

# Economic Development



Date of meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021

<b>Title</b>	<i>Youth Hub</i>
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	<i>To provide an update regarding the development of the Youth Hub</i>
<b>Report Author</b>	<i>Tracey Carter: Senior Economic Development Officer</i>
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Exempt</b>	No
<b>Exemption Reason</b>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	Economic Development
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Committee is asked to:</b>  <i>Note the report</i>
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	<i>Not applicable</i>

## 1. Key issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a written update with regards to the Economic Development Forward Plan.
- 1.2 A Youth Hub is a location that is for 16 - 24-year-old people to receive help and support regarding their ability to obtain a job as well as provide support to develop skills and confidence. This initiative was created as part of the Governments response to the negative effect of COVID-19 on employment. A funding opportunity was made available via the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) on a national basis for local authorities to bid for to create a local Youth Hub
- 1.3 The application process took just over a year to complete and a decision to be made. In June 2021 a contract was issued to SBC. Currently the fulfilment of the project needs to be determined before the contract can be signed and money received. This has proven to be more complicated than originally planned as there are obstacles regarding the procurement process, State Aid and using A2 Dominion as the delivery partner. To be clear, this project is for the whole Borough, not just A2D tenants, although they will no doubt form a good proportion of candidates attending the Hub.
- 1.4 A2D have some internal issues to resolve before they can commit to the project, but David Birley (recently left SBC) has joined their team and this week has taken over the discussions regarding the project delivery. The DWP's position is quite clear that they have an expectation that A2D will deliver the project as they have been a part of the team of partners who put the BID together. A2D have committed to respond by 20<sup>th</sup> August and depending on their response the best route to allow implementation will be followed. There will need to be a 5-week lead-in to the project as determined

by the DWP, so currently the earliest we can possibly expect to start at the project will be 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

1.5 On 13<sup>th</sup> August David Birley from A2D replied to confirm that agreement had been reached and that they would be a partner in the delivery of the Hub and would recruit 2.6 people to help with the project from the funding.

1.6 The delivery group are due to meet early September in order to agree the next steps including the location.

## **2. Options analysis and proposal**

2.1 For information and comment only.

## **3. Financial implications**

3.1 The Youth Hub is being funded by a grant from DWP of £118k and is for a period of 12 months, although subject to circumstances it could be extended further.

## **4. Other considerations**

4.1 The objective is to increase the local capacity to deliver employment and well-being for NEET (Not in Employment or Education) and young people at risk of becoming NEET, online and off-line. A report has already been submitted previously with detailed information via MAT where support was approved. Support has been provided by SBC legal team to ensure that the procurement and delivery are carried out correctly.

## **5. Equality and Diversity**

5.1 Information about the Youth Hub will also be circulated to the 'hard to reach' communities.

## **6. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications**

6.1 N/A

## **7. Timetable for implementation**

7.1 A start date for the delivery of the project will not be known for certain until a building to house the project has been confirmed; there are already two locations under consideration, but ideally a town centre site would be the ideal location.

### **Background papers:**

**There are none.**

### **Appendices:**

**There are none**