

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 9 March 2021

TITLE	Youth Zone – progress to Outline Business Case and funding.		
Ward(s)	All Wards		
Author: Gail Rogers	Job title: Head of Commissioning – Children		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Helen Godwin	Executive Director lead: Jacqui Jensen		
Proposal origin: <i>BCC Staff</i>			
Decision maker: Mayor Decision forum: <i>Cabinet</i>			
Purpose of Report: To seek approval for progression of the Youth Zones project to outline business case stage and a grant funding application to Youth Investment Fund. The report also provides an outline of the next steps following the outcome of the business case and consultation which will come back to Cabinet for further decision.			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Zones are a successful youth centre model run nationally through a partnership with the Local Authority and Onside – there are currently fourteen around the country. The operating and funding model is collaborative, establishing a unique charitable organisation with public sector, commercial and philanthropic expertise alongside Trustees with professional youth expertise. Young people help to govern, design, develop and run the centres and the sustainability is achieved through a tested model which sees the Local Authority contribute 50% of capital costs and 30% of revenue costs. 2. The project will develop a world class facility for the children and young people of Bristol. The Youth Zone is to be located in the South of the City where investment is required to deliver greater equality of opportunity and to reduce the impact of harm through deprivation faced by families in that area. 3. Young people face significant challenges in the years to come as they inherit the impact of Covid19 and as they navigate a post-Brexit work market. Our intention through this project is to inspire, raise hope and aspiration, support, educate and train young people so that their futures meet our aspirations for them as equal citizens in Bristol. 4. The Youth Zone is a key element of the review of Youth Services across Bristol which will be co-constructed with young people and the youth sector and which will be shaped through the strategic intent of the Belonging Strategy. 5. A suitable site is to be identified in the South of the City which must be prominent, have good access and be relatively neutral in terms of neighbourhood. 6. The Youth Investment Fund (YIF) is government and National Lottery funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the National Lottery Community Fund. The fund is to provide high quality open access youth provision in areas identified as disadvantaged to level up opportunities. 30M is committed by the government as capital investment, and if successful, will offset the 4.2M BCC capital requirement for the new build. 7. YIF funding will become available in March (latest understanding) with turnaround of bid for April. As capital funding, it will not be utilised by BCC without the business case being approved for the whole, but our application for this funding will be greatly supported where we have taken a mandate to Council which has 			

approval to bid and to progress to business case, and also where we have the capital funding approved evidencing clear plans and intent.

8. A business case will be returned to Cabinet to approve the final details of the project, including the terms of the disposal of Council land, the development agreement, the lease, and the operational agreement(s) including any grant agreement(s) and/or contract(s) for services;
9. A business case will be brought back to Cabinet for further decision around investment in the Youth Zone with detail of costs and benefits including the outcome of consultation.
10. Additional information in Appendix A is provided in relation to the Onside operating model.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve progression of the Youth Zones Project to Outline Business Case.
2. Approve the application for grant funding from the Youth Investment Fund which, if successful, will reduce the LA reliance on Covid Recovery Capital Funding for this project.
3. Note the proposal for Onside to attract £4.2m of funding to match fund the BCC contribution towards a Youth Zone with a total build cost of £8.4m
4. Note the proposal that ongoing revenue funding of £400k per year (30% of operating costs) will be sourced through the re-commissioning of youth services and that these plans will also be submitted to Cabinet for decision.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. This aligns to the following corporate themes; Empowering and Caring, Fair and Inclusive, Well Connected and Wellbeing.

City Benefits:

The provision of a Youth Zone would contribute to the aims of the One City Plan, helping to create connected and inclusive communities.

1. The first Youth Zone will be in South Bristol serving some of our most deprived communities and contributing to economic regeneration in the area.
2. The development of Youth Zones would help to achieve a number of key local and national indicators relating to children and young people, focused around education, employability, crime, health and well-being. The development will have a significant impact upon the following national and local Government policy areas where there is disproportionate adverse impact for BAME children and young people:
 - Exploitation and serious youth violence,
 - Youth Employment and,
 - EET (Education Employment and Training) opportunities.
3. There is potential for the youth zones to be designed to support delivery of citywide children's and education services.
4. The Youth Zones can make a significant difference to the overall wellbeing and life chances of the young people participating in activities at the Centre or being reached through the centre. An independent study published in May 2015 <http://www.socialvalueuk.org/app/uploads/2016/03/OnSide-Defining-the-Impact-of-a-Youth-Zone-Final-with-exec-summary-M....pdf> shows that they:
 - provide a safe environment with access to sports, arts and music activities where young people can develop personal and social skills
 - raise aspirations, build confidence and resilience and provide information that will assist them in making good lifestyle choices – particularly avoiding substance misuse and crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - improve young people's physical and emotional health and wellbeing;
 - assist young people at risk of dropping out of learning to engage in activities that will enable them to reach their full potential;

- have the capacity to make a significant impact in their local communities, through improved community cohesion, a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour, improved perceptions of the area; and
- provide a real 'community' asset, which promotes and facilitates close partnership working.

Youth Zones can make a real contribution to reducing the demand for a range of public services as well as significantly improving the life chances of those young people engaged through the offer. The study concludes that these benefits in turn will lead to significant cost savings in the future for local authorities and other public agencies in the areas served by each Youth Zone.

Consultation Details: Consultation and co-construction relating to the Youth Zone is central to the work within the full business case and will form part of the structure for the Outline Business Case. Consultation to date has been to seek initial Member approval through the Future of Youth Services paper September 2020 and through a number of youth sector meetings and a strategic consultation for the Belonging in the Community Strategy which sought views from young people about how Bristol could help them to feel like connected and valued citizens.

Background Documents:

The Future of Youth Services – September 2020

Revenue Cost	£ 400,000 p/y	Source of Revenue Funding	Youth Work Delivery Funds
Capital Cost	£ 8.4m	Source of Capital Funding	<i>Capital programme and bid to Youth Investment Fund.</i>
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice

This report seeks approval to move to outline business case for a Bristol Youth Zone.

It is estimated that the cost of the build for this project will be £8.4m and that Bristol City Council's contribution to that would be £4.2m, match funded by a £4.2m contribution from Onside. £4m has been included in the council's capital budget and £200k remains to be identified.

The report seeks approval to bid for grant funding from the Youth Investment Fund (YIF) to fund a Council contribution to this scheme, potentially to cover the £4.2m which would be the cost of the Council's capital contribution. Whilst it is understood that Onside has flagged Bristol as a spade ready project to government and the bid may be considered as a preferential one, there is no guarantee that Bristol will be allocated YIF funding. Equally, there is a risk that that Onside may not be able to raise the required capital funds and the project would not then proceed.

Sites are still under consideration and the cost of the site and any funding implications include land values, disposal or lease options will need to form part of the outline business case proposal.

For other similar models the annual running costs are approximately c£1.1 million. The revenue costs on these models are met by investment from the private sector, the local authority and other income including membership fees and grants. BCC would be responsible for a 30% contribution and £400k is potentially being sought as the BCC annual revenue contribution to the running costs, to be funded from within existing revenue funds subject to a review of youth services. The balance of running costs would need to be found by Onside.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt, Finance Business Partner 23/02/2021

2. Legal Advice:

Procurement

The Council is proposing to provide grant funding to OnSide to build the Youth Zone in South Bristol, once a suitable site has been identified and planning permission obtained. The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 do not apply to grants and so no procurement process is required. Legal support should be sought to ensure that the grant terms are sufficiently robust.

The Council is proposing to provide funding of c£400k p.a. for three years following the opening of the Youth Zone. If it decides to commission services to be delivered at the Youth Zone it should ensure compliance with the 2015 Regulations. Alternatively, if it decides to provide grant funding towards those services it must ensure that the grant terms are sufficiently robust.

Public Sector Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality duty requires Cabinet to consider the need to promote equality for persons with “protected characteristics” and to have due regard to the need to i) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; ii) advance equality of opportunity; and iii) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. The Equalities Impact Checks are designed to help assess whether there are any barriers in place that may prevent people with a protected characteristic using a service or benefiting from a policy. The decision maker must take into consideration the information in the assessments when reaching its decision.

Consultation

The consultation must take place when the proposal is still at a formative stage with adequate time given for consideration and response and include sufficient information to allow for informed consideration. The outcomes of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account.

Legal Team Leader: Eric Andrews, Commercial and Governance Team Leader [20] January 2021

3. Implications on IT: No anticipated outcomes on IT at this time.

IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver 18/01/2021

4. HR Advice: The report does not currently have any direct HR implications for Bristol City Council employees.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing 13/01/2021

EDM Sign-off	Jacqui Jensen	13 January 2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	ClIr Helen Godwin	18 January 2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	1 March 2021

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal <i>Introduction to Onside</i> <i>The Future of Youth Services September 2019</i>	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO

Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO