

Funds to underwrite Youth Work costs for the Friday Night Youth Club

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To propose that P&R allocate £4,000 to the Community and Town Promotions Committee to cover 6 months of youth club on Friday nights (2 hours) from October 2022 to the end of March 2023.

2. Background

2.1 MTC has funded The Rise Trust for 1 hour of valuable youth work at the Town Hall on a Friday night. The other 1 hour of the youth club was funded by funding from the Area Board or more recently by Green Square

2.2 I was alerted by the submission of an invoice for an unexpected sum of £3,500 by the Rise Trust at the end of August, that our youth work budget for the full year had been used already. Through a conversation with a representative of the Rise Trust I understood that the match-funding (which was actually slightly more than MTC's contribution of £3,500) for this youth work had run out at the end of March 2022 and that MTC has since then funded the full two hours of youth work on a Friday night.

2.3 The situation is that the Rise is funding to pay for the youth club until the end of September 2022

2.4 The Rise Trust will apply for match funding from the Area Board so that the full 2 hours of youth club on Friday night can be paid for until the end of March 2023. However, there is no guarantee that full match funding can be secured.

3. Proposal

3.1 That MTC underwrites the additional £4000 that has previously been contributed by the Area Board or Green Square so that the youth club can continue until the end of March 2023 even if other funding cannot be secured by the Rise Trust.

3.2 With the approval of MTC I will request that two other parishes (Oaksey and St Paul's Without) contribute to the Youth Work that takes place in town as their residents benefit directly from MTC's provision of the Youth Work

4. Costs

4.1 The costs to MTC will be up to £4,000 and the lost rental on the space on a Friday night. The long-term financial and other costs of not providing some Youth Work in town are impossible to quantify.

5. Risks

5.1 The risk is that we may not be able to recover the money from other parishes or match funders.

6. Recommendation

6.1 That councillors agree to approve the underwriting of the Youth Work so that it can continue.