



CABINET - 16TH JULY 2013

SUBJECT: BLACKWOOD YOUTH CENTRE

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the Blackwood Youth Centre development which was agreed by Cabinet on 10 May 2011.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The report links directly to the Education for Life, Sustainability, Regeneration and Equality Strategies.

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 Cabinet, at its meeting on 10th May 2011, approved the relocation of the former Blackwood Youth Centre which was demolished by fire in October 2009, to the Blackwood Comprehensive site.
- 3.2 The report contained an options appraisal, which resulted in the preferred choice of Blackwood Comprehensive given the many and diverse range of adult, youth and community facilities already on site. It was acknowledged the proposal would derive benefits for the youth service and school alike.
- 3.3 The insurance sum amounted to £761,438. Following demolition of previous building remains, slab/foundation demolition, professional fees and initial replacement of equipment and ICT, the residual sum amounted to £694,504. This figure wasn't confirmed until 2011/12 accounts were closed but closely resembles the £681,438 assumed when Cabinet agreed the report in 2011.
- 3.4 The figure of £681,438 assumed:-
- Tender works plus fees etc £500,000
 - MUGA £110,000
 - Contingency £71,438
- 3.5 There were additional works added to the tender, to include:-
- Roof upgrades, to adjoin to school hall
 - Mechanical ventilation, following change to sub divide room
 - Improved access/DDA arrangements
 - Extensions of time
- 3.6 The school did not wish to provide a fenced in MUGA as originally envisaged, but rather a resurfaced single basketball court area. This represents a significant saving on the project cost, circa 60k.

- 3.7 As at financial year-end there remains a sum of circa 130k left against this project. There is circa 30k required to complete the basketball court area and associated drainage works leaving a residual sum of circa 100k.
- 3.8 The school's preference was to utilise the residual 100k to provide an all weather surface for the entire area which would benefit the school, youth and community alike.
- 3.9 **CCBC Improvement Objectives**
The associated Improvement Objective is integral to the Directorate's planning processes in 2013/14 which states "develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people".
- 3.10 On this basis it is recommended to make the 100k available to initiatives in support of this objective across CCBC.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Blackwood Youth Centre development is being undertaken in accordance with relevant building regulations, which include physical access considerations in line with Disability and other equalities requirements, and directly links to the Council's Strategic Equalities Objective 3 - Physical Access and 4 - Communication Access.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 These have been outlined in the report. Resultant savings on the project, after a 30k further contribution to the basketball court, amount to 100k.
- 5.2 The school had a carry over balance amounting to £53,711 as at 31.3.2013.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 All comments received have been reflected in the report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Cabinet approval is sought to utilise the residual 100k to support Youth Service provision across the County Borough to help meet the Council's Improvement Objective as outlined in paragraphs 3.9 and 3.10.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To proceed with utilising the anticipated project underspend of 100k.

10. STATUTORY POWER

- 10.1 Local Government acts 1972 & 2003.
- 10.2 This is a Cabinet function.

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Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team
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Lynne Donovan, HR Service Manager, Customer Services
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Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Headteacher, Blackwood Comprehensive School
Councillor Pat Cook, Local Member
Councillor Nigel Dix, Local Member
Councillor Diana Ellis, Local Member