

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

5 AUGUST 2010

**REPORT OF CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION/KEY DECISION

Children and Young People– Lead Cabinet Member - Councillor Mrs McCoy

INTERIM REPORT FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE – YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW - MYPLACE

1. Summary

This report presents interim comments from the Children and Young People Select Committee on *myplace* in advance of the Committee reporting to Cabinet in December on the outcome of the Youth Services Review.

2. Recommendations

That in the light of uncertainties around the future of the North Shore Health Academy and the pressure on youth service provision, the Council writes to the Department for Education and the Big Lottery asking whether the capital funding for *myplace* can be used more flexibly to develop services and facilities for young people across the Borough.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To take account of uncertainties around the future development of the site for the new North Shore Health Academy and other concerns highlighted by the Children and Young People Select Committee.

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.

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

5 AUGUST 2010

**REPORT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION/KEY DECISION

**INTERIM REPORT FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE – YOUTH
SERVICES REVIEW - MYPLACE**

SUMMARY

This report presents interim comments from the Children and Young People Select Committee on *myplace* in advance of the Committee reporting to Cabinet in December on the outcome of the Youth Services Review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That in the light of uncertainties around the future of the North Shore Health Academy and the pressure on youth service provision, the Council writes to the Department for Education and the Big Lottery asking whether the capital funding for *myplace* can be used more flexibly to develop services and facilities for young people across the Borough.

DETAIL

1. In March 2009, the Council were successful in a bid to the DCSF for *myplace* funding to build an iconic £5 million youth facility on a site off Norton Road. The building was to provide the central hub for the delivery of a wide range of facilities for young people aged 11 – 19 years to access services and activities to enhance their personal, educational and social development seven days a week. The funding to be received was for the capital costs for the project only. Previous Cabinet decisions have confirmed that the revenue costs of approximately £277,000 would need to be identified from within existing Youth Service budgets. The co-location of the new North Shore Health Academy was linked to further opportunities for young people and the sustainability of *myplace*.
2. Alongside the *myplace* project, the Children and Young People Select Committee commenced a review of Youth Services in December 2009. The review is focusing on the universal youth services which are delivered primarily through the Council's 24 Youth Clubs. In reviewing youth services, the Committee has needed to have regard to the development of *myplace* alongside other youth provision. The Select Committee are scheduled to report on the outcome of their review and present recommendations to Cabinet in December 2010.
3. Whilst the Committee has not completed its review, a number of concerns have emerged to date regarding the *myplace* project:
 - As part of review Councillors have undertaken site visits to all of the Council's Youth Clubs. During the visits young people currently attending local clubs have commented that they would want to see the continuation of local provision and Members of the Committee are concerned that the annual revenue contribution of £277,000 for the *myplace* development may be to the detriment of local provision.

- Initial feedback from the voluntary and community sector has also revealed that there are concerns that the project would result in cuts in the youth service elsewhere, it is not what young people want, the location is a concern, travel is an issue and some young people are very territorial and may not travel to the venue.
 - At the meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee on 14 July 2010, the Committee were also advised that the plans to develop the site for the new North Shore Health Academy under BSF were to be reviewed. The Committee feel that this recent development means that the *myplace* project on the proposed site is no longer a viable option owing to the timing of the contract for letting *myplace*, uncertainty around the academy scheme, shared infrastructure issues between the academy and *myplace* and loss of linkages for young people between the academy and *myplace*.
4. Given the other concerns already vocalized and financial pressures, the Committee recommend that in the light of uncertainties around the future of the North Shore Health Academy and the pressure on youth service provision, the Council writes to the Department for Education and the Big Lottery asking whether the capital funding for *myplace* can be used more flexibly to develop services and facilities for young people across the Borough.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The estimated annual revenue running costs of *myplace* are £277,000 and it has been always assumed that these would have to be funded from savings elsewhere within the youth service budgets. This should also be viewed in the context that there have been indications of a 25% real terms reduction in funding across the Government departments, although it is unclear how this will translate in Local Government. There are also a number of grants that support activities for young people which are uncertain beyond the current financial year. The Council continues to review its services in order to deal with the financial pressures.
6. So far the Council have spent approximately £495,000 to date largely on the professional fees required to get the scheme designed to the standard required by DfE/Big Lottery. Development and Neighbourhood Services are also expecting to charge a further £150,000 during the rest of the financial year on taking the scheme to its conclusion and will have factored this sum into their fee income projections for the year so this will need to be managed.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. Under the terms of the grant offer the Council is obliged to inform the Big Lottery about any changes in the information provided. The Council should therefore inform the Big Lottery of the cancellation of the BSF programme and its impact on the *myplace* project. However, if the project is not delivered, Big Lottery can withhold payment of the grant monies and require repayment of any grant monies already paid. The Council has also entered in to a Partnership Agreement with its partners to deliver the project, however, this can be terminated without penalty.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. The main risk associated with this report is reputational. There is a risk that discontinuation of the *myplace* project could have an adverse impact on the Council's relationship with partners and young people. However, the risk can be managed through good communications. There is also a risk that the Council would lose the £495,000 already invested in the project but on-going annual revenue costs of £277,000 could be avoided.
9. Development and Neighbourhood Services are also expecting to charge a further £150,000 during the rest of the financial year on taking the scheme to its conclusion and will have factored this sum into their fee income projections for the year so this will need to be managed.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

The development of youth services contributes to a number of key improvement priorities including:

Safer Communities – Reducing anti social behaviour

Children and Young People – Be Healthy, Enjoy and Achieve, Achieve Economic Wellbeing and Make a Positive Contribution

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This report has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment and has been judged to have a positive impact in so far as it relates to the securing of financial resources for the development of youth services across the Borough.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD COUNCILLORS

Consultation with young people and voluntary and community sector via the Youth Services Review.

Name of Contact Officer: Judith Trainer
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Education related?

Yes

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Stockton Town Centre – Councillors Coleman and Kirton

Property

See financial implications above.