



# ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL

Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee  
7 December 2023

Key Decision [Yes]

Ward(s) Affected: Eastbrook

## Eastbrook Community Centre - Youth Investment Fund

### Report by the Director for Housing & Communities

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#### Executive Summary

##### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the anticipated receipt of Youth Investment Funding and outline the prospective allocation for the funding, in line with likely provisions determined in the Grant Funding Agreement (TBD).
- 1.2. To present the project that Adur District Council will be seeking to deliver with the funding and how this will impact locally, forming part of the long term 'place' strategy.

- 1.3. To confirm the agreed and allocated funding can be released to deliver youth interventions, to support a significant number of young people within the local community and in turn have a positive secondary impact locally (local insight data).

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. To agree to ADC receiving the Youth Investment Funding (circa £500K) to deliver two new modular buildings (reactivating the currently unusable surface at the rear of the building) for the purpose of directly delivering youth interventions and support.
- 2.2. To delegate authority to the Director for Housing and Communities, the authority to deliver the required outcomes (as per the Grant Funding Agreement) within the approved budgets.

## **3. Background - Youth Investment Fund - Phase 2 (YIF)**

- 3.1. Provided by DCMS, an opportunity for funding (totalling £368m over 3 years) was made available to eligible places across England to expand and improve local youth facilities and their services. The aim of the fund is to create 300 sustainable facilities that represent value for money, are environmentally sustainable and provide positive activities for young people aged 11-18.
- 3.2. The YIF phase 2 sets out to transform and 'level up' the out-of-school youth sector by driving positive outcomes for young people, through improved mental/physical health and developing skills for life and work in priority areas.
- 3.3. The funding is allocated to ensure that help is provided in the areas that need them most. 674 wards across 45 higher tier authority areas were selected based on the following criteria:
  - Having isolated pockets of need/ lack of local authority provision
  - No. of Young People not in education, employments or training (NEETs)
  - Deprivation of local community.
- 3.4. Based on the metrics used, nine wards across West Sussex were identified, 4 of which were within Adur and Worthing. A breakdown is shown below:

|                               |            |             |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Southlands                    | Adur       | West Sussex |
| Eastbrook                     | Adur       | West Sussex |
| Mash Barn                     | Adur       | West Sussex |
| River                         | Arun       | West Sussex |
| Courtwick with<br>Toddington  | Arun       | West Sussex |
| Chichester East               | Chichester | West Sussex |
| Broadfield                    | Crawley    | West Sussex |
| Bewbush & North<br>Broadfield | Crawley    | West Sussex |
| Northbrook                    | Worthing   | West Sussex |

- 3.5. An allocation of £1.1m has been made available to facilitate projects across the county within the stipulated ward areas. The funders expected applications from either a lead applicant with partners from other authorities or from individual authorities.
- 3.6. It should be noted that this fund was competitive and its primary focus was on capital investment, specifically renovating existing or creating new environments for youth services (modular building construction). An element of revenue funding was permitted as part of the bid (5-1 Capital/ Revenue), to offset the cost of staffing/ running costs for the duration of the fund (to the end of 2024/25). Bids could only be considered where the land is owned (or there is permission to use) by the applicant. This is to ensure a sustained legacy from the investment.
- 3.7. In summary, the funds parameters and outcomes are as follows:
- £1.1m available in West Sussex for targeted youth interventions.
  - Seeking to deliver interventions that will help young people grow and better their physical and mental wellbeing.
  - Targeting 11-18 year olds for youth work out of school (3-10 pm). It is recognised that outside of this time, facilities could be utilised by the wider community.
  - Capital weighted fund (5:1 Capital:Revenue).
  - Areas identified as eligible (due to need) were Eastbrook, Mashbarn and Southlands in Adur and Northbrook in Worthing.

- Competitive application process that opened in August with a deadline of September 2023.

#### **4. Context**

- 4.1. The creation of this fund provides a real opportunity for the Council to develop their approach and social investment in young people. Through providing new or reimagined facilities, the fund will create a sustainable foundation to deliver vital provisions to 11-18 year old young people to assist with life skills development and improved mental and physical wellbeing. The fund enables the Council to start building its local neighbourhood model, providing a facility for partners and communities to collaborate around young people. The intention is that this facility will work with other local community buildings / assets to help build a 'Fishersgate Campus' approach, whereby this specific building becomes the youth offer for the area, and works alongside other offerings, e.g. the Gateway Hub (next door) has a focus on families). The fund will create a legacy for the community.
- 4.2. The funding opportunity for West Sussex is capped at £1.1m with a competitive application process live. The £1.1m will be used for all approved projects by Local Authorities and or Government Organisations in West Sussex. However, we are aware that it's likely there will be no submission from Crawley Borough Council or Chichester District Council and it is also likely that Arun District Council and local education settings will not be applying. As such there is an opportunity to apply for a larger share of pot on this occasion.
- 4.3. The fund also offers the opportunity to achieve the desired outcomes through a partnership/collaborative working. How this looks is largely down to the lead applicant to determine (through an agreement albeit high level or formal). However, the opportunity presents the potential to reduce the burden on Council resources and provide a quality service provided by qualified and or experienced groups and organisations.
- 4.4. Following an extensive desk and site based exercise, the nominated preferred location for the proposed project was Eastbrook Community Centre on Eastbrook Recreational Ground. The options appraisal can be found appending this report however with the available land, committed capital programme, available space and existing infrastructure, the site was a clear favourite to align with the funding model and criteria.
- 4.5. The application process was formed of two components. Initially an EOI was submitted to determine the outline of the proposed project and to ascertain whether

the project aligned with the funding criteria and guidance. On receiving successful feedback from the Relationship Manager (RM) at the agency acting on behalf of the funder (The Key Fund), ADC were invited to submit a full application for assessment. This was completed in January 2023 and is in the process of being assessed currently.

- 4.6. ADC's application has received positive feedback and passed the first stage (of two) in the assessment process. Notification of the final stage of assessment will be released in the coming week(s) and should be announced before Christmas 2023.
- 4.7. This paper is seeking approval to receive the YIF funding to deliver youth interventions at Eastbrook subject to the formal decision before the end of the year.

## **5. Delivering the project**

- 5.1. Subject to the funding being approved, the scheme is anticipated to begin in Spring 2024 following a procurement exercise to appoint a contractor to deliver the MMC design.
- 5.2. The project itself will see the delivery of two new modular buildings (situated behind the existing community centre) which will support the existing infrastructure and facilitate the delivery of targeted youth intervention. On completion the project will have activated previously 'dead space' and provide a range of activities and programmes for the local communities.
- 5.3. Preparation works are scheduled to be completed by Summer 2024 with the MMC scheduled to be installed by early Autumn. The new facility will then undergo facilitation to make sure the relevant services and utilities are operational. The project delivery and handover is anticipated to be October/November 2024 with the new build open thereafter.
- 5.4. The predetermined youth interventions will be active for a period of three years whereby the programme will be reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the local need.

## **6. Issues for consideration**

- 6.1. Failure to secure the authorisation to use the YIF funding for youth interventions at Eastbrook Community Centre, will have a significant impact on the success and viability of the centres operation (and a failure to yield the positive impact locally).

Central government and the ONS level of deprivation suggest the area is in critical need of youth provision and without funding this cannot be achieved.

- 6.2. The Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) will determine how the fund is to be spent and must be adhered to. The fund is a mixture of capital and revenue with the capital funding the new MMC buildings and revenue facilitating the 'fit out' and resources required to deliver the youth interventions (staff and equipment). The fund will also stipulate the requirement to ensure the interventions remain active for a period of three years from the date of the GFA.
- 6.3. If successful, the project will require ADC to recruit an officer to manage the facility and undertake the youth interventions/activities. This will be a fully funded position for the length of the project and allow resources used to operate the facility to be removed and resigned to alternative areas (revenue saving).

## **7. Engagement and Communication**

- 7.1. From the initial contact with the funder, internal officer support has been apparent which enabled the application to be worked up and submitted. CLT briefings have ensured all officers are aware of the progress and next steps.
- 7.2. Project working group, with key officers, has been established to ensure the project hits the ground running and offers a swift delivery.
- 7.3. Members have been made aware through regular briefing papers and will continue to be reported to through informal cabinet and papers.
- 7.4. Local youth groups and local businesses have been engaged with, to derive the type of activity needed to support the centre, community, area and project. We believe that by understanding what the need is locally the success of the project is more likely to be realised.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1. Adur District Council is likely to receive funding of £550,000 from the Youth Investment Fund which can be used to support the project set out above.
- 8.2. It is proposed to allocate the full fund £550,000 to facilitate the capital delivery of the new modular facilities, equipment and fit out, recruitment of a youth worker and delivery youth interventions.

- 8.3. Under the Council's financial regulations, any budget virement over £100,000 should be approved by the Joint Strategic Committee.

## **9. Legal Implications**

- 9.1. Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.
- 9.2. Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness
- 9.3. s1 Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 confers power on the local authority to enter into a contract for the provision of making available of assets or services for the purposes of, or in connection with, the discharge of the function by the local authority
- 9.4. The Grant Funding must be spent by the Council in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement and in a way that does not breach the funding terms and conditions or create any unlawful state aid to any commercial undertaking.

### **Background Papers**

[YIF - Briefing Note - August 2023](#)

[YIF - Revised Briefing Note](#)

[Youth Investment Fund Options Appraisal](#)

[YIF - Briefing Note - January 2023](#)

## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

- Direct positive impact with 1 FTE being employed to help deliver the project with wider indirect impact in the local communities and businesses through the project and aforementioned outcomes (youth qualifications, future employability).

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

- Improved knowledge and skills around employment, life skills and systems. Greater chance of employment and or better employment, improved local economy, infrastructure and connectivity.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

- The project is designed to deliver interventions for those aged 11-18, but the enhanced and increased facility WILL also cater to the wider community, including many user groups (disability, elderly, community groups) able to use the facility around the youth delivery.

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

- Providing interventions for young people in the community will create an opportunity to engage with activities, learning and development which is currently sadly lacking. This in turn has the potential to act as a driver to reduce the number of 'youth related crime' in and around Adur.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

- Matter considered and no issues identified.



### **3. Environmental**

- The project will see the former multi use games court reactivated to create an extended service provision to a facility already in demand. The capital programme will also enhance inclusivity and collaboration between the Councils, key partners and the local community. The project will also add much needed green space to the recreation ground which will aid the drive for reducing our carbon footprint. Depending on success, the project could be the commencement of the programme on a wider scale across Adur and Worthing.
- Environmentally friendly methods and products will also be used during any capital works within the facility and no harm will be done to the wider environments.

### **4. Governance**

- The project will be overseen by a Project Delivery Group consisting of Council Officers and will be subject to regular monitoring and reporting by the funding body. Eastbrook will also employ a managing group to align the project with the centre's operation with both being subject to evaluatory reports to JSSC annually.