

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 1 December 2022

Report of the Director of Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;
Delivering better services;
Protecting our environment;

Submission of an Expression of Interest to the Youth Investment Fund

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Clare Smith, Tel: (01282) 470807, Youth Policy Strategic Lead,
clare.smith@lancashire.gov.uk,

Brief Summary

This report sets out a proposal to submit Expressions of Interest to the Youth Investment Fund for 2 sites in Lancashire to seek funding for renovation. The sites currently deliver a wide Early Help offer to children, young people and families as well as services directly targeted at young people during the day and into the evening. The Youth Investment Fund seeks to grant funding to renovate existing facilities to improve the health and wellbeing of young people, equip them with skills for work and life and empower them to become active citizens in their communities. If funding was granted, it would allow the full refurbishment of 2 significant sites in identified eligible areas to expand and diversify their offer to the local community.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the submission of Expressions of Interest to the Youth Investment Fund before the end of the year to renovate the 2 sites detailed within this report for the amounts outlined within Appendix 'A'.



- (ii) Approve that works to the boiler and electrical installation approved within the Condition Led Programme 2019/20 at Fleetwood Children and Family Wellbeing (Milton Street), be considered match funding within the Expression of Interest for that site.
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Finance and the Director of Corporate Services to accept receipt of any grant funds were the submission to be successful in the full application stage, to agree grant conditions and to authorise the entering into of a Grant Funding Agreement by the Council.

Detail

The Youth Investment Fund is a national fund established by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport totalling £200m capital and £80m revenue funding to transform and level-up the out-of-school youth sector as part of the government's Youth Guarantee. The funding is a commitment to provide truly innovative youth facilities in levelling up priority areas, enabling positive activities that deliver improved outcomes for young people and is the largest investment of its kind in around 20 years.

Phase 2 of the fund opened for Expression of Interest applications in August 2022.

Regarding the county council's intentions in applying to this fund, the Children and Family Wellbeing Service conducted a cross-referencing and mapping activity of the identified eligible wards for the fund taking into account the service's own assets, partners' provision and the current condition and suitability needs for existing assets which highlighted 2 sites that it is proposed to pursue Expressions of Interest for.

Site Details and key elements of work required

Both sites currently deliver a comprehensive offer from the Children and Family Wellbeing Service and local partners to children, young people and their families aged 0-25 years. Whilst the Expressions of Interest to the Youth Investment Fund will focus on how renovation of the sites will improve outcomes for young people specifically, any subsequent full application will outline how services for young people are integrated into a wider Early Help offer for families and younger children.

Both sites are also in scope within the Family Hubs programme.

If the funding is secured, these major refurbishments would enable greater and more efficient use of the buildings and the buildings would be able to welcome more members of the public, and county council and partner agencies to expand and diversify the services on offer. It would allow the Children and Family Wellbeing Service to host its group work curriculum in its fullest context in scope and scale, expand the number of groups running consecutively alongside other organisations, and create suitable spaces for different styles of intervention to occur simultaneously. This would include for example, safe space provision for young people on a Friday evening, LGBT+ groups, support for young people with additional needs and disabilities, sporting and creative activities, or one-to-one support, advice



and guidance in accessing education, training and work or mental health support. Multi-agency input into the sites will be explored through the developing strategic networks of partners ensuring that children, young people and their families are able to access a variety of support through one site.

If Youth Investment Fund funding is secured major refurbishment would modernise and provide flexibility of the internal spaces, allowing services for young people to flourish alongside a wider offer to children and their families in both local communities. It would maximise use of well-established and centrally located sites, and in terms of Milton Street, with extensive, secure and contained outdoor space which has been a key point of access for the local community over generations.

- New Era Children and Family Wellbeing Services, Paradise Street, Accrington, BB5 1PB

The site is very large with the majority of service delivery space located on the lower ground floor only accessible from the first floor via multiple staircases. This means a significant amount of the service delivery is currently focussed in one larger space on the ground floor with much of the lower ground floor not well utilised due to the problematic access. The proposal is to improve access across the building in order to increase the service delivery offer to a wider client group including young people. The building has a significant number of condition issues.

An initial assessment at New Era showed the heating plant and controls to be in satisfactory condition. The building does not meet the criteria to be eligible for a separate funding application regarding decarbonisation so would not be considered a priority for major work in this area. The display energy certificate for the building shows it performs well and uses less energy than would be expected.

- Fleetwood Children and Family Wellbeing Services, Milton Street, Fleetwood FY7 6QW

The site is a large Victorian school site which has a number of significant condition and carbon issues including the oil-fired heating system, the electrical installation and the roof which needs replacement. The building requires redecoration and modernisation with a better use of storage space to maximise flexibility of delivery spaces. It also needs to be flexible enough to work with a broad age range and include discreet spaces for 1-1, health service delivery, etc.

A recent decarbonisation survey of this site has highlighted that recommended decarbonisation technologies (which would be completed were these full applications successful) would include:

- Ground Source Heat Pump
- Building Management System
- LED upgrade for lighting
- Photo Voltaic installation on the roof
- Electrical installation and distribution boards which require replacement

Financial implications in relation to Submission of an Expression of Interest to the Youth Investment Fund are set out at Appendix 'A' and are deemed to be Part II as



Appendix 'A' contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Consultations

The Expressions of Interest to date have been developed in partnership with organisations outlined below within Risk Management.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk Management

In both Hyndburn and Fleetwood the service is engaged with local partners to ensure that applications to the Youth Investment Fund are coordinated and collaborative. Expressions of Interest would be submitted with reference to one another and reflect regular discussions being progressed to further a shared strategic vision for the development of spaces and services for young people in each area. Equally, young people themselves will be key to the full application stage beyond the Expression of Interest and so withdrawing the application would also impact on those young people working with the service to ensure the full applications have the best chance of success.

It is possible that one of the Expressions of Interest is progressed but not the other, or that the grant maker could ask the county council to prioritise the 2 options presented and proceed with 1. If that was the case, a resubmission to Capital Board and Cabinet for a decision on which project is progressed would be made. If a project was not progressed or was unsuccessful at any stage, it would revert back to the current level of priority it holds within the condition led programme which would not address suitability. This could lead to further deterioration of condition in either site and impact on and limit service delivery.

Capacity would also need to be available within the Asset Management and Design and Construction Services to deliver these projects if successful.

Financial

At this Expression of Interest stage, the financial implications are limited as the terms of the grant specifically around the match funding requirement are not yet known. A further report will need to be brought to future Cabinet meetings if the Expression of Interest is successful and the bid is moved on to the next business case stage. At this point the costs and funding will need to be fully understood before committing to the projects.

Legal

If successful, the Expressions of Interest would result in the offer of grant funding, the conditions of which are not yet known, and so legal advice should be sought by the Director of Finance at that time.



Equality and Cohesion/Equality Analysis

Should the submissions of Expressions of Interest to the Youth Investment Fund be agreed and, ultimately, be successful this could contribute positively towards the general aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty of advancing equality of opportunity including its sub aim of improving participation in public life and fostering good relations between different protected characteristics groups. The proposal particularly impacts on the age (younger people) protected characteristic and may also impact on other protected characteristics including sex/gender, disability, pregnancy and maternity and ethnicity given the nature of the services delivered at the premises. The nature of any impact may depend on the success of any submission for either project.

Property Asset Management

The council remains liable for the property holding costs of each asset referred. Some condition related works have been on hold pending confirmation by the occupying service regarding operational requirements in each location. Should the application be successful the council will be able to make better use of the premises and increase occupancy. Through decarbonisation works, this will support the council's priority of protecting the environment and reducing its carbon footprint.

Should the application be unsuccessful the respective premises will be subject to a strategic review of the council's property holdings.

Procurement

The selection of contractors to undertake the capital works will be carried out in full compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015, either through the use of an established framework such as the rotational list for building works, the Partnering Framework, or through undertaking a compliant procurement exercise where appropriate.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
-------	------	-------------

None

Reason for inclusion in Part II:

Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. Appendix 'A' contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

