



Report of the Director of Learning and Leisure

Executive Board

Date: 4 April 2007

Subject: Stanhope Youth Centre

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Executive Board with relevant information following the deputation to Full Council by Stanhope United Community Group.

The Director of Development presented a report to Executive Board in October 2006 with the intention of moving Stanhope Youth Centre provision into a redeveloped centre on the site of the former Library and Mechanics Institute on Town Street in Horsforth. Also included within the redevelopment is the provision of permanent office accommodation for the North West Area Management Team.

Feasibility work is currently being undertaken on the redevelopment project. The deputation to Full Council will be included within all the considerations associated with this feasibility work.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide relevant information for Executive Board following the deputation to the Full Council by Stanhope United Community Group.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The Stanhope Youth Centre was built in the 1940's and used by the RAF as a social centre. The centre was at risk of closure in 1996/97 because of its condition and longer term prospects. However, there was no alternative building in the area and the decision was taken for the Stanhope Youth Centre to remain open. The members invested RATS monies to cover the cost of extensive repairs that were unexpectedly required. The centre is now in need of further refurbishment.
- 2.2 The Stanhope Youth Centre's present weekly programme includes six community groups, Kids Academy one evening a week and youth provision for 13 to 19 year olds, extending to 11/12 year olds as appropriate four sessions a week.
- 2.3 The Stanhope community immediately around the existing centre does not want to lose the local provision and fear how the vacated space might be used.
- 2.4 The Youth Service, in response to the Youth Matters agenda, is reviewing the building used to deliver youth work. The buildings need to be high quality, fit for purpose and situated in localities that enable young people from a wide range of diverse communities to feel safe and welcome.
- 2.5 Historically Youth and Community Centres were situated in communities meeting the needs of young people and local residents from a small geographical area. It is becoming increasingly inappropriate to support centres that service only a small part of a local community. Buildings situated in a 'non-territorial' area, eg a High Street, have proved to be more effective in enabling young people from many different communities to come and benefit from the service.
- 2.6 The Director of Development presented a report to Executive Board in October 2006 with the intention of moving Stanhope Youth Centre provision into a redeveloped centre on the site of the former Library and Mechanics Institute on Town Street in Horsforth. Also included within the redevelopment is the provision of permanent office accommodation for the North West Area Management Team.

3.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 3.1 This matter has been referred to Executive board following the deputation to Full Council by Stanhope United Community Group.
- 3.2 The deputation will be included within all the considerations associated with the feasibility work for the redevelopment project.

4.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 4.1 Resource implications are being explored as part of the feasibility process.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 Executive Board is asked to note the information provided on Stanhope Youth Centre following a deputation to Full Council by Stanhope United Community Group.