



## Youth Centre Working Party (YCWP)

Meeting 10am 29th August 2024

(Cllrs Arrick, \*Austin, \*Banfield, \*Carter, \*Keen, \*Leach, \*Matthes, \*Robini, \*Weatherburn)

\*Present (Cllr Banfield joined the meeting via Zoom)

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O'Sullivan

### Minutes

#### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Leach proposed Cllr Robini, Cllr Banfield seconded the nomination. No further nominations were received and Cllr Robini was duly elected the chairman of the working party.

#### 2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Robini proposed Cllr Leach, Cllr Carter seconded the nomination. No further nominations were received and Cllr Leach was duly elected the vice-chairman of the working party.

#### 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Arrick who is on holiday.

#### 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None disclosed.

#### 5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference as previously circulated were agreed.

#### 6. PROPOSAL FOR COUNCIL

Cllr Robini gave some background to the project and stated that Cllr Merryweather (WBC portfolio holder) had confirmed that no firm decisions had been made on the new youth centre, either in terms of plans, users or management. HTC has been asked to state what role they want to play.

The working party agreed that HTC should be involved in the design and management of any new facilities and that Council should consider contributing towards funding once it was clear what, if anything, was required.

The project is at a very early stage, Council has yet to formally agree that it wants to be to be involved, but it was noted that due diligence was required regarding any funding, and that proper governance would need to be implemented for such a large project.

There was some discussion over the nature of the management role that HTC might take, and it was suggested that a long lease be taken but that the details – ie. who would be responsible for and pay for facilities management, would need to be negotiated. **ACTION:** The Clerk will speak with colleagues who run / lease community centres to get some advice.

There was also a question around what any CiL money HTC might contribute might 'buy' in terms of the building. Again, this was considered to be a detail for further discussions.

It was agreed that engagement was needed with local youth to see what they would like to see in a new centre. Also, local organisations providing youth services need to be consulted to see if they would like to use the new facility. **ACTION:** the Clerk will circulate a list of stakeholders and the working party will then be split into groups to engage with them.

It was broadly agreed that a commercial element would be required in the building to make it financially viable, it was noted that some of the services at the Youth Hub are supplied by commercial providers.

It was agreed that Council needs to support the project before the working party can go ahead with the work it would like to do.

The Clerk will take a recommendation to Full Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> September covering 4 points:

1. HTC wants to be a key partner with Waverley on this project.
2. HTC would like to manage building on a long lease.
3. The CiL committee needs to ringfence an amount of money to potentially use towards this project (amount TBC).
4. HTC agrees that the working party should consult locally, is authorised to discuss on behalf of Council with WBC then bring a full recommendation back to Full Council once that work is complete.

Waverley will be contacted separately to advise of this, the Clerk will discuss timetables and also request that regular written updates are received from WBC.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING / NEXT STEPS**

It was noted that Council would have to give its approval for the project to go ahead at the full council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

The working party is expected to attend the following meetings:

Youth Hub visit – **10.30am Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September.**

Working Party meeting – **9.30am – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September.**

Meeting ended 11.10am