



Report of the West North West Area Manager

North West (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 13th November 2008

Subject: The West Park Centre

Electoral Wards Affected:

Headingley
Hyde Park and Woodhouse
Kirkstall
Weetwood

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report has been prepared at the request of the Inner North West Area Committee following concerns raised by a representative from the Moor Grange Action Group regarding the proposed disposal of the West Park Centre.

The Area Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Purpose of this report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to respond to the issues raised at the meeting of the Area Committee meeting on 25th September relating to the future of the West Park Centre.
- 2 The report seeks to inform members about
 - The inclusion of the West Park Centre on the list of capital receipts
 - The relocation of some existing users of the facility

Background

- 3 A representative of the Moor Grange Action Group raised concerns during the Open Forum of the last Area Committee meeting about the proposed disposal of the West Park Centre.
- 4 Following discussion by the Area Committee it was agreed that a report outlining the facts relating to this matter is brought to this meeting for consideration.

Capital Programme

- 5 The February 2008 Capital Programme report approved by full council included an appendix which was a list of capital receipts that are supporting the 5 year programme. The list shows sites but not values. West Park School is listed under 2010/11.
- 6 It is a statutory requirement that for any disposal, the Council is charged with ensuring that it receives best consideration, or to ensure that the proper decision making process has been undertaken in respect of a less-than-best disposal. The way that the Council meets this statutory requirement is to expose a property to the widest marketing that is appropriate. This can be by way of advertising in the property press or local papers depending on the scale of the disposal and then by either inviting offers or putting the property into an auction.
- 7 The disposal of Council assets that are identified as either surplus to requirements or underused have the potential to make a significant contribution in support of the Council's overall Capital Programme. In addition, the reduction of underused assets is an important element to achieving a sustainable regime.

Relocation of current users

- 8 The West Park Centre has not been declared surplus to requirements nor has any planning brief been prepared or requested. The relocation of the Northern Ballet Theatre to their new premises at Quarry Hill and Education Leeds staff in Spring 2010 means that the building will be substantially under-used after that time. The buildings are considered to be at the end of their economic life and investment in refurbishment could not be justified.
- 9 Consideration will be given to community needs, especially those that are supported by local organisations. Consultation will be undertaken with all current users, including those that come from outside the area, or even the metropolitan district and may not be especially location sensitive.

Recommendations

10. The Area Committee is requested to note and comment on the contents of this report.

Background Papers

None