Stirling House and A4E (based on the Thornaby Community School site).
6. The active participation events also showed that young people did want the youth café to have activities available and for it not just be a traditional café site. Examples of activities included sports, drama, themed nights, computers and play station games. They also requested the need to have the café open from 5pm to 10pm (weekdays) and 12 noon to 10pm (weekends). When questioned why they would like the facility open for this length of time, they stated that these were times that they spent on the streets and a youth café would provide a safe place to meet friends. Other interesting findings from the consultation exercise showed that the majority of young people would walk to the café and the reasons why most did not access current youth provision was the fear of bullies and gangs and that they were unaware of their existence.

7. It is proposed to follow the Children's Trust Commissioning Principles and Framework to ensure delivery of all the youth cafes. Integral to this development will be the strategic vision for Integrated Services and Integrated Youth Support Services and the role youth cafes will play in the delivery of these services. As part of this process there will be discussion with providers, both internal to the local authority and the voluntary and community sectors to secure the operation of the youth cafes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There is an allocated capital sum of money for the youth café development £157,000. It is anticipated that the operation of the youth cafes will be met from existing local authority providers and/or through involvement of the voluntary and community sectors.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There is no statutory requirement to develop youth café facilities, however under The Children Act (2004) Local Authorities have a statutory requirement to be provide youth provision.

RISK ASSESSMENT

10. The youth café is deemed to be a low risk development. Existing management systems, and routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

11. The Community Strategy aims to 'Promote Achievement and Tackle Disadvantage'. The priority theme for children and young people being to "promote the health, well-being and achievement of children and young people, and tackle inequalities and disadvantage experienced by some children and their families"

The provision of activity for young people and a safe place to go is crucial to the vision set out in the Community Strategy for children and young people. These developments can only enhance current provision and develop new services in areas where previously there were none. As a consequence the aspirations and opportunities for young people can only improve and impact on anti social behaviour.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

12. The council is committed to carrying out Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) of all it's policies and functions. As the youth cafes are new developments within Stockton Borough Council an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and submitted to the Diversity team. No negative potential impacts were identified in the assessment.

CORPORATE PARENTING.

13. Council has agreed that all reports to Cabinet and Council, appertaining to Children and Young People issues, and any other reports should contain corporate parenting implications to ensure consideration is given to looked after children's needs.

Youth Café developments will be available to all young people residing in the areas, where they are being developed, and will be inclusive of young people in the looked after system.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

14. Over the last two years a number of consultations have been undertaken with young people that were relevant to the development of youth provision.

Relevant consultations included:

- Adult Viewpoint Questionnaire; Parks Survey, September 2005
- The EzeeLive Questionnaire; October 2005
- Youth Viewpoint Questionnaire; Parks And Community Survey, October 2005
- Findings from the 'Youth Matters' Seminar; October 2005
- 'Somewhere to Go? Something to do?' DfES Questionnaire on Youth Matters; October 2005
- Consultation on youth cafes; March 2006
- Learning Together Event; July 2006
- Student Councils Events; November 2006
- Youth Viewpoint Questionnaire; Play Areas Survey, November 2006
- Corner House Youth Project-Interim Report and findings January 2007
- Adult Viewpoint Questionnaire; Twentieth Viewpoint Survey Results (Play Areas), February 2007.
- Student Councils Event; March 2007
- Stockton Youth Assembly; May 2007
- Youth Café consultation in Billingham, Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick (June and July 2007)
- Voluntary & Community Sector
- Stockton Parent Support (Children with Disabilities)

The following Ward Councillors have been circulated a draft version of the report prior to cabinet to comment on:

Ann McCoy	Billingham Central
Barry Woodhouse	Billingham Central
Alex Cunningham	Billingham East
Mick Stoker	Billingham East
Lynne Apedaile	Billingham North
Hilary Aggio	Billingham North
Colin Leckonby	Billingham North
Jean O'Donnell	Billingham South
Mike Smith	Billingham South
Mary Womphrey	Billingham West
Mick Womphrey	Billingham West
Kevin Faulks	Ingleby Barwick East
David Harrington	Ingleby Barwick East
Andrew Larkin	Ingleby Barwick East
Kenneth Dixon	Ingleby Barwick West
Lee Narroway	Ingleby Barwick West
Ross Patterson	Ingleby Barwick West
Tina Large	Mandale and Victoria
Alison Trainer	Mandale and Victoria
Steve Walmsley	Mandale and Victoria
Eileen Craggs	Stainsby Hill
Sylvia Walmsley	Stainsby Hill
Ian Dalgarno	Village
Mick Eddy	Village

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