



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Children & Education (DCS)
DATE:	09 February 2024

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Children's and Education

WARD/S AFFECTED: Wensley Fold

SUBJECT: Youth Investment Fund (YIF Renovation Grant Wensley Fold CC

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched 2 x capital and revenue schemes over the last 24 months - one main grant award for significant new builds/renovations that would need full planning permission and Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) management and a subsequent programme aimed at smaller schemes where planning permission is not required. BwDBC have been successful in the main grant achieving over £4.5 million to renovate Darwen Youth Centre and Audley and Queen's Park Children's Centre. We have also been successful in the smaller scheme to renovate under used areas in Wensley Fold Children's Centre to create dedicated youth spaces for open access as well as targeted and specialist services.

Young People's Services (YPS) will deliver targeted/specialist provision from existing budgets with new universal youth work, via local partners – delivered via the new Youth Commission partner in the Blackburn West Area. A small revenue allocation will also support for 1 year only.

As well as delivering new youth engagement activities in bespoke venues, the development also compliments the Start for Life offer which aims to bring services for families together in one neighbourhood and building – adding significant new value to our Family Hub and Children Centre network.

The work programme will finish in May 2024 and the work has been designed to cause minimum disruption to current centre activities and have communicated plans to all centre partners.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

Note the receipt of the grant funding allocations as shown the report and, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, that the appropriate adjustments are made to the Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme;

gives approval to the programme of works and the spending of grant on capital renovations and post completion on youth service delivery as set out in the report.

3. BACKGROUND

The Government has launched a range of funding opportunities for the youth sector via the DCMS. The programmes have ranged from funds to purchase equipment, to developing new programmes of work and building new and/or refurbished buildings that can attract Children and Young People. BwD has been successful in both the main grant (£4.5 million) for Darwen Youth Centre and Audley and Queen's Park Children's Centre and has now received funding of £142k for the renovation of Wensley Fold Children's Centre. Wensley Fold was identified as an area of development in our main grant application, but capacity of that fund wouldn't stretch far enough and so our YIF strategy has now largely met all original aims with 3 new BwD led developments and a further 2 new developments with key local partners (Blackburn Youth Zone and Newground Together)

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Capital budget allocation not achieving full Wensley Fold redevelopment plan. The Council's Growth Team is managing the budget and have built in contingency and are confident the available budget will achieve all stated aims.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Supports the statutory duty in s507b of the Education Act 1996 to deliver an appropriate, needs led youth offer. Wensley Fold has been identified as an area of need with no local venues for the delivery of quality youth work activities and support.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Capital Grant totals £129,600
Revenue Grant totals £12,400

Sustainability of YIF projects is a key requirement of the funding with only 1 year of revenue support. Youth Work will be funded in the centre by centralising targeted support work from legacy centres to the renovated site and universal programmes of activity will be funded via Youth Commissions – which include a match funding requirement from local partners.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Capital build works will be covered via insurance and led by the BwD Growth Team. The works will be procured in accordance in with the Council's Contract & Procurement Procedure Rules
The Centre remains a BwDBC asset. Existing formal tenants of the building have the right to quiet enjoyment in accordance with their leases. More substantial grant funded projects have required detailed due diligence information and have had legal charges imposed upon them and it is presumed these will not be required for this particular lower level grant funding.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital build renovation will be led by the Growth Team with renovations led by the Corporate Building Team with some aspects managed by existing commission agreements. Revenue managed by Young People's Services and backed by comprehensive commissioning and reporting requirements

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

Young people were consulted before application and their voices will continue to shape provision from the centre

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Jon McCaughey
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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