

## Young People's Working Group

10 July 2008

Report of the Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Interventions

### MYPLACE

#### Summary

1. This report provides information on the Government's recently announced initiative to provide capital investment to improve facilities for young people.

#### Background

2. *Aiming High for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities* set out the Government's vision for improving youth facilities in response to clear ongoing demand from young people, parents and communities for more and better places for young people to go.
3. Myplace will distribute £190m of Government capital investment over the next three years through grants of between £1m and £5m. It aims to deliver world-class youth facilities driven by the active participation of young people and their views and needs.
4. The strategy intends to improve the level of ambition across the country and to transform the way facilities for young people are planned and delivered – particularly in the role and influence of young people and the level of genuine cross-sector partnership working.
5. The Big Lottery Fund is administering myplace on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) with a deadline of 30 September for the first funding round.

#### Project criteria

6. Myplace will fund projects across the country that are designed to have significant local impact, with local partners working together to identify and develop a small number of high quality proposals.
7. Funding will only be approved for projects that meet the following outcomes:
  - more young people, parents and communities feeling that young people have attractive and safe places to go in their leisure time where they can get involved in a wide range of exciting activities;

- more young people, particularly the most disadvantaged, participating in positive leisure time activities that support their personal and social development;
- more young people having access to information, advice and support services from within places they feel comfortable; and
- stronger partnership working between local authorities and their third, private and public sector partners to plan, deliver and operate financially sustainable facilities with and for young people.

There is also a requirement to demonstrate evidence of the real participation of young people in the development design and future running of the project.

8. Investment will focus on new or improved places, open at times that suit young people, clearly affordable for all, with access to co-located support services and the widest possible range of high quality sports, arts, music, cultural or youth work based activities. The use of mobile facilities to reach out to surrounding areas can potentially be a feature of the provision.
9. There is an expectation that all bids will have the full endorsement of the local authority to demonstrate that the project responds to local needs and priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement.

## **Consultation**

10. Following an initial consultation meeting with representatives of third sector young people's groups, facilitated by York Council for Voluntary Services (CVS), there is a groundswell of support to proceed with an application in the first round of bids. The assistant director for partnerships and early intervention is leading the council's contribution and a staff member from the Young People's Services has been seconded to project manage the next stages, which include contacting potential partners, liaising with colleagues in the property and estate sections of the council, engaging young people to be involved in the project and facilitating a project steering group.
11. Consultation with a wide range of potential stakeholders is currently ongoing and will be maintained throughout every stage of the process, not only during the bidding process but also through the development phase should the bid be successful.

## **Options**

12. We believe that the ideal bid would be for capital funds to radically enhance a run-down city centre property, perhaps one already within the Council's estate, to provide a multi-functional building. Ideally it would include a medium sized performance area plus a good number of smaller rooms for other purposes, including advice and guidance. In their presentation to us, the fund providers referred to a successful venture in Norwich known as Open247, which is a converted bank, and which can be viewed at <http://www.open247.org.uk/>

Another example is the building within which they made the regional presentation, Brian Jackson House in Huddersfield - see <http://www.nccuk.org.uk/buildingdevelopment.html> for some pictures.

13. Officers are currently looking at a number of possibilities including the Railway Institute, Melbourne Terrace Chapel Hall, De Grey Rooms, Galmanhoe Lane, Bayhorse Inn on Marygate, Parkside on Terry Avenue and vacant properties on the former carriage works site.
14. It is expected that a number of locations have yet to be identified and following a detailed feasibility study a preferred site will be chosen. Consultation on the design and future management of the project will need to be agreed with all parties and ongoing revenue commitments will need to be assured.

### **Corporate Priorities**

15. All priorities concerning young people are met by this proposal and the recommendation by the former Youth Scrutiny Panel to enhance facilities for young people's activities in the city will also be realised.

### **Implications**

16.
  - **Financial** – There will be substantial financial implications for the partnership, which have to be explored fully.
  - **Human Resources (HR)** – There are no HR implications at this stage.
  - **Equalities** – Equality issues will be fully considered at every stage.
  - **Legal** – Issues concerning planning consent, procurement, and ownership may be identified as the project develops.
  - **Crime and Disorder** – There are currently no perceived implications.
  - **Information Technology (IT)** – No implications at this stage.
  - **Property** – The head of property services is involved in the project.

### **Risk Management**

17. Any likely risk or liability to the council will be fully scrutinised and will be included in subsequent reports to members.

### **Recommendations**

18. Members are asked to
  - 1) Give support to the proposal to make a bid to the myspace fund and recommend that the Executive supports the proposal.

Reason: to enhance the facilities for young people's activities in the city.

- 2) Suggest other options for situating the project and possible activities that might be included.

Reason: to ensure that all possible options have been considered taking into account members' local knowledge.

## Contact Details

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**Report Approved**  **Date** 26/06/08

Chief Officer's name  
Title

**Report Approved**  **Date** Insert Date

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** List information for all

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## Background Papers:

Full details of the bidding process and background information can be viewed at:  
[http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_myplace.htm](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_myplace.htm)

**Annexes - none**