

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Cabinet	
MEETING	11th February 2015	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2722
TITLE:	Gateway Centre – Cooperation Agreement	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The report seeks permission to explore the development of a Cooperation Agreement with the Trustees of the Gateway Centre to secure a venue for the delivery of community activities and service delivery for the Snow Hill/London Road area of Bath. Broader consultation work will also be done to ascertain if there are other agencies/groups wishing to engage in such a development.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet agree

- 2.1 To allow officers to explore a possible cooperation agreement with the Snow Hill Gateway Trust.
- 2.2 To allow officers to consult community groups in the Snow Hill/London Road area about interest in developing a community venue.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 As part of the Budget for 2014/15, the Council approved a capital programme item for Community Partnership Grants for Provisional Approval of £1M. This was to provide a potential capital grant to support the improvement of youth and community facilities in the London Road area of Bath, subject to the consideration of a detailed business case.

Officers will continue to explore the range options for the provision of these facilities and the required business case.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 This proposal has implications for the Council's duties relating to children, young people, complex families, public health and inequalities and could enable delivery of improved outcomes in the London Road/Snow Hill area.
- 4.2 As outlined above, the proposed development of a Co-operation Agreement is based on a desire to enhance the provision of youth work in the Snow Hill area. The positive engagement of vulnerable young people is a proven means of addressing social cohesion and improving the health and employment opportunities for young people.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Council wishes to develop a venue for the delivery of community, voluntary and council-provided or commissioned services within the London Road/Snow Hill area.
- 5.2 The main Council-owned venue in the area is the Riverside Youth Centre, York Place, London Road, Bath, BA1 6AE, a post-war building with limited physical access and which is in need of extensive refurbishment or re-building.
- 5.3 The Council has been approached by the Snow Hill Community Trust and the St Swithin's Church Management Committee requesting investment to extensively re-furbish the Snow Hill Community Centre which is owned by St Swithin's Church. The Trustees had approached the Big Lottery with a view to submitting a bid for Big Lottery funding to re-design and refurbish the building as a venue for use by the community, community and voluntary groups and possibly as a venue for the delivery of Council-delivered or commissioned services. Such services could include the Youth Connect Services, Early Years and Children's Centre Services etc.
- 5.4 The Big Lottery has advised the Trustees that on the basis of its application and subsequent site visit that they did not feel that the consultation justified the need for such a large project, and that they had concerns in relation to the value for money of the bid. On this basis, it would not support deployment of Big Lottery funding.
- 5.5 However, despite the above, the Council remains interested in securing a venue for this area which can be a focus for community engagement and regeneration through which a range of activities and services can be delivered.
- 5.6 In order to move forward, it is proposed that the Council will explore the possibility of entering into a Cooperation Agreement with the Snow Hill Gateway Trust to support the redevelopment of the Gateway Centre. At the same time, the Council will also carry out community engagement activity to determine if there are other community groups who wish to develop joint proposals for a Snow Hill/London Road community venue or who have alternative proposals based upon an existing community asset.
- 5.7 The purpose of the Co-operation Agreement is to clarify the objectives of the parties, the Council and the Trust and to enable them to work in an open and transparent way on agreed initiatives in the area. It sets out how the relationship will be managed and activity reported. It is not a legal contract.

5.8 Both activities would be reported back to Cabinet in the summer to decide whether to take forward either option.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 The Council remains of the view that the move of youth provision onto the Snow Hill estate could enhance the delivery of youth work in this area of the City. On this basis we are keen to continue to explore possible community partnerships that might facilitate this move.

6.2 A jointly run venue for community services would promote and strengthen services in the area as well as representing an effective and efficient way to jointly serve the needs of the area.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members for Early Years, Children and Youth and Resources, Ward Members.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A Risk Assessment will be completed when a further report is prepared for submission to Cabinet following this exploration and consultation exercise.

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Background papers	
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