



**Title:** **Elliott Hall Youth and Community Centre, South Wigston**

**Author(s):** **Adrian Thorpe  
(Planning Development and Regeneration Manager)**

---

## **1. Introduction**

This report seeks Members approval for the Council to make a financial contribution toward the establishment of the Elliott Hall Youth and Community Centre in South Wigston.

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended that:

- 1.** Members approve in principle a grant of £30,000 to 'Step Out South Wigston Youth Group' towards the establishment of the Elliott Hall Youth and Community Centre in South Wigston from funds identified in the Council's Capital Programme for 2017/18 as set out in paragraph 3.4 below.
- 2.** Delegated authority is provided to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Committee to agree the terms on which the grant is provided to 'Step Out South Wigston Youth Group'.

## **3. Information**

- 3.1.** Step Out Youth Group opened in 2015. The Borough Council has previously supported a number of activities provided by the Youth Group. It now has over 86 children on its register and has outgrown the premises that it currently hires.
- 3.2.** The Youth Group has now found an alternative location, which is the former Needle Factory on Albion Street in South Wigston. It proposes that this will provide a suitable location from which to run the Step Out Youth Group and also as a centre for other community meetings and activities. A copy of the Business Plan is appended to this report which contains full details of the proposal.
- 3.3.** The Youth Group has requested a financial contribution from the Borough Council of £30,000 to be used towards the following in order to make the building operational:
  - new staircase leading to fire exit door (including architect and engineers fees);
  - electrical work, including improvements to heating;
  - alarm system;
  - new fire system;
  - kitchen;
  - toilets;
  - stair lift;
  - secondary glazing to reduce noise and improve insulation; and
  - skip hire.

- 3.4. It has been emphasised to Step Out South Wigston Youth Group on a number of occasions that Councillors will make a decision as to funding based upon the information that the Youth Group is able to provide in support of its case. The Youth Group's business plan is attached (**Appendix 1**).
- 3.5. The Borough Council currently has £114,000 identified in its capital programme to act as a contribution towards improvements to Blaby Road Park Pavilion in South Wigston in order to make it suitable to operate a youth club from the Pavilion. Discussions have previously been held with a potential operator which had been seeking the additional funding necessary to bring forward this project, however, there has been no further contact from this potential operator with the Council in respect of this proposal for over 12 months. Therefore, it is proposed that £30,000 of this money is allocated in order to provide this grant.
- 3.6. The funding of £114,000 originates from the Section 106 monies received as a result of the Tesco development in South Wigston and comprises of interest accrued on this money whilst being held by the Borough Council.
- 3.7. Should the Committee approve in principle that a grant of £30,000 is provided to 'Step Out South Wigston Youth Group' towards the establishment of the Elliott Hall Youth and Community Centre in South Wigston then it is recommended that delegated authority is provided to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of this Committee to agree the terms on which the grant is provided. These terms will include criteria and timescale for spending the funds and the return of the funds in the event that the scheme does not come to fruition.
- 3.8. It is the opinion of the Council's Community Safety and Youth Coordinator that the Step Out Youth Group fulfils an important role in South Wigston by engaging with and providing activities for young people in South Wigston and surrounding areas. It is therefore considered appropriate for the Borough Council to meet the Step Out Youth Club's request and to provide a grant of £30,000 towards establishing the new facility.
- 3.9. However, in the course of preparing this report, it has also come to light that the Community Action Partnership is exploring opportunities to provide what it describes as 'a professional and well resourced youth service provision' from the Bassett Street Community Hub in South Wigston following a successful year which has seen the number of young people aged 10-16 using Bassett Street increase by 93% compared to 2015. As a result the Community Action Partnership is looking to deliver a number of educational workshops for young people and is bidding for additional funding to establish a drama group and to increase capacity to deliver open access youth work in South Wigston.
- 3.10. It is the opinion of the Council's Community Safety and Youth Coordinator the opportunities being explored by the Community Action Partnership with in general compliment the Step Out South Wigston Youth Group because Community Action Partnership will focus on educational workshops for young people, particularly looking at mental health and life skills, which Step Out South Wigston Youth Group offers a more social provision.
- 3.11. However, the open access youth work proposed by the Community Action Partnership would create more direct competition with the Step Out South Wigston Youth Group. Therefore, it is the intention of the Council's Community Safety and Youth Coordinator to meet with representative of both organisations to ensure that there is a consistency in their youth work provision in South Wigston.

**Background Documents:**

Elliott Hall, Youth and Community Hall Business Plan, 2017

**E-mail:**    adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

**Tel:**        (0116) 257 2645

<b>Implications</b>   Housing White Paper: Increase in Planning Fees in the Borough	
<b>Finance</b>	The funding to provide a grant of £30,000 to 'Step Out South Wigston Youth Group' is available in the Council's Capital Programme. See paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 above.
<b>Chris Raymakers</b> Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits	
<b>Legal</b>	The grant should be subject to a formal agreement being drawn up and in accordance with the Group's Constitution.
<b>Anne Court</b> Director of Services / Monitoring Officer	
<b>Corporate Risk(s) (CR)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Decreasing Financial Resources (CR1)</b>
<b>Adrian Thorpe</b> Planning Development and Regeneration Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Key Supplier/Partnership Failure (CR2)</b> The Council's Community Safety and Youth Coordinator will meet with representative of both organisations to ensure that there is a consistency in their youth work provision in South Wigston.
<b>Corporate Priorities (CP)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>An Inclusive and Engaged Borough (CP1)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Effective Service Provision (CP2)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Wellbeing for All (CP5)</b>
<b>Adrian Thorpe</b> Planning Development and Regeneration Manager	
<b>Vision &amp; Values (V)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Innovation (V4)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Customer Focus (V5)</b> Providing the grant will assist in service improvements to young people in South Wigston through effective innovation and customer focus.
<b>Adrian Thorpe</b> Planning Development and Regeneration Manager	
<b>Equalities &amp; Equality Assessment(s) (EA)</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Adrian Thorpe</b> Planning Development and Regeneration Manager	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initial EA Screening</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Full EA Assessment</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Not Applicable</b>