

Report of the East North East Area Leader

Report to Inner East Area Committee

Date: 7th February 2013

Subject: Dame Fanny Waterman Community Centre - charging proposals

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Gipton & Harehills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report asks the Area Committee to agree to free usage of the recently completed Dame Fanny Waterman Community Centre for a temporary period. This could for example be six to 12 months.
2. Free usage for a temporary period could promote awareness and community usage of the centre. At the end of the agreed period, the usual charges would apply.

Recommendations

3. That Members agree to free usage of the recently completed Dame Fanny Waterman Community Centre for a temporary period to be determined. This could be for example 6-12 month

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to ask the Area Committee to agree to a period of free usage at the Dame Fanny Waterman Community Centre (DFWCC).

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 Community centres within the Inner East area can play a significant part in maintaining community cohesion and enhancing community well being and can provide a wide range of benefits to the local communities which they serve. Some community centres are well used, however, a number have some void periods where the centre is used less often.
- 2.2 The DFWCC was officially opened with a very successful launch event combined with Wykebeck Primary School's open day in September 2012. However, due to a number of issues such as safeguarding of school children whilst community use is taking place, the centre is not yet available for community use. In addition, any new users will need to meet key-holding criteria and be inducted as such. Facilities Management will work with new users to ensure this happens effectively.
- 2.3 Within Leeds and nationwide, initial free usage of community centres for a time limited period has been shown to increase usage and promote awareness.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 The Inner East Community Centres Working Group have discussed the opportunities to promote community use of the new Dame Fanny Waterman Community Centre to ensure that it makes a positive contribution to the local community.
- 3.2 The Area Support Team has been trying to generate awareness of the centre and has had some initial interest including a martial arts group, possible dance or exercise groups linked to parents at the school, Community Leadership Team and possibly the Police for their PACT meetings. In addition, local ward Councillors intend to use the centre for their surgeries.
- 3.3 It is suggested that once the access and safeguarding issues are resolved, hopefully very soon, community use could be encouraged through free usage for a specified period.
- 3.4 It is suggested that a period of six to 12 months could be agreed by the Area Committee. The amount and range of usage would be reviewed over the agreed period and the impact reported back to Inner East Community Centres Working Group and the Area Committee.

4.0 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The proposal to offer free usage of DFWCC has been discussed at the Inner East Community Centres Working Group who are supportive.
- 4.1.2 Wykebeck Primary School are also keen to see free usage agreed for up to a year, both for their use and community use of the centre.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 Supporting community centres can help equality groups to access a range of support services. The DFWCC is located within one of Inner East's priority neighbourhoods and therefore can promote cohesion and integration within that area.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The proposal supports the headline indicator of 'Best City for Communities' through sustaining the community infrastructure in Gipton. If effectively promoted and used, the DFWCC could act as a hub for a range of community activity.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The proposal offers the opportunity to encourage significant community use within the next six to 12 months. In the longer term this could generate community and possibly commercial use which would be charged. This could increase the sustainability of the centre.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report. There is no exempt or confidential information
- 4.5.2 In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, agreed at Full Council May 2012, all decisions taken by Area Committees are not eligible for Call In

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There are no particular risk management issues associated with this proposal. However, if any problems with free usage do occur, the Area Committee could consider terminating the arrangement at any point.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The DFWCC could form an important part of the Gipton community. If the Area Committee agrees to free usage for up to a year, this could encourage increased usage in the longer term.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Members agree to free usage of the recently completed Dame Fanny Waterman Community Centre for a temporary period to be determined. This could be for example 6-12 months

7.0 Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.