

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 12 May 2014

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Fareham Park Project Six Monthly Report
Report of:	Director of Community
Strategy/Policy:	
Corporate Objective:	Maintain and extend prosperity; Strong and inclusive communities; Leisure opportunities for health and for fun.

Purpose:

This report seeks to update the Executive on the progress of the Fareham Park initiative over the last six months and to briefly outline future activities planned for the area.

Executive summary:

As an important corporate priority, the Fareham Park Project meets a number of the Council's corporate objectives. This report reviews the progress of the Fareham Park Project; an Officer and Member Steering Group which is tasked with identifying solutions and taking a co-ordinated approach to tackling the multiple issues associated with deprivation and poverty in the Fareham Park area of the Borough.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

That the Executive:

- a) approves the matched funding of £5,000 from the Fareham Park Development budget, towards the 'Clued Up 2 Go' initiative;
- b) notes the progress of the Fareham Park Project;
- c) supports the new priority selected by the Steering Group; and
- d) receives an annual update on the progress of the project, with the next report being April 2015.

Reason:

To provide elected members, partners and the wider community with information on the progress and developments within this important priority area. This work continues to find solutions to tackle the effects of poverty and deprivation. As far as possible, it is hoped that this can be undertaken in partnership with local agencies and the local residents, for the benefit of the local community.

Cost of proposals:

A budget of £20,000 has already been approved by the Council to fund initiatives in the Fareham Park area. It is recognised that this can be used in association with other funding streams to help improve opportunities in the area. As such, £5,000 has been used to match fund the award granted from Hampshire County Council.

Appendices:

Background papers: Report to the Executive – 7 October 2013 'Fareham Park Project'
Report to the Executive for Decision, 7 January 2013, 'Fareham Park Project – A Corporate Priority'

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 12 May 2014

Subject: Fareham Park Project Six Monthly Report

Briefing by: Director of Community

Portfolio: Leisure and Community

INTRODUCTION

1. Fareham Park continues to be recognised as one of the most deprived areas in the Borough. This is evidenced by both national and local deprivation indices. In 2010, the Council adopted the project as a Corporate Priority with the aim of working in partnership with the local community and other agencies to reduce deprivation and poverty in the area, in a strategic and coordinated manner in order to improve outcomes.
2. This report provides an interim update on the progress of the Fareham Park Project and the work of the Steering Group. It also details the development of a new initiative aimed at improving opportunities for local young people. This has been assisted with funds secured from Hampshire County Council's Health and Well-Being Fund.

PROGRESS

3. **Fareham Park Steering Group:** The Steering Group is meeting regularly to review and direct future development in the neighbourhood. The membership of the Group has been widened (as and when additional input from other agencies is needed) however a core group are actively involved in the strategic direction. The partnership has helped with mapping the existing opportunities and services working in the area, but more importantly, the group has helped identify gaps and priorities which affect the ability of those living in the area, to improve access to opportunities and influence their ability to gain financial independence.
4. **Neighbourhood Data Collection:** Following the resignation of the post-holder, the role of Project Officer is being covered temporarily with a secondment from elsewhere within the Council. This opportunity has proved very successful in continuing with the momentum made in the local community. The post-holder has also worked hard to identify and track new forms of data so that an accurate neighbourhood profile can be collated. This is also being used to guide and influence the work of the Partnership and enhance our knowledge of the issues in the area.

5. **Emerging Priorities:** initial activity was centred around young people in the 12 –18 year old age group, however, further discussion about how best to tackle the issue of promoting a person’s financial independence and how to positively reduce the overall percentage of benefit reliance, has resulted in a re-evaluation of this age focus.
6. Consequently, the FPSG has re-focussed priority towards young people between the ages of 15 – 25. Initial research is being focussed to review the assistance that is offered to young people in the last few years at school and support is offered with their onward journey to education or employment to ensure that a sound source of financial independence is, where possible, secured and embedded.
7. **Our Place Funding:** In the last four months the government has announced an extension of ‘Our Place’ funding. This is a funding stream designed to give people more power over their local services and to ability to potentially ‘re-wire’ budgets in a neighbourhood, or align them with the needs of a local community, to enable them to be used more effectively. The Community Development Manager (CDM) has registered an interest in joining the programme and has since applied for a grant of approximately £13,000 for a pilot project aimed at improving support and guidance for young people in Fareham Park and helping them secure greater opportunities after leaving school. If successful, a further award of £7,500 may be available.
8. **Public Health and Well Being funding:** In October 2013, Hampshire County Council announced Public Health Funding of £0.5m for local communities. The CDM submitted a bid on behalf of the FPSG for project called Clued Up 2 Go.
9. This initiative aims to improve the engagement of young people with health related issues in Fareham Park, with an initial focus on the provision of sexual health, counselling and signposting to drug & alcohol services, key focus age is 12–18 years olds. This will be achieved through three proposed strands:

i. Clued Up 2 Health

To provide an accessible point for young people’s health and wellbeing services in Fareham Park and strengthen the information and advice available to all age groups regarding sexual health and helping them to make healthier choices.

ii. Clued Up 2 Access

To provide access to positive activities and role models whilst providing worthwhile and interesting things for young people to take part in (diversionary activities) which are local, affordable (preferably free) and age-appropriate.

iii. Clued Up 2 Challenge

To challenge and address domestic abuse in Fareham Park; this element focused upon young people who are both victims and perpetrators of abuse and encourage the wider community to work towards a ‘*zero tolerance approach*’ to domestic violence.

10. A grant of £32,955 has been awarded for ‘Clued up 2 Go’ and Officers are currently working through plans for implementing the projects which are being

developed in connection with this initiative.

11. **Fareham North West Community Association (FNWCA):** As a consequence of the new projects that are being funded by the 'Clued Up 2 Go' grant, usage of the Community Centre is expected to increase substantially. As a result the Project Officer has been working closely with FNWCA to review the current range of equipment and facilities available at the centre, with a view to updating and upgrading some of the furniture and fittings to accommodate the needs new user groups. With support, the Association will be submitting a CATS Grant to contribute towards funding these improvements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. A revenue budget of £20,000 has been set aside to assist community based projects in the Fareham Park area. As reflected in this report, it is also hoped that other funding will be identified to support relevant activities and up and coming themes.
13. On the recommendation of the FPSG, approval is sought from the Executive to award £5,000 from the Fareham Park budget as matched funding to support the £32,955 recently awarded to the project from the Health and Well-Being Fund. This will provide a total budget of £37,955 for the project.
14. The Project Officer post, which was initially recruited to in April 2013, is separately funded and a commitment has been made to maintaining funds for this post on a fixed term contract for three years.
15. Although the post is currently being covered by a secondment from within the Council, the recent decision to integrate the Council's Community Safety Team in to the Department of Community may create additional opportunities in Fareham Park. It is recognised that there may be the potential to work more closely with some elements of community safety and Supported Families by sharing information; and linking individuals to the positive developments occurring in the neighbourhood that they can take part in.

CONCLUSION

16. This report provides an update on the progress of the Fareham Park Partnership and work in the Fareham Park area to tackle issues associated with poverty, deprivation and benefit reliance. Members are asked to note positive progress made so far and support the commitment undertaken by the Steering Group to direct the strategic focus of the Partnership over the next twelve months.