

## REPORT TO CABINET

Title: **MARLOW ROAD YOUTH SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Date: 28 May 2009

Member Reporting: Councillor Mrs Quick

Contact Officer(s): Cliff Turner, Strategic Director of Children's Services (01628-796367)

Wards Affected: Belmont

### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Cabinet is asked to consider and approve a number of amendments to the existing Castle Hill Youth and Community Management Committee.
- 1.2 The proposed amendments cover a **name change** from Castle Hill Youth and Community Management Committee to 4 Marlow Road Youth Service Management Committee, including changes to delegated powers of the management committee, in the light of responsibility for the management of the building at 4 Marlow Road falling to leisure services and away from the youth service.
- 1.3 The new proposed Management Committee constitution is attached (Appendix One), and is designed to enable young people to take a more active part in the governance of the youth centre.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION: That:

- a) **The name of Castle Hill Youth and Community Management Committee ceases to exist and that all investments, assets and finances held in the name of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Castle Hill Youth and Community Management be transferred to the new youth provision at 4 Marlow Road.**
- b) **The draft management committee constitution be approved (Appendix 1).**

What will be different for residents as a result of this decision?

Young people should see a less bureaucratic management arrangement with clearer focus on what is important to them. The committee will have the burden of managing buildings removed and be more able to support the objectives of the council's youth service.

### **3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **Background**

- 3.1 The existing community and youth service management committee structure was approved by the Council's Leisure and Culture Board in February 1998.
- 3.2 The current constitution was established following a youth service review undertaken by Berkshire County Council that took place in 1991/2. The model that was agreed mirrored the devolution of cost centre management to governing bodies of schools. At that time, alongside a new constitution, there was a service level agreement outlining what services needed to be provided to continue receiving the support of the council. Initially, approximately 11% of the overall income generated was to be returned by individual management committees into the central funds. Whilst devolution to governing bodies and schools is statutory and places accountability on governing bodies, this is not the case with youth and community centre management committees; the responsibility still lies with the council.
- 3.3 The constitution as it stands provides delegated responsibility to Castle Hill Youth and Community Centre Management Committee to use the building to set charges independent of the council's charging policy; raise income through lettings and outside of the agreement to provide youth provision; develop local community provision. The constitution allows committees, as independent bodies to the council, to raise income through grants etc that would not be available to statutory bodies.

#### **Historical situation with regard to Castle Hill Youth and Community Centre Management Committee**

- 3.4 Castle Hill Youth and Community Centre, when fully operational, was an extremely valuable community resource. Locally raised funds that were controlled by the Castle Hill Youth and Community Management Committee provided sufficient income for both full-time professional/specialist youth work staff as well as all of the part-time youth work staff that were employed at the centre. This enabled local authority funding to be deployed in areas less able to raise funds. The centre had a fully functional youth theatre, gymnasium and an art and craft facility, and funded the Outdoor Education canoeing project, offering a very wide range of facilities for young people who live locally and within greater Maidenhead.
- 3.5 Latterly, the demise of the premises reduced the opportunities to raise the same level of funding previously enjoyed. Currently the income provides only for part-time youth work staff, which subsequently reduced the capacity to deliver youth work to the previous level.

#### **Decommissioning of Castle Hill Centre**

- 3.6 Castle Hill centre ceased to be used as a youth centre and the new provision was transferred to 4 Marlow Road.

#### **Current situation at 4 Marlow Road**

- 3.7 The youth centre was officially opened on 24 October and youth work is beginning to be established at 4 Marlow Road in an area with dedicated and shared space.

## **Establishing a new youth service management committee**

- 3.8 The council is committed to retaining youth and community committees, which provide local scrutiny and support that is arm's length to the council.
- 3.9 The change of building management arrangements from Community and Youth Service to Leisure Services renders the current constitution unviable. The creation of a new fit-for-purpose managing body that will guide and oversee the youth provision at 4 Marlow Road, act within the council's youth service policies, represent the needs of young people at the 4 Marlow Road User Group meetings and champions and supports youth provision that is taking place in a building which has much greater community and public use.

### **Overall purpose**

- 3.10 To support the council in providing accessible local youth provision and supporting the youth work staff in their efforts to provide the youth provision that they are duty bound to provide.

### **Objectives**

- 3.11 To support the youth service staff in their efforts to provide programmes of activities and events for young people for whom the council has a duty to provide social education services.
- 3.12 To encourage young people to join and ultimately take a leading role in running the committee.
- 3.13 To assess the feasibility and practicality of specific activities put forward by the youth service team or the youth club.
- 3.14 To be consulted annually on the review of the current local youth service plan, and the development of future plans.
- 3.15 To act as the external fundraising body that supports, develops and sustains youth provision at 4 Marlow Road.
- 3.16 To work alongside the 4 Marlow Road Management Group to ensure the smooth running of the centre.
- 3.17 To ensure a representative of the 4 Marlow Road Youth Service Management Committee attends meetings of the 4 Marlow Road User Forum.

## **4. OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

### **4.1 Options**

	<b>Option</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Financial Implications</b>
1.	To agree the recommendations set out in Paragraph 2 of this report	The proposed recommendations seek to replace the current unviable constitution with	Revenue: The new constitution enables the committee to raise income to support the

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
	<b>Recommended option</b>	a fit for purpose constitution that changes the delegations in the light of the changed management arrangements at 4 Marlow Road	delivery of youth work. This opportunity would be lost if constitution not approved.  Capital:
2.	To not agree the recommendations set out in Paragraph 2 of the report  Not recommended	The current management committee constitution is not operational owing to changed management arrangements outlined in the report.	Revenue: Income potential - none  Capital:

## 4.2 Risk assessment

- 4.2.1 By not implementing the proposals relating to the changed name and constitutional delegations, the management committee would have a constitution relating to a centre that has ceased to function.
- 4.2.2 The council has been dependent on the income raised through the management committee to support the work of the council's youth service and without the changes of constitution and name there would be a loss of potential income therefore potentially reducing the overall service to young people in the borough.
- 4.2.3 The proposed changes seek to redress the change of management arrangements at 4 Marlow Road, by providing a new set of delegations that meet the new arrangements and provide ongoing support for the council's youth service financially and through advocacy and scrutiny.

## 5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

- 5.1 Not applicable.

## 6. COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

- 6.1 To be invited via an email circulation of this report.

## 7. IMPLICATIONS

The following implications have been addressed where indicated below.

Financial	Legal	Human Rights Act	Planning	Sustainable Development	Diversity & Equality
✓	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	✓

Background Papers: none