

Full Council

Date:	Tuesday 28th April 2020
Title:	Thame Youth Group Partnership Agreement
Contact Officer:	Jayne Cole, Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report: To agree the terms of the agreement

Background

Thame Youth Group are progressing plans to provide a dedicated Youth Hub at Southern Road Recreation Ground. The plans include new sports changing facilities, public toilet and a refreshment kiosk. It is envisaged that the project may take eighteen months to complete.

Partnership Terms (to consider)

- It is intended that the building will be owned and maintained by Thame Town Council.
- Thame Youth Group will be responsible for the Hub under a lease and will pay a peppercorn rent (with a 5 year review).
- Thame Town Council will run the kiosk, toilets and changing facilities.
- Thame Town Council will apply for planning consent.
- Thame Town Council commission works including consultants and build the hub.
- Thame Town Council will set aside an initial contribution of £10,000 to assist Thame Youth Group to kick start the project (which Thame Town Council will hold and use as an when appropriate to cover costs and fees) and may consider further contributions in the future.

Benefits

- The Hub will provide a safe facility for the young people in Thame. It is anticipated that it will house a café, IT suite, music room, entertainment, hall and area for relaxation. The new facility would also help reduce anti- social behavior which would be supported of the Neighbourhood Police.
- The Hub will also be a community facility that could be hired out to support the Youth Group.
- The new changing rooms will attract further interest in using the Football Pitch and provide the Town Council with revenue.
- The Kiosk will be a welcome addition for those using the park, facilities and the Cuttlebrook Nature Reserve and provide the Council with revenue to help support maintenance of the area and buildings.
- Public toilets will benefit the community and anyone using Southern Road Recreation Ground and Cuttlebrook Nature Reserve.

Risk Assessment

Potential risks:

- We are ascertaining the status of the land
- Contacting Sport England to find out if any restrictions are in place regarding the Football Pitch and changing rooms.
- We need to have a conversation with Planning Officers
- We have requested an up to date s106 figure from SODC (including the Persimmons contributions)
- We need to get a more accurate ballpark figure on the overall cost of the project which will may exceed £1,000,000.
- We are looking into funding options which may include Reaching Communities lottery funding which has recently increased its threshold to £1,000,000.
- We will undertake a feasibility study and risk asses each part of the project
- We will be drawing on Town Council Officers to assist the project on the proviso that each has the capacity to accommodate it within their workloads. Town Council Officers will work with the Thame Youth Group Steering Group to help bring the project to fruition.

Legal Powers:

Localism Act 2011 s1 (General Power of Competence)

Recommendation

- i) To agree and consider the terms of a Partnership Agreement between Thame Town Council and Thame Youth Group.**