

Board/Committee:	Policy and Organisation Board
Date of meeting:	30 November 2022
Title:	Disposal of Youth Shelter
Author:	Head of Streetscene
Status:	For decision

Purpose

To seek Board approval to dispose of the unused youth shelter to St Johns School in response to their expression of interest, or through a process of invitation of expressions of interest and bids.

Recommendation

That the Board authorises the disposal of the surplus youth shelter either direct to St Johns School in response to their expression of interest, or through a process of invitation of expressions of interest and bids.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Youth shelters were designed to provide unsupervised areas to meet the social needs of teenagers whilst maintaining visibility and providing natural safety for the users groups.
- 1.2 The youth shelter was originally installed at Kings Road Open Space during 2013 following demand to provide a structure for local youths at a cost of £5,700.
- 1.3 Following a two year period of repeated anti-social behaviour at Kings Road Open Space the youth shelter was removed and re-located to Elson Recreational Ground. This youth shelter replaced an end of life shelter at Elson Recreational Ground.
- 1.4 To maintain the longevity of the youth shelter as structurally sound and to remove ingrained graffiti, the shelter was refurbished in May 2021 at the same time as the basketball posts in Elson Rec.
- 1.5 Following an increase in anti-social behaviour in Elson Rec which required the Police to issue a dispersal order in early June 2022, a decision was made to remove the youth shelter. The shelter was removed and placed in storage for future use.

A request has been received by St Johns School, Grove Road, Hardway, through the Mayor, for the shelter so that it can be used in the school grounds. It would be for the school to arrange for its collection and re-location.

2.0 Report

- 2.1** The youth shelter is now considered to be surplus to requirements with a potential resale value between £1,000 - £2,000.
- 2.2** There is general agreement that the Council would not promote the installation of youth shelters of this design on public land in the future and therefore should dispose of the asset.
- 2.3** The Council needs to determine whether to accede to the request received from St Johns School. Alternatively, the Council could advertise the disposal of the youth shelter inviting expressions of interest together with bids for consideration. The Council would then evaluate any bids received against an agreed criteria which will incorporate social value of the asset in addition to the highest value. Obviously, even a truncated process of this nature would incur some administrative costs.

3.0 Risk Assessment

- 3.1** Should the Council be required to provide a youth shelter in the future the cost would be around £12,000 depending on the design, manufacture and installation.
- 3.2** As these particular designed structures can attract anti-social behaviour, any future installations of such structures would require careful consideration with all stakeholders prior to purchase.

4.0 Conclusion

The youth shelter has been installed and removed twice due to anti-social behaviour and with this in mind the Council would not be looking to install such structures on land within its control in the future.

Financial Services comments:	As set out in para 2.1 of the report
Legal Services comments:	The Council's requirements regarding the disposal of surplus assets are set out within the report.
Equality and Diversity:	
Climate Change implications:	
Crime and Disorder:	
Service Improvement Plan implications:	None for the purposes of this report.
Corporate Plan:	To build on our strengths to empower and support our communities and ensure the potential of the borough and all of our residents is achieved.
Risk Assessment:	As per section 3 of the report.
Background Papers:	None for the purposes of this report.
Appendices:	None.
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