

Report of East North East Area Leader

Report to Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Date: 6th December 2012

Subject: Ebor Gardens Primary School – Request for Rental Support Grant

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Burmantofts & Richmond Hill		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. East North East Area Support Team are actively working to encourage more groups to use unoccupied space at Ebor Gardens Community Centre. Ebor Gardens Primary School have put forward proposals to use the building but don't have funding in place at the moment to be able to cover rental costs.
2. The activities which are to be provided by Ebor Gardens Primary School address key priorities in the neighbourhood and support the reduction of levels of worklessness and NEETs in the ward, along with increasing community confidence and improving physical health and emotional wellbeing of local residents.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that approval of a rental support grant of £3,350.76 is provided to Ebor Gardens Primary School to use Ebor Gardens Community Centre to deliver Ebor Gardens Community Project. This grant funding would cover use from Monday 7th January 2013 until Thursday 28th March 2013.
2. If Ebor Gardens Primary School manage to secure grant funding for their community programme, this would reduce the amount of rental support grant provided for this project. The school are expecting a decision on funding application in mid-January, so the level of rental support funding will be reviewed then.
3. Steps are to be taken to monitor the provision as it is being established to ensure that the level of take up of activities warrants the space being allocated and that appropriate use is being made of booked space. A review of the use of the facility will also take place in mid February, to ensure that bookings are being adhered, to iron out any operational issues and to consider proposals for future use.

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to make a request to the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods to grant rental support of £3,350.76 to Ebor Gardens Primary School to deliver the Ebor Gardens Community Project from Ebor Gardens Community Centre.

2.0 Background information

2.1 Ebor Gardens Community Centre is one of the community centres which is part of the Inner East Area Committees community centre portfolio. Ebor Gardens has been under utilised for many years and was highlighted by Inner East Community Centres Working Group as high priority centre which needed more use generating or the future of the facility could be in question.

2.2 Over the last few months Ward Members and the Neighbourhood Manager for Burmantofts & Richmond Hill have worked hard to generate interest in using the community centre. A number of groups are now approaching the Area Support Team with an interest to use the facility, one of which being Ebor Gardens Primary School which wants to use the centre to extend its work with local residents through the Ebor Gardens Community Project.

3.0 Proposal for use of Ebor Gardens Community Centre

3.1 The section below outlines the proposal submitted by Ebor Gardens Primary School for use of Ebor Gardens Community Centre.

3.2 Ebor Gardens Community Project

3.2.1 Ebor Gardens Primary School has a long history of delivering community activities for parents of children who attend the school as well as for the wider community. The school premises have been used to deliver the activities but the hall is now too small to deliver the wide range of services which the school want to offer the local community. The school also used Haselwood Hub, an ALMO building for which they were charged a peppercorn rent , to provide ESOL classes for the community but have decided that the ideal solution would be to locate all services in Ebor Gardens Primary School.

3.2.2 In previous years, the school have used Ebor Gardens Community Centre to deliver a number of community based sessions. However, the Community Liaison Officer who ran the activities went off on long term sick and there was no one available to continue the activities, so they ended up folding. The school are now in a position to re-start this provision and a detailed project plan for the activities has been put together which has been assessed by the Area Support Team.

3.2.3 Ebor Gardens Primary School wish to re-establish the Ebor Gardens Community Project when the school returns from the Christmas break. The community project has already started a volunteer recruitment programme and 15 local people have already signed up their involvement to this and are hoping to get another 15 people involved in the new year.

3.2.4 The activities which the school would like to operate from the Community Centre are a community café, a crèche provision, a volunteer training programme, ESOL classes, arts and craft sessions, keep fit classes, nutrition courses, support groups and any other sessions which the local community would like to take place.

3.2.5 The school wish to use the community centre for four days per week Tuesday to Friday, 8.30am – 3.30pm. The timetable of use which has been provide by the school is as follows:

	Tues am	Tues pm	Wed am	Wed pm	Thurs am	Thurs pm	Fri am	Fri pm
Kitchen	Coffee morning	Cookery course	Community Coffee Morning	Nutrition session		Training, health and safety	Community Café, potential to invite agencies in	Community Café
Dining Room	Coffee morning	Cookery course	Community Coffee Morning	Nutrition session		Training, health and safety	Community Café	Community Café
Main Hall	ESOL course	ESOL course	Community Coffee Morning	ESOL support session, jobs & skills	SHARE, course for parents	Volunteer training sessions	Community Café, plus keep fit and healthy eating session in half of hall	Community Café
Creche	for students and volunteers children	for students and volunteers children	for students and volunteers children	for students and volunteers children	Parents and Tots	Parents and Tots plus	one to one meetings (not indicated whether for am or pm)	one to one meetings (not indicated whether for am or pm)
Back Office	Drop ins for students and vols, housing advice, debt management etc	Drop ins for students and vols, housing advice, debt management etc		ESOL support session, jobs & skills		Volunteer one to ones		

3.2.6 Costs for use of Ebor Gardens Community Centre for the above timetable of activities have been calculated by City Development, as the use would be on a service charge basis rather than lettings fees. The calculations for use are as follows:

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekly total
Kitchen	£4.93	£4.93	£2.46	£4.93	
Dining Room	£6.43	£6.43	£3.21	£6.43	
Hall	£43.56	£43.56	£43.56	£43.56	
Creche	£14.87	£14.87	£14.87	£14.87	
Back office	£2.88	£1.44	£1.44	£0.00	
	£72.67	£71.23	65.54	£69.79	£279.23

3.2.7 As highlighted in the table above, the weekly use would cost £279.23. The proposal which has been submitted by Ebor Gardens Primary school covers a period of 12 weeks, from 8th January 2013 until Thursday 28th March 2013. The total amount of rental support requested for this period is £3,350.76.

3.2.8 The school are in the process of applying for funding from Children's Services to support the hire of the community centre, as they've been highlighted as an excellent school for community and partnership working and Children's Services want other schools to come and learn from the work which Ebor Gardens Primary School are delivering. An outcome for the

funding bid is expected in mid-January. An application for the full amount of funding has been submitted but at this stage, there is no guarantee that the funding will be approved.

- 3.2.9 Some of the activities which are going to be provided through the Ebor Gardens Community Project will generate income, particularly through the provision of the community café and crèche. This money will be re-invested back into the activities but there is an expectation that any surplus will also go towards covering future rental costs.
- 3.2.10 It has been made clear that this rental support grant is a contribution towards the re-establishment of the activities and cannot be provided on a continual, ongoing basis. The school have been encouraged to generate revenue through the activities outlined above as well as looking at other funding to cover these costs.
- 3.2.11 Burmantofts & Richmond Hill Ward Councillors are supportive of the proposals and have allocated £2,500 of Inner East Area Wellbeing funding needed to start up the activities, including equipment for the community café and crèche, as well as food provisions for the community café. A recent application was also approved by the Community First Panel for Burmantofts & Richmond Hill to cover costs of a volunteer training programme to support volunteers through CRB checks, health & safety courses and other sessions as identified through volunteer appraisal sessions.
- 3.2.12 As highlighted above, the school wish to use the facility for a significant proportion of the day. A meeting is to be held with all existing, new and proposed users of the facility to come to an agreement around how the facility can accommodate all interested parties. For example, a not for profit sports coaching organisation are interested in using the centre for courses, as well as Leeds Metropolitan University for some outreach work in partnership with the Youth Hostel Association. The meeting will take place prior to the new year to ensure that all users are clear on the schedule of lettings in place at the facility as well as improving partnership working opportunities between all groups operating from the centre.

4.0 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Burmantofts & Richmond Hill Ward Members have been consulted on this proposal for future use of the facility and are supportive of Ebor Gardens Primary School receiving a rental support grant to enable this programme to take place.
- 4.1.2 The Primary School have also undertaken a consultation exercise with parents and the wider community on their views regarding the activities which they'd like to see take place at the community centre. There is community backing and support for activities to re start at the community centre in order to re-generate the facility into a community hub once again.
- 4.1.3 As mentioned in paragraph 3.2.12 above, further consultation and engagement will take place with all existing and potential users of the centre to optimise the use of available space and encourage partnership working.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 There has been an equality impact assessment screening document completed to establish whether or not a full equality impact assessment needed to be undertaken. There is no requirement to undertake a full Equality Impact Assessment as there are no adverse impacts which this particular project could have for any of the equality groups. Work will be done to engage with all interested groups to ensure that available space at the centre is optimised, and that the activities provided will meet the identified need within the locality.

4.3. Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The activities which would be supported through the provision of the rental support grant contributes to the City Priority of Best City for Communities; increase a sense of belonging that builds cohesive and harmonious communities.
- 4.3.2 The activities to be delivered through this proposal from Ebor Gardens Primary School also addresses three of the five key objectives in Burmantofts & Richmond Hill Neighbourhood Improvement Plan of increasing community confidence, reducing the levels of worklessness including NEETs and improving physical health and emotional wellbeing.

4.4. Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The staffing resources to manage and oversee the community projects will come from the school Liaison Officer, along with the support from the volunteers recruited as part of the project. Inner East Area Committee and Community First have allocated funding to support the set up of the activities, with an expectation that the activities are made sustainable and self financing.

4.5. Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 3.5.1 There are no legal implication associated with this report.
- 3.5.2 There is no exempt or confidential information contained in this report.
- 3.5.3 There are no key decisions associated with this report, so it is not subject to call in.

4.6. Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There are no major risks associated with this proposal.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The activities provided through this proposal are much needed within the area and it is felt that the provision of the rental support grant to enable the Ebor Gardens Community Project to deliver their projects would be a beneficial investment into the area.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The recommendations associated with the report are as follows:
- For rental support to be provided to Ebor Gardens Primary School for the use of Ebor Gardens Community centre up to the value of £3,350.78 for use between the 8th January 13 and 28th March 13
 - If any funding is secured by Ebor Gardens Primary School, the amount of rental support is reduced to reflect this
 - Monitoring takes place to ensure that the level of take up of activities warrants the space being allocated and that appropriate use is being made of booked space, and a review of the letting arrangement is built into the agreement to take place before the lettings period comes to an end to consider arrangements for future use.

7.0 Background documents

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment Screening document.