

CABINET

18 December 2013

Title: Community Capacity Grant	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and HR	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Divisional Director: Paul Hogan, Divisional Director of Culture and Sport	
Accountable Director: Anne Bristow, Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services	
Summary: <p>The Council has received ring fenced capital programme funding from the Department of Health's Community Capacity Grant fund to support the development of specific adult social care initiatives. The allocation is £490,995 for 2013/14 and £500,913 for 2014/15.</p> <p>Cabinet has previously agreed (24 July 2013) that this funding be used to improve the social care offer to older people in the Borough and that officers would bring specific proposals for Member approval to a future meeting of the Cabinet.</p> <p>Accordingly, Cabinet is now asked to approve the implementation of a capital programme scheme to improve facilities at the existing Park Active Age Centre and to create Active Age Centres at Valence Library and Robert Jeyes Library. These works will be wholly funded by the Community Capacity Grant.</p> <p>The improvement works will enable the development of the Active Age programme so that a wider and more effective range of social, cultural, health improvement, and educational activities are accessible to older people in the Borough.</p>	
Recommendation(s) The Cabinet is recommended to:	
(i) Agree the allocation of Community Capacity Grant funding for 2013/14 and 2014/15 totalling £991,908 to ensure that the proposed improvement works set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report are implemented at Park Active Age Centre, Valence Library and Robert Jeyes Library as part of the Council's Active Age programme; and	
(ii) Authorise the Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and HR and the Chief Finance Officer, to finalise and implement the scope of works within the available budget.	

Reason(s)

The Active Age Centres are a core component of the older people's offer in the Borough. The proposal will assist the Council in making better use of its resources and assets and will make a significant contribution to the achievement of the Council's priority to improve health and well being through all stages of life and, in particular, to support older people to be active and healthy.

1. Introduction and Background

Active Age programme

- 1.1 The Council provides an Active Age programme at locations across the Borough which is intended to support older people to lead independent lives.
- 1.2 A review of the existing Active Age programme and the wider vision for older people has recently been undertaken with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and HR. It is intended that going forward the Active Age programme will focus on five activity strands:

- **Connecting & re-connecting**

IT & reminiscence sessions including: SKYPE, Twitter, Facebook, Digital Photography, how to use iPhone / iPad, tea & talks, screen archives.

As well as signposting older people to community, sporting and cultural groups in the Borough.

- **Things to do**

Activities such as water sports, Broadway cinema, cooking workshops, taster courses, flower arranging, photography and cultural trips.

- **Working & volunteering**

Activities include community food growing projects, heritage activities, health ambassadors, home library service, and volunteer led sessions such knit and natter.

- **Getting Around**

Activities such as health walks and cycling.

- **Health improvement**

Activities include: Health promotion workshops, gym sessions at the Active Age Centres and leisure centres, swimming lessons, exercise classes and dance classes such as ballroom, salsa, and rock and roll.

- 1.3 The following venues will be utilised to present Active Age programmes:

- Park, Rush Green and Wantz Active Age Centres
- Valence Library, Robert Jeyes Library, Barking Learning Centre, Dagenham Library, Thames View Library
- Marks Gate Community Centre
- Parks & Adizone sites

- Eastbury Manor House and Valence House Museum
- Becontree Heath Leisure Centres, Abbey Sports Centre & Jim Peters' Stadium
- The Broadway theatre

Community Capacity Grant

- 1.4 The Council has received ring fenced capital programme funding from the Department of Health's Community Capacity Grant to support the development of specific adult social care initiatives. Funding of £490,995 is committed for 2013/14 and £500,913 for 2014/15.
- 1.5 It is proposed to utilise this funding to undertake improvements to the following Council buildings that have been identified as key locations for the development of the new Active Age programme in the Borough and which would benefit from capital investment: Park Active Age Centre; Valence Library, and Robert Jeyes Library.
- 1.6 It should be noted that from 2014/15 onwards Robert Jeyes Library will become a community hub as part of a wholly community managed arrangement. As well as providing a volunteer led library service, the venue will incorporate an Active Age Centre, which will provide a wide ranging and regular programme of activities for older people.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 A summary of the proposed improvements works to be undertaken is set out in table one below.

Table one Community Capacity Grant – proposed scope of works

Venue	Description
Park Active Age Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs and defects identified in the condition survey • Lift installation to give access to first floor • New kitchen • Level access throughout ground floor and first floor • Improvements to thermal performance (energy efficiency) – light fittings, windows, dry line walls • New reception area to free up existing office as activity space • Refurbishment of main hall and ground/first floor activity space • Improved accessible toilet provision
Valence Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs and defects identified in the condition survey • Creation of a dedicated older people's zone in the library including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New accessible toilets ○ Direct access to heritage garden and

	<p>Valence House Museum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IT facility ○ Small catering facility ○ Multi-use activity space including new floor suitable for older people's health and fitness programmes and dance classes ○ New shelving around the perimeter for book and other display stock
Robert Jeyes Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Repairs and defects identified in the condition survey ● Outdoor community food growing space at front and rear of building ● Creation of flexible workshop/activity spaces ● Small meeting room ● Café/meeting space ● Improved accessible toilet provision ● New seating and other furniture

2.2 In keeping with previous reports to Cabinet about capital programme schemes, the proposals and associated costings outlined above are indicative and have not been subject to a formal tender process at this time. This would have been both time consuming and costly ahead of knowing whether Members wish to support the proposals.

2.3 The final scope of works to be implemented will be shaped by the extent of the defects and repairs that will be identified in the new condition surveys for the three buildings, which will set out the required investment to the mechanical and electrical plant, building structure and fabric, as well as the costings from the formal tender process for the proposed improvements.

2.4 This report recommends that the Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and HR and the Chief Finance Officer, is authorised to finalise and implement the scope of works within the available budget.

3. Options Appraisal

3.1 The Community Capacity Grant is capital funding from the Department of Health that can only be used for adult social care initiatives. At its meeting on 23 July 2013, Cabinet agreed that these funds will be used to improve the social care offer to older people in the Borough and that officers will bring back specific proposals for Member approval to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

3.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Services and HR is of the view that the best use of the available funding would be to support the expansion of the Active Age programme in the key venues that are owned by the Council, which is why Park Active Age Centre, Valence Library and Robert Jeyes Library have been proposed for investment.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 These proposals are not ward specific but rather are intended to support the development of a more effective and better quality Borough wide programme of activities for older people.
- 4.2 Consultation has been undertaken with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and HR, the Cabinet Member for Health, the Councillors for Whalebone, Valence and Village wards, as well as a range of officers, to inform the development of the proposals set out in this report.

5. Financial Implications

Financial implications completed by: Roger Hampson, Finance Group Manager

- 5.1 There are no revenue implications arising from this proposal.
- 5.2 It is intended that the proposed capital improvement programme will be wholly funded by the Community Capacity Grant provided by the Department of Health.
- 5.3 The Community Capacity Grant may be used only for the purposes that a capital receipt may be used for in accordance with central government regulations; the Chief Executive will be required to sign a declaration by March 2014 that the conditions attached to the grant have been and will be complied with.

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Michael Henson-Webb, Solicitor Adult Social Services

- 6.1 This report seeks approval to utilise ring fenced capital funding from the Department of Health for adult social care initiatives, which has previously been approved for this purpose by Cabinet.
- 6.2 All commissioning of works must be made in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and EU procurement arrangements.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 **Risk Management** – The key risk associated with this proposal is that the final costs will be higher than the available budget.

All of the works to be undertaken will in the first instance be costed by the Council's quantity surveyor before they are formally tendered to the framework contractors. This will enable 'value engineering' to be undertaken so that the scope of works is reduced or amended, if necessary, to ensure that there is confidence that the improvements to be undertaken can be contained within the available budget.

A similar process will be undertaken once the works have been tendered if the tender prices exceed the available budget.

A contingency sum (10%) has been included in the budget to allow for unforeseen challenges that may arise once the works have been commissioned.

- 7.2 **Contractual issues** – Legal, procurement and other professional advice will be sought regarding the appropriate procurement routes and contractual agreements for the proposed improvement works.
- 7.3 **Customer impact** - It is expected that the existing Active Age members who currently attend activities will continue to do so but that the proposed improvements will also encourage many new members to take part.
- 7.4 **Crime and Disorder Issues** - The Council has a statutory duty to consider crime and disorder implications in all its decision making. The Active Age programme provides a wide range of activities and quality facilities, which will provide positive activities for older people.
- 7.5 **Health issues** – the Active Age programme is intended to help older people to keep fit and active for longer and to feel connected to their community. Also the programme will provide opportunities for them to use their lifetime skills and experiences in voluntary or community leadership roles.

The activities delivered as part of the Active Age programme are consistent with our Health and Wellbeing Strategy to improve the health and well-being of individuals and build community cohesion through increased participation of older people in social, cultural, health improvement and educational programmes.

- 7.6 **Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Children** - As life changes through retirement, possibly bereavement, and as families move on, it can become increasingly difficult to remain connected and to re-establish connections with people

The proposed investment will improve the accessibility of services for older people as well as the quality and range of activity programmes that will be provided. The programmes will also help people feel less lonely and to access care and support.

- 7.7 **Property/Asset issues** – this proposed decision would facilitate the improvement and renewal of Council assets.

The existing Chadwell Heath Active Age Centre is in need of extensive investment to make the facility fit for purpose and is expensive to operate. The proposed investment at the Robert Jeyes library, which will see the creation of a dedicated Active Age Centre within the library, will allow the closure of the Chadwell Heath Active Age Centre but with an enhanced offer for older people being provided at the nearby Robert Jeyes Library and Marks Gate Community Centre.

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of appendices: None