

Subject:	Bacup 'Big Ideas' (Recommendation from Bacup Neighbourhood Forum on the allocation of funding from the sale of Bacup Leisure Hall)	Status: Key Decision	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	29 June 2011
Report of:	Director of Customers and Communities	Portfolio Holder:	Communities and Neighbourhoods
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Impact Assessment:	Required: Yes	Attached:	Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required: No	Attached:	No
Contact Officer:	Alison Wilkins	Telephone:	01706 252593
Email:	alisonwilkins@rossendalebc.gov.uk		
1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)		
1.1	Bacup Neighbourhood Forum recommends that £100,000 from the sale of Bacup Leisure Hall be allocated to the development of a Vocational Training Centre at Stubblelee, as outlined in the Business Case submitted by Accrington and Rossendale College.		
1.2	All future minor amendments to the policy to be delegated to the Director of Customers and Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships		

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To present the recommendation of the Bacup Neighbourhood Forum on the allocation of the proceeds from the sale of the Bacup Leisure Hall.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **A healthy and successful Rossendale** – supporting vibrant communities and a strong economy.
 - **Responsive and value for money local services** – responding to and meeting the different needs of customers and improving the cost effectiveness of services.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

The £100,000 funding proposed is a contribution towards the costs of establishing the Centre. The College is proposing to match this investment in 2011 and with further investments in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The proposals and financial projections have not yet been formally agreed by the Finance and Employment Committee of the College or the full Board. This is due to take place on 21 June 2011 and 5 July 2011. At the Neighbourhood Forum meeting on 9 June, attended by the Principal and Chair of the College, they confirmed that the proposals have their full support and that of the Vice Chair and that the Board has been fully supportive of attempts

to provide an establishment in Bacup in the past.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 When Bacup Leisure Hall was sold, it was agreed that the proceeds from the sale (£120,000) would be used to support a lasting legacy for Bacup and the surrounding area. Cabinet agreed that the Bacup Neighbourhood Forum would consult with the local community and make a recommendation as to how the funding from the sale should be used.
- 5.2 In October 2010 consultation began through the Bacup Neighbourhood Forum under the project 'Big Ideas for Bacup'. Residents of Bacup were asked to submit ideas which would improve the area, benefit the whole community, leave a lasting legacy, be suitable for capital funding and address a key issue in the Bacup Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.3 Shortlisted ideas would be requested to submit a full business case for consideration by the Forum.
- 5.4 The Neighbourhood Forum agreed that there were many good ideas but there was overwhelming support for the proposal for a Vocational Training Centre at Stubblelee Hall. The second placed Big Idea was the Royal Court Theatre's Development Plan. Both these ideas meet the above criteria including addressing priorities in the Bacup Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.5 The Neighbourhood Plan identifies key issues around low educational attainment for young people and the high number of NEETs (young people not in education, training or employment). A suggested action is to explore options for more vocational training.
- 5.6 As these two projects would take up the full amount of the funding available, it was agreed that just these two would go forward to the next stage of putting together a full business case.
- 5.7 The Neighbourhood Forum met in March 2011 to consider the full business cases submitted for the two shortlisted projects. Fraser Nash, Senior Regeneration Project Manager attended the meeting on behalf of the College together with Simon Parker representing the Royal Court Theatre. Both presented their case and answered questions.
- 5.8 It was agreed that the Forum fully supports the plans to create a Vocational Training Centre at Stubblelee Hall and agreed to recommend to Cabinet that £100,000 from the sale of Bacup Leisure Hall be allocated to the development of the Training Centre, as outlined in their Business Case.
- 5.9 The Forum also agreed to recommend that the remaining £20,000 be prioritized for the Royal Court Theatre Development Plan, particularly external improvements on Rochdale Road. It was agreed that the Theatre would be asked to produce a scheme

of works with detailed plans and costings. This will include planning permission and building regulations requirements. A report will be presented to a future Cabinet once the details in relation to the Royal Court Theatre application have been finalised.

- 5.10 On 9th June the Neighbourhood Forum met again to consider an updated business case for the Vocational Training Centre at Stubblelee. Steven Carlisle, Principal of the College and Mike Lee, Chair, attended the meeting to present the business case and answer any questions. The Neighbourhood Forum agreed unanimously to support the project and to recommend to Cabinet that £100,000 (£80,000 net of relocation costs for the strong room/deed room at Stubblelee) be allocated to the Vocational Training Centre. A copy of the business case is attached at Appendix 1.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 Financial implications are noted in the report.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1 Legal implications are noted in the report.

8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 8.1 HR implications are noted in the report.

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 9.1 Consultation has been carried out through the Bacup Neighbourhood Forum. The Forum membership includes representatives from local community and voluntary groups and partner organisations. The initial request for ideas was widely publicised and Bacup Consortium undertook further consultation. Extensive consultation took place in 2009/10 in developing the Bacup Neighbourhood Plan and both shortlisted projects support priorities identified by the local community in the Plan.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the recommendation of Bacup Neighbourhood Forum that £100,000 from the sale of Bacup Leisure Hall be allocated to the development of a Vocational Training Centre at Stubblelee, as outlined in the Business Case submitted by Accrington and Rossendale College.

Background Papers/Appendices	
Document	Place of Inspection
Business case – Vocational Training Centre Community Impact Assessment	Attached - Appendix 1 www.rossendalebc.gov.uk