

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 14th October 2014
Report of: Steph Cordon, Head of Communities
Subject/Title: Hurdsfield Community Hub (Ref CE 14/15-25)
Portfolio Holder: Cllrs David Brown- Strategic Outcomes and Les Gilbert – Localism and Enforcement

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1. At its meeting on 1 April 2014 Cabinet approved a proposal “Outcomes of Creating Stronger Communities Review and How We Make It Happen. Through our strong focus on residents first it is our firm belief that our communities are the key stakeholders in shaping and developing Cheshire East and the services that the Council deliver.
- 1.2. One element of that April proposal was the creation of 5 pilot ‘Community Hubs’ including one at Hurdsfield in Macclesfield. The capital programme for 2014/15 includes an item ‘Redevelopment of Hurdsfield Family Facilities’ with a value of £995,000. This was intended to provide for the rebuilding of the existing family centre due to its extremely poor condition.
- 1.3. This paper seeks confirmation that it is appropriate to utilise that capital allocation to deliver not just a new family centre but one that is flexibly designed so that it will also function as the community hub for that area thus contributing to the Stronger Communities approach.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet
 - 2.1.1 note the work done to date on this project;
 - 2.1.2 agree that it is appropriate to utilise the original capital allocation of £995,000 to redevelop Hurdsfield as both a family centre and a community hub (within the physical restrictions of the site); and
 - 2.1.3 authorise the Head of Communities and the Principal Manager- Early Help to proceed with the commissioning of the necessary capital works subject to a robust detailed business case being endorsed by TEG and EMB.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The capital programme which includes the element of £995,000 was agreed prior to the submission of the Stronger Communities paper. This proposal aims to expand the original intent to fulfil the dual purposes of a family centre and a community hub.
- 3.2 the proposal delivers against our overarching objective of “To develop Community Hubs across Cheshire East which provide services where local people will use them, so that services are delivered in the way which gives the best value for local people by March 2017”.
- 3.3 The objective of this project is to “develop new multi-generational facilities serving the Hurdsfield community which are flexible enough to further the goals of the community hub programme”.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Macclesfield Hurdsfield

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Cllr Stephen Carter

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The ambition to create thriving and strong communities is at the heart of achieving the Council’s five key outcomes.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The capital funding of £995,000 is already identified in the capital programme for 2014/15. The provision of a modern structure compliant with current standards in respect of insulation and other elements is expected to result in a reduction in the revenue cost of running the building. This together with any other impact on the revenue budget are reflected in the existing MTFS proposals.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no unusual legal implications anticipated. The normal issues associated with any building project (planning permission, utility contracts etc) will of course prevail and a member of the Legal Service team serves on the project team responsible for delivering the work in order to advise on these.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 The project implementation will be managed through the Council’s TEG and EMB project management processes. A detailed business case will be

developed in due course and this will include the identification and mitigation of risks.

- 9.2 The new approach to Localism and Creating Stronger Communities strongly contributes to the Council 3 year plan outcomes. There is a risk that these outcomes would not be fully achieved without adopting this approach.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The Creating Stronger Communities Review was agreed as a major change programme (7.6), in the Council's 3 Year Plan. It has been successfully led by both the respective Cabinet Members – Strategic Communities and Communities and Regulatory Services with key support from the Communities Policy Development Group and significant engagement has taken place recently with partners and communities to ensure that this is an approach that they can sign up to.
- 10.2 The Review started in July 2013, and a Project Team developed the new approach working with Cabinet Members, Communities Policy Development Group and the LAP Champions. The outcomes are also a result of a number of sessions held with both Informal Cabinet and Corporate Leaderships Board, and the High Level Business Case has been endorsed by TEG, and EMB (18th March 2014).
- 10.3 The five key areas of the Stronger Communities approach are listed below:
- i **Community Engagement** - to enhance the Community Engagement Team and develop a Community Engagement Strategy which secures commitment from CEC and partners to a new way of working with our communities, in order to further develop strong, supportive and cohesive local communities
 - ii **Community Partnerships** - to promote Community Partnerships and where communities are interested, support them to establish new partnerships in order to further develop communities with a strong sense of neighbourliness.
 - iii **Community Hubs** - to develop Community Hubs across Cheshire East which provide services where local people will use them, so that services are delivered in the way which gives the best value for local people.
 - iv **Community Leadership** - to support Members in their front line role, to consult on the detail of the Local Plan to ensure it is meaningful to their local community, in order to work towards achieving a sustainable Cheshire East.
 - v **Partnership Governance** - to establish strategic partnerships across Cheshire East to enable joint commissioning and improved integration of local services, in order to support the delivery of effective and efficient partnership working and be a leading Council.

- 10.4 The Community Engagement Team has begun a wide reaching programme of engagement with community stakeholders (including residents and partner organisations) as part of our Residents First approach. This aims to create stakeholder working groups in each locality that will develop and capture the differing aspirations and needs of each community thus informing our future plans. A Hurdsfield Project Board has been formed and meets on a monthly basis with a Project Delivery Team meeting fortnightly.
- 10.5 The Delivery Team is now working to develop a detailed business case for endorsement by TEG/EMB. A key precursor to this is a comprehensive options appraisal looking at the potential for developing the Hurdsfield site. Input from relevant services, partner organisations and the community will inform this appraisal in respect of their needs. The appraisal will be conducted by independent design and build consultants. It is anticipated that a new building would be operational by Sept 2016 (subject to site survey and planning permission).

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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