

**Decision Session – Cabinet Member for Health and
Community Engagement**

27 November 2014

Report of the Director of Communities and
Neighbourhoods

York Coronary Support Trust Petition

Summary

1. A report is being taken to Cabinet on 2 December regarding the future of Burton Stone Community Centre. A petition has been received from York Coronary Support Trust including 118 signatures, expressing concern regarding the proposed changes at Burton Stone Community Centre (BSCC).
2. The Cabinet Member is asked to note the petition received from York Coronary Support Trust and that Officers have taken this into account in the final drafting of the Cabinet report which seeks a sustainable solution to keeping BSCC open.
3. The Cabinet Member is asked, subject to Cabinet approval to the report on 2 December 2014, to confirm that at the earliest opportunity the Council will:
 - enter into discussions with the new operator and York Coronary Support Trust to determine whether their needs can still be appropriately met at BSCC, and if not
 - commit to secure a suitable alternative venue with options to be researched immediately

Background

4. BSCC, located in Clifton, is the responsibility of Community and Neighbourhoods (CANS). The strategic direction for the Council's community centres is that they should be self-funded by April 2015. BSCC has been reviewed over the last 18 months. The annual subsidy of £85k in 2013/14 had reduced to approximately £45k in 2014/15; however, the current model of operation remains unsustainable beyond 31 March 2015.
5. The Council has spoken to a wide range of local stakeholders to seek a sustainable solution for BSCC.

The process concluded that only one feasible solution is available, i.e. working with the Health & Wellbeing team (H&WB) to expand the current use of the centre, by providing a day activity programme for over 60 adults with a learning disability and/or autism, Monday - Friday 9:00 – 5:00, with continuation of use of BSCC for community use integrated around the services described above. This creates a vision for a 'Community Hub' for Clifton. A Cabinet paper is considering this proposal on 2 December 2014.

Consultation

6. A public engagement event was held on 22 September 2014 and was attended by over 80 residents and users who welcomed the opportunity to secure the future of the centre, recognising that if nothing was done, the centre was under threat of closure. Residents were asked about what other services and activities they would like to see in their local community hub. Feedback included: strong feeling about not losing any of the current programmed sessions, demand for new health and fitness activities, education classes, development of a community café and more information about what goes on in Clifton.
7. York Coronary Support Trust who hold four exercise support groups (circuit training) at various times throughout the week, were extremely concerned about their future, fearing that they would be displaced by the H&WB Specialist Activity Base. They have subsequently submitted a petition stating, *"We, the signatories to this petition, are greatly concerned that the City of York Council's proposed changes at Burton Stone Community Centre will not cater for our need to attend exercise classes (principally for heart patients) which help us to maintain a healthy lifestyle and which facility we are pressing the Council to help us to continue to provide."*
8. Council officers acknowledge the concerns and have made a written commitment to the group to ensure that the future operator will allow the group to remain at BSCC if at all possible; otherwise the Council commits to relocate the activity classes to a suitable alternative venue.

The Proposals

9. The Cabinet will be considering a detailed report on 2 December 2014 regarding the future of BSCC.

The report recommends investing in a proposal to develop a Specialist Activity Base for adults with a learning disability, whilst developing traditional community centre use alongside, in order to create an integrated 'Community Hub' for Clifton. The consultation and this petition, which has arisen from the consultation, has enabled officers to strengthen the case to retain the centre, maximising the use of BSCC with the primary use by adult social care and secondary use by general community bookings.

10. Subject to Cabinet agreement, an operator would be procured to manage the new arrangements. This would take 4-5 months. The new operator will be responsible for delivering both the Specialist Activity Base and the community centre programme as a single 'Community Hub' facility. This means it will be April / May 2015 before discussions can take place with York Coronary Support Trust and the operator about the suitability of the new arrangements for the Exercise Support Group classes.
11. Commitments have been made orally and in writing to York Coronary Support Trust, that their sessions will continue at the centre if suitable arrangements can be agreed between them and the new operator. If agreement is not possible the group have been assured that the Council will ensure a smooth transition to an alternative suitable venue.

Options

12. There are no options to consider as this paper is feeding into the 2 December Cabinet report.

Council Plan

13. The Council plan provides an overarching vision for the Council covering a four year period from 2011-2015 with five key priorities. One of our five priorities is 'Building Strong Communities' with the emphasis on helping communities to become more independent and involving them more in making decisions about the services they need. To help facilitate this, the Council wants to create an infrastructure that will encourage every community to come together through a network of hubs like the one being proposed here.

Implications

14. **Financial:** The Council's agreed budget requires the Council's community centres to be self-funded by April 2015.

The annual subsidy at BSCC of £85k in 2013/14 has reduced to approximately £45k in 2014/15; however, the current model of operation remains unsustainable beyond 31 March 2015.

15. There are no additional HR, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Property, IT or other implications arising from the report.
16. **Equalities:** A Community Impact Assessment will be included as part of the 2 December report to cabinet on the future of BSCC.

Risk Management

17. There are no risks to be considered in relation to this petition response.

Recommendations

18. The Cabinet Member is asked to note the petition received from York Coronary Support Trust and that Officers have taken this into account in the final drafting of the Cabinet report to seek a sustainable solution to keep BSCC open.
19. Subject to Cabinet approval on 2 December 2014, confirm that at the earliest opportunity the Council will:
 - enter into discussions with the new operator and York Coronary Support Trust to determine whether their needs can still be appropriately met at BSCC, and if not
 - commit to secure a suitable alternative venue with options to be researched immediately

Reason: To ensure continuity of these important services.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**



Date 18.11.14.

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected: *Clifton Ward*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: File of consultation material held by the author

Annexes: None