

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKERS:	Cllr Michael Evans Cabinet Member Children's Services Cllr Charles Gerrish Cabinet Member for Resources	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 24th June 2017	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: E 2975
TITLE:	Midsomer Norton Youth Outreach Program	
WARD:	Midsomer Norton North, Midsomer Norton Redfield	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 PID – Project Initiation Document Appendix 2 Section 106 application Appendix 3 Risk register Appendix 4 Consultation with young people		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 To use the Section 106 funding available £21,507 in the Midsomer Norton area to develop youth provision.

1.2 Working in partnership with a range of agencies to achieve a vision for Youth in the Midsomer Norton area.

1.3 The program will seek to engage young people in a range of positive curriculum activities

All contributions must be spent in line with the following:

“For youth service provision, this contribution covers the 13-19 age group and is to be used to support the work of the Youth Service via Youth Centre provision and activities, equipment, mobile provision and detached youth workers in the area of the development.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Cabinet Members are asked to approve the spending of £21,507 Section 106 to develop youth provision in partnership with the Midsomer Norton Community Trust in the Midsomer Norton area.

2.2 The Cabinet Members are asked to add this project to the Council's capital programme in line with the Council budget management scheme

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 All costs are funded by section 106 funding from the Midsomer Norton area.

3.2 The S106 funding will be allocated to the Midsomer Norton Community Trust

Capital Purchase	£11,994
Consultation and ongoing revenue support	£9,513
Total	£21,507

3.3 The trust will procure two Shipping Containers (40ft x 10ft): covering landlord agreements, planning permission, purchase of containers, ground works, insurance and subsequent fitting out.

Shipping container purchase - £2500 x 2 + including delivery = £5000.

Fitting out – with floors/ partitions/ wiring/ generator/ lighting/ kettle/ electric ring/ fire extinguisher/padlocks

Resourcing – Chairs/tables/gazebo/storage boxes/shelving

3.4 Initial revenue costs will also be funded by Section 106 funding.

3.5 The ongoing revenue costs will be supported by the Midsomer Norton Community Trust. There is no cost to any Council core budgets.

4. STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

Equalities – to ensure the inclusion and access to services for young people in the MSN area.

Crime & disorder – to help reduce Anti Social Behaviour amongst young people.

Sustainability – to create a legacy for young people to support and develop their sense of belonging.

Planning Act 2008 – planning permission has been sought for the placement of the shipping containers.

Human Rights Act 1998 –

- Children – under the Children Act 2004, the Council has to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the exercise of any of its functions.

5. THE REPORT

It is hoped the Youth project will archive the following outcomes:

- Engagement – rather than sitting in the dark in a cold park somewhere to sit and feel part of the community of Midsomer Norton – having a stake in the town.
- ‘Safe space’ provision – on a dark winter night or at the height of summer young people want to know they have somewhere to go where they can feel safe. Whilst the town hall offers a defined indoor space young people want to be near places like the skate & adventure play park or nearer their homes e.g. up at Orchard Vale.
- Education – for many young people and in particular those which are difficult to reach, the idea of coming to the town hall to engage with drug, alcohol, sexual health education initiatives is completely alien. A hub near where they ‘hang out’ would enable us to reach and engage with these young people.
- Skills development – the Norton Youth Club (NYC) in the Town Hall has an impressive record of offering personal development skills, life skills – cookery, painting, careers and ecology development opportunities for young people. We need to take this out to the youth community in the town.
- Empowerment to be part of the community – a key aspiration of the town council has been the development of a youth council so that the young people can have a voice in the governance/shaping policy and business development of the town. However, having to come to the Town Hall has proved a barrier to this, so one of the outcomes of having better youth engagement is an aspiration to link with young people on a civic level.

6. RATIONALE

With increased funding pressures, B&NES as the Unitary Authority has increasingly relied on the Town Council and voluntary sector to provide universal youth service coverage in Midsomer Norton. With the sale of the Laterz building next to Sainsbury's, Midsomer Norton Town Council stepped in and has funded the Norton Youth Club (NYC) in recent years, based in the Town Hall and operated by a working partnership of the Midsomer Norton Community Trust and the Wansdyke Play Association.

As such the Midsomer Norton Community Trust ideally placed to procure the proposed shipping container hubs, kit them out and manage them in the long term as a legacy benefit for young people in the Midsomer Norton area.

There are available a number of youth section 106 developers contributions some which need to be spent by July 2017. This amount totals £21,000 which could be used to address the need identified. As partners, we have identified an initial six month pilot programme for the first half of 2017 using this money which Mid Somer Norton Town Council and Mid Somer Norton Community Trust believe they could lay the groundwork for a series of legacy initiatives

However, feedback from extensive consultation with young people clearly shows that they are in need of a safe space. The Town Hall, whilst central and ideal as a meeting place, is not enough. Areas such as Orchard Vale, Gullock Tynning (by the Adventure Play and Skate Park), Radstock Road and Hillside have a greater need which is difficult

to meet with a single central service provision in the Town Hall. This has further been borne out by feedback recently from the Writhlington Sports Trust who now operates the Midsomer Norton Sports Centre, Skate & Adventure Play Park. Their finding is that young people want outreach activity and the sense of a 'safe place' they can regard as their own - where they 'hang out'.

Other options considered:

- Central provision – not accessible to all
- Detached work – young people want a venue to meet in
- Mobile – may use in future to supplement work

7. CONSULTATION

- Consultation with young people was done via a questionnaire.
- Presentations at Town Council meeting and Midsomer Norton Community Trust meeting.
- Meeting with other relevant organisation such as Youth Connect and Writhlington Sports Trust.
- Discussion with police and parks teams.
- Somer Court Residents

8 RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<i>Tracey Pike Operational Manager Youth Connect (Tel 01225 396988 or 07980998537)</i>
Background papers	<i>106 funding application – request from TP</i> <i>PID – request from TP</i> <i>Risk assessment – request from TP</i> <i>Consultation attached</i> <i>Planning application - planning</i>
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