

CABINET – 24 MAY 2011

BIG SOCIETY FUND - YOUNG PEOPLE'S CENTRES ON SCHOOL SITES

Report by Head of Strategy and Communications and Deputy Director for Growth and Infrastructure

Introduction

1. On 19 April 2011 Cabinet agreed the model for the new Early Intervention Service; to join up and redesign several existing services to create a single integrated service focused on prevention and early intervention. The Early Intervention Service includes youth services which will in future be delivered from the hubs and satellites.
2. Young People's Centre premises not included in the Early Intervention Service hubs and satellites are being made available to communities as part of the council's Big Society offer. Six of these centres are on school sites.
3. This report sets out the position with regard to Young People's Centres on school sites and where there are requests to transfer them to the school. These transfers do not constitute a change in legal ownership so would be internal only (with the exception of Foundation or Academy schools – see paragraphs 14, 37 & 38).
4. Big Society proposals for Young People's Centres not on school sites will be brought to Cabinet alongside other Big Society Fund applications.
5. Where there is a recognised educational need for the building on a school site and proposals include development of community use of these buildings it is recommended that they are transferred to the schools concerned.

Background

6. The council announced its proposals for changes to services for young people in November 2010. Formal consultation on the proposals took place between February and May 2011 and Cabinet agreed the proposed redesign on 19 April 2011.
7. The Big Society Fund was launched in February 2011. The £600,000 fund is available for communities to make bids for start-up funding for service provision they may wish to undertake in their local area.
8. The closing date for the first 'wave' of applications to the Big Society Fund is 31 May 2011. Locality groups of councillors will consider applications in their area and will recommend which bids to fund at the July Cabinet meeting.

9. There are currently six Young People's Centres on school sites which will no longer be funded or managed by the council. These schools have been asked to confirm whether they are interested in taking on the building on their site and the local delivery of youth provision and whether there is an educational need for the space.

Site by site proposals

Sweatbox, King Alfred's Wantage

10. The Sweatbox Youth Centre is currently located within the main building of King Alfred's School. The school already works very closely with the Sweatbox and is committed to the continuing provision of youth services from this site.
11. The school has asked the county council to transfer ownership of the Sweatbox Young People's Centre to the school. The school has identified an educational need for the building, and this need has been confirmed by the Schools Organisation and Planning Team.
12. King Alfred's School is developing a detailed business case to enable the Sweatbox to become a self sustaining facility enhancing the range of activities currently provided with support of local partners and councillors. The school also intends to bid for some initial start up funds from the Big Society Fund to get the project going. These proposals will be brought to Cabinet alongside other first wave bids to the Big Society Fund in July 2011.
13. It is considered that the school has appropriate financial management processes in place manage the financial implications of an additional function outside of the usual activities of the school.
14. King Alfred's School is currently a foundation school and is currently seeking academy status which means ownership of the site is with the school rather than the council. If Cabinet agrees to transfer the Sweatbox space to the school this will be included in the legal transfer of ownership of the whole site to the school's governing body. Any conveyance cost arising from the transfer of Sweatbox space would be managed within existing budgets.
15. **Recommendation: Cabinet is recommended to transfer the Sweatbox Young People's Centre on the King Alfred's School east site to the school and include this building within the transfer of ownership to the school that is already underway.**

Eynsham Young People's Centre

16. Eynsham Young People's Centre is on the site of Bartholomew School. Bartholomew School has been working closely with local partners including councillors to develop a sustainable proposal for the future of youth provision in Eynsham.

17. Bartholomew School has asked the council to transfer ownership of the Eynsham Young People's Centre to the school. The school has identified an educational need for the building, and this need has been confirmed by the Schools Organisation and Planning Team.
18. Bartholomew School is developing detailed proposals to maximise use of the building for school use in the day with youth provision in the evenings. Local partners, including the parish council, are involved in developing a sustainable business case for the site and intend to bid for initial start up funds from the Big Society Fund to get the project going. These proposals will be brought to Cabinet alongside other first wave bids to the Big Society Fund in July 2011.
19. It is considered that the school has appropriate financial management processes in place manage the financial implications of an additional function outside of the usual activities of the school.

20. Recommendation: Cabinet is recommended to transfer the young people's centre on the Bartholomew School site to the School

Wheatley Young People's Centre

21. Wheatley Young People's Centre is on the site of Wheatley Primary School. Wheatley Primary School has confirmed that it does not wish to take over the building.
22. The Maple Tree Children's Centre (provided by Great Milton School) have co-ordinated discussions between the children's centre and local groups interested in taking over the Young People's Centre with a view to creating a multi use space which would be accessible to children, young people and their families. The building would be managed by the children's centre. Discussions are ongoing and a bid to the Big Society Fund is expected.

23. Recommendation: Cabinet is recommended to request a sustainable business case to come forward for the future management and use of the Wheatley Young People's Centre led by the Children's Centre.

Chipping Norton Young People's Centre

24. The Chipping Norton Young People's Centre is on the site of Chipping Norton School. There is also a second site being built on the school premises which was intended to co-locate a Young People's Centre with an Adult Learning Centre. The project to build the new centre is near completion. Prior to the commencement of the new build it was agreed that the space currently occupied by the existing Young People's Centre would revert to the school on completion of this project.
25. Chipping Norton School has confirmed that it does not wish to take over the new building, but it does wish to continue with the transfer of the space currently occupied by the existing Young People's Centre.

26. With regard to the new Young People's Centre building Cabinet should be aware that there are ongoing discussions between groups in the community interested in developing proposals for future youth and community activities to be delivered from this space. These proposals are expected to come forward to the Big Society Fund to be considered by Cabinet in July 2011.

27. Recommendation: Cabinet is recommended to transfer the space currently occupied by the young people's centre to the school on completion of the new building project and to encourage proposals to come forward for the use of the new building for the benefit of young people and the wider community.

Chiltern Edge and Thame Young People's Centres

28. To date we have not received confirmation from Chiltern Edge or Lord Williams' schools if they have an interest in taking over the Young People's Centres on their sites. However we have received expressions of interest from community groups interested in the future of youth provision in both these communities. We hope to be able to work with them and the schools to bring proposals to Cabinet at a later date.

Transfer process

29. Where Young People's Centres are transferred to a school the council's asset register will be updated and written confirmation will be sent to the school and all relevant departments.

30. The school will enter into a memorandum of understanding with the council stating that the asset is being transferred on the understanding that it will be used for the benefit of young people and the wider community.

31. On transfer to the school, the school will meet the cost of delegated repair and maintenance as with other school buildings. The council will remain responsible for non-delegated repairs and maintenance.

Financial and Staff Implications

32. There are no staff implications in these proposals.

33. Young People's Centres that are transferred to schools with an agreed educational need will receive a small increase in their budget allocation to reflect the increased floor area of their site which would need to pay for additional running costs.

34. It is likely that a revaluation will be required for any site that is subject to a freehold transfer. Revaluation would give rise to an additional cost which would be managed within existing budgets.

35. If transfers to schools are agreed, the county council will work closely with the schools to establish appropriate accounting arrangements.

36. By transferring the Young People's Centres premises to schools or communities, potential capital receipts from the sale of these properties will be foregone.

Legal Implications

37. Following any transfer of ownership the school site still remains with the county council. However should a school change its status, such as becoming an academy or foundation school, ownership of the school site would transfer to the school's governing body. In any transfer of this kind the Young People's Centre building would be treated as part of the school site.
38. King Alfred's School is already a foundation school and is scheduled to become an academy. Therefore if Cabinet agree to transfer the Sweatbox to the school, the ownership will transfer to the governing body and subsequently the Academy Trust.

RECOMMENDATION

39. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to :

- a. agree transfer of buildings to the school on the following sites:**
- **Sweatbox young people's centre at King Alfred's School east site and to include this building within the transfer of ownership to the school that is already underway;**
 - **Eynsham young people's centre at Bartholomew School;**
 - **Existing young people's centre space at Chipping Norton School on completion of the project;**
- b. request a sustainable business case to come forward for the future management and use of the Wheatley Young People's Centre led by the Children's Centre;**
- c. encourage proposals to come forward for the remaining young people's centres on school sites for Cabinet consider as part of the Big Society Fund.**

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Background papers:
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