

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing & Infrastructure
DATE	25 August 2016
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Middlefield Community Project's Service Level Agreement
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/16/130
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to extend Middlefield Community Project's existing Service Level Agreement (SLA) until 31 March 2018 in line with the other externally Funded Projects (namely St Machar Parent Support Project, WEA (Workers' Educational Association), Printfield Community Project, Aberdeen Lads Club and Fersands & Fountain Community Project).

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee instructs Officers to:

1. Extend the existing terms of the Service Level Agreement between Aberdeen City Council and Middlefield Community Project until 31 March 2018.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for the financial year to 31 March 2017 as budget was previously allocated and is in place. The budget for financial year April 2017 to March 2018 is subject to approval within the Council's normal budget setting process in line with other Funded Projects. This funding is met through the budget of the Communities & Partnerships Team within Communities, Housing and Infrastructure.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Legal implications:

The extension of the Service Level Agreement for Middlefield Community Project will have a resource requirement for the Legal team.

There are no further implications for property, resources, personnel, equipment sustainability and environmental or health and safety.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Officers presented a Report on Funded Projects and Leased Community Centres to Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee in March 2015. The committee resolved to provide three years funding for Funded Projects. However, at that time, there was a lack of clarity around Middlefield Community Project and its relocation, as a direct result of the Haudagain Road Realignment, so Committee resolved to fund Middlefield Community Project for 18 months only, to 30 September 2016.

Middlefield Community Project receives funding of £104,766 from Communities and Partnerships Team annually. This funding is provided in order for Middlefield Community Project to deliver Community Learning and Development in the geographical area of benefit in the context of Aberdeen City Learning Strategy, local Learning Partnership priorities and Aberdeen City Council's Education and Children's Services Service Plan. The Provider is also required to contribute to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, formerly the Single Outcome Agreement.

Aberdeen City Council funding from Communities and Partnership Team is used by Middlefield Community Project to underpin the management and administrative costs necessary to deliver the following:

Work with Parents/Family Learning:

- Parent/carers advice sessions and parent & toddler sessions - families per session
- Three parent/carers courses including 'Circle of Security', Confidence Building and Assertiveness - 6 participants per course

Under 11's work:

- Hopscotch holiday, 12 children attending

Youth Work:

- Five sessions of senior youth work weekly, supporting 140 young people with total weekly attendance of 60 young people. (*Joint funded by Fairer Aberdeen Fund)

Adult Learning:

- Women's group once a week term time (with crèche) - 7 participants per session

Community Development/Capacity Building:

- Support 25 volunteers including employment advice and training. This includes a residential training event.
- Support to 20 local residents to engage in community planning and development
 - Project Co-ordinator support to MARAG (Middlefield Area Regeneration Action Group) including support to individuals and administrative support
 - Project Co-ordinator support to for MARAG Sub group with ACC Housing and Elected members
- Contribute to partnership and community initiatives to support local residents by attending meetings and supporting development of services including:
 - Northfield Total Place (includes potential for involvement in specific projects)
 - Northfield Learning Partnership (includes potential for involvement in specific projects)
 - Pilot Research Project – Pain Killers
 - Middlefield Park Development
 - C-Fine Partnership - supporting 60 families per month

Aberdeen City Council Officers are now in a position to recommend the alignment of Middlefield Community Project's funding with other Funded Projects, for the period to 31 March 2018.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

This proposal will vastly improve customer experience. It will give the certainty required by Middlefield Community Project to develop their work programme on a longer term basis, until 31 March 2018, as well as creating the opportunity for Middlefield Community Project to attract match funding.

In addition, the day-to-day operation of the new Middlefield Community Hub will be under the control of Middlefield Community Project on behalf of the community in Middlefield and the surrounding area.

Improving Staff Experience –

This proposal will negate the requirement for Aberdeen City Council's Officers to negotiate the Service Level Agreement annually, and builds better relationships with the Project and wider community by allowing for longer term strategic planning.

Improving our use of Resources –

Where Aberdeen City Council works in partnership and council funds are utilised as match funding, we can ensure that for every £1 spent by the local authority, we can achieve an increased spend for our communities.

Corporate –

This proposal relates to 'Aberdeen – the Smarter City' as follows:

- We will work with our partners to seek to reduce the levels of **inequality** in the city.
- We will enhance the physical and emotional wellbeing of all our citizens by offering support and activities which promote **independence, resilience, confidence and self-esteem**.
- Working with our third, public and private sector partners, we will provide opportunities for **lifelong learning** which will develop knowledge, skills and attributes of our citizens to enable them to meet the changing demands of the 21st century.
- We will embrace the distinctive pride the people of Aberdeen take in their city and work with them to enhance the sense of well-being here, **building stronger communities** which look out for, and look after one another.

This proposal supports various outcomes in the Single Outcome Agreement and specifically, **Health and Wellbeing**, Learning and Workforce and Community Safety. The new Middlefield Community Hub is a partnership development between Aberdeen City Council, Middlefield Community Project, Lord Provost Henry Rae Community Centre and NHS Healthy Hoose.

Public –

The contents of this report will be of interest to the public, particularly those living in Middlefield/Heathryfold areas and environs.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

If this proposal is not supported, it would be difficult to justify why Middlefield Community Project is the only external investment which is funded on an annual basis, as all others have three year agreements.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

CHI/14/076, Communities, Housing & Infrastructure, 18 March 2015,
Funded Projects and Leased Community Centres

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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