

## **CHESTERTON VISION**

**Submitted by:** Executive Director, Operational Services – Dave Adams

**Portfolio:** Culture and Active Communities

**Ward(s) affected:** All (particularly Chesterton)

### **Purpose of the Report**

To inform Members about a partnership opportunity with Staffordshire County Council at Chesterton Vision.

### **Recommendation**

**It is recommended that Cabinet authorise officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Member for Culture and Active Communities, to enter into a Service Level Agreement with Staffordshire Young People's Service for the Council's Leisure and Cultural Services to provide the operational management at Chesterton Vision, for an initial 12 months.**

### **Reasons**

We have the opportunity to raise our profile through association with the £4.4M new centre, which is in one of the most deprived wards in the Borough.

## **1. Background**

1.1 The Chesterton Vision Young People's Centre is a new £4.4M centre, nearing completion, on London Road, Chesterton. The hand over date to Staffordshire Young Peoples Service (SYSPS) is being given as March 2012, with a proposed opening in April/May. The project has been financed by a grant to Staffordshire County Council after a successful application to the Government's 'MyPlace' programme administered by Big Fund (a subsidiary of BIG Lottery Fund to manage non-Lottery programmes).

1.2 The 'MyPlace' philosophy and guiding principles laid down in the grant specification can be summarised as:

- That young peoples' involvement is integral to the planning, design, management and eventual running of the new centre.
- That the centre will be primarily used for the benefit of young people.
- That the centre will be of benefit for the local community with the views of local people being taken into account.

1.3 However, since the grant was awarded in 2009 there have been significant challenges and changes both within SYPS and partner organisations involved at the time. They have therefore been talking with partners to clarify what support they are able to give.

## **2. Issues**

2.1 The key issue is that SYPS do not have the additional resource to operate the centre on their own.

2.2 The centre includes a 3 court sports hall, which with our involvement can provide the only publicly accessible sports hall in the borough that is available in the day, now that sports hall at Knutton Recreation Centre has closed.

2.3 Leisure and Cultural Services have the management expertise to operate the new centre, which is in an area where we already target our activity programmes.

### 3. **Options Considered**

3.1 The options are to either enter into an SLA for the management of the centre or not to enter into the agreement. Alternatively Members may wish to propose an alternative course of action.

### 4. **Proposal**

4.1 Discussions with SYPS have given rise for the opportunity for our Community Recreation Staff to be based at the centre both in a management capacity and to deliver some of their current work programme, with the support of the revenue funding provided by SYPS for the centre, rather than Leisure and Cultural Services budget.

4.2 To explore this further a draft Service Level Agreement (SLA) has been prepared and forwarded to SYPS for discussion. Whilst this has been received enthusiastically at this stage we have not had formal feedback.

4.3 The SLA covers one year only as SYPS are looking into management options that could release NNDR opportunities for reinvestment at the centre.

### 5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

5.1 We have the opportunity to raise our profile, at no cost to the Borough Council, through association with the £4.4M new centre, which is in one of the most deprived wards in the Borough.

### 6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

6.1 Our involvement in the Chesterton Vision Centre will capitalise on the investment in that our priority of creating a healthy and active community will be reflected in the SLA.

### 7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

7.1 The Council has the power to enter into the agreement.

### 8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

8.1 A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the operational management plan for the centre.

### 9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

9.1 There are no direct financial or resource implications. Officers would be deployed to work from Chesterton Vision. The Borough Council would still be responsible for their employment costs and the County Council for the costs of operating the centre. Income generated at the centre would be paid to the County Council and any costs incurred by the Borough Council (other than our staff costs, referred to above) would be reimbursed.

10. **Major Risks**

10.1 A risk log will be developed along with the SLA.

11. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

None

12. **Key Decision Information**

This is not a key decision

13. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

None

14. **List of Appendices**

None

15. **Background Papers**

None