

Bath & North East Somerset Council

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| MEETING: | Cabinet | |
| MEETING DATE: | 11th July 2012 | EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: |
| | | E 2440 |
| TITLE: | Short Break for Disabled Children Refurbishment of Lansdown building at Wellsway School | |
| WARD: | Keynsham East Ward is where the building is sited. Families from all wards to access provision | |
| AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM | | |
| List of attachments to this report: | | |

1 THE ISSUE

The Purpose of the report

It was agreed in April 2012 that all requests for capital expenditure need to go to full cabinet. The council received a capital grant through the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme in 2011 from the Department of Education to provide fully accessible targeted holiday provision in community settings for disabled children and their families. The grant was given to ensure the transformation of short breaks for families in Bath and North East Somerset could include adaptations to buildings to enable targeted provision to run in areas that may not have accessible premises.

A consultation with families of disabled children carried out in July 2011, identified that there was a need for a targeted holiday provision for Disabled Children to be run in Keynsham which was fully accessible both indoors and outdoors. Working with KIDS the current service provider in Keynsham, a number of sites were identified for the provision to take place. The Lansdown building at Wellsway School in Keynsham was identified as the best venue to suit all needs.. Identifying a secured site for the provision will also give parent/ carers confidence in allowing their child/ren to access the provision.

This report is requesting cabinet approval to move to the procurement stage of commissioning process for this capital expenditure.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that:

- 2.1 To consider the capital expenditure request
- 2.2 To approve the request to move to the procurement stage of the commissioning process
- 2.3 To receive further report on the development of the site which will enable families living in the Keynsham area to access a fully accessible targeted holiday provision for their children after school and in the school holidays.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications to the council. This capital expenditure is funded through a grant from the Department of Education of £72,814. In 2011 £14,535 was spent on the Wheels4All project. This paper is requesting capital approval for £54,814 from the balance of this grant. The capital work will include adaptations to the Lansdown building at Wellsway School and changes to the outside area. The changes to the building include a fully accessible toilet at least 7m squared with at least one additional toilet next door, acoustic tiles on the ceiling and frame over the window which should dampen noise in the main room and high locks on the doors so adults can ensure who comes in and who leaves the provision.
- 3.2 The outdoor space will be transformed to a play area which will include artificial grass, 2 raised flower beds, water play barrels, a swing, an outdoor tent and a play feature. On the request of the parent/carers an outside canopy will also be installed so outdoor play can still take place when it is raining. .
- 3.3 We will be negotiating with the school on the rental charges for other groups using the building.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

4.1 These proposals will help to “Make Bath & North East Somerset an even better place to live, work and visit” and in particular they will impact on the achievement of the Council’s objectives.

- Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
- Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live

5 THE REPORT

5.1 The targeted holiday provision that is commissioned by the Council is designed to cater for up to 15 disabled young people each day. In the summer of 2011 12 young people accessed the provision. Once the refurbishment is complete it is

likely that more young people will access the service because the provider will have an established base and the facilities on offer will fully accommodate the needs of all the young people who want to access the holiday provision.

- 5.2 At present there are two providers in Bath and Norton Radstock who are able to run a targeted holiday provision from a fully accessible building. Although there is a provider (KIDS) offering holiday provision in Keynsham; the service is not ideal as the venue does not have a fully accessible toilet/ changing space with hoist and adjustable bed. After the refurbishment is complete the space will provide inclusive access and can also be hired by other providers to deliver inclusive and targeted provision which will provide opportunities for young people in the community to flourish in a supported environment.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The key risk is the timescales for the refurbishment to take place. Refurbishment can only take place during the school holidays. Kids the provider will deliver their provision from a different space during the summer to allow for works to take place on the Lansdown building. The space would ideally be ready for the provision in December 2012.
- 6.2 The payment for works will be staged so that we can ensure the project does not go over budget and can be completed in time.
- 6.3 A capital agreement/Service Level Agreement will be drawn up which will include the expectations of the Council in financing the developments in the Lansdown building. Agreement to contain clause requiring grant to be repaid to Council if contract/SLA terms not met by School.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed. This project positively enhances the opportunities for disabled children and young people in the Keynsham area. No equalities issues were identified for further action in the Equalities Impact Assessment.

8 RATIONALE

- 8.1 The recommendations made in section 2 will enable a provider of a targeted holiday provision for Disabled Children to deliver a play scheme in a safe and comfortable space with an outside space suitable for play allowing good indoor outdoor flow and meet the needs of all service users.
- 8.2 The short break services for disabled children are due to be re-commissioned for April 2013. Holiday play schemes will be part of the commission intentions. This will require the Council to have an accessible venue in Keynsham for at least another 3-5 years. By investing in Wellsway School the Council can guarantee this as a venue for use to potential providers which will allow the play scheme to run with less delay.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The Responsible Officer consulted with a number of venues in Keynsham including the Fry's site, the regeneration of Keynsham team, Broadlands School, the Scouts hut, the Guides hut, Queens Road Methodist Church (where the

provision runs from now). Wellsway School were the only venue to agree to work together to provide an appropriate space in Keynsham at the times the space is required i.e. during all major holidays.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Consultation was carried out in July 2011 where families of disabled children were asked to complete a questionnaire about short break services. Young people were also consulted through a questionnaire which used the picture programme Widget. Focus groups also took place involving adults and children.

10.2 There is continuous consultation with the Parent Carer Aiming High Group (PCH) which is made up of parent/carers of disabled children. They have viewed the Wellsway site and have contributed ideas to initial developments and overall design of the indoor outdoor space.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 All relevant issues are raised elsewhere in the report

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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| Sponsoring Cabinet Member | Councillor Nathan Hartley |
| Background papers | |
| <p>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</p> | |