

**Meeting:** COUNCIL

Portfolio Area: Community & Culture

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> November 2003

## LISTENING TO TOMORROW'S VOTERS TODAY

(Stevenage Youth Council)

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### **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To report to Members how the Youth Council has decided to spend the £4,000 allocated to it as part of the Local Democracy Week Project.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Council endorses the Youth Council's proposal to spend the allocated £4,000 to provide a mobile youth club (Wheels Bus) in Longmeadow and Old Town Ward areas.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 As part of Local Democracy Week activities the Youth Council was allocated £4,000 and asked to decide how this money should be spent. Youth Council Members consulted with fellow students and the Youth Council, at its meeting held on 13th October 2003, discussed their ideas.

### **4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The ideas discussed by the Youth Council included a Fund Raising Day in the town centre; Youth shelters; CCTV; more leisure activities; cheaper transport; a Wheels Bus; and external fund raising.
- 4.2 The Youth Council decided that the allocation of £4,000 should be used to provide a mobile youth club (Wheels Bus) in areas that currently had no provision. As Bedwell, Shephall and surrounding areas had already been catered for with SRB funding and the Hertfordshire County Council Youth

Service currently operated in Chells, Roebuck, Bedwell and Shephall wards, the Youth Council agreed that the Wheels Bus should be provided in the Longmeadow and Old Town Wards.

- 4.2 The reason for this proposal is that it has been identified through the Council's GIS mapping system that there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour and crime in the Longmeadow and Old Town areas. We would hope that by providing a mobile facility this diversionary scheme would reduce the calls to the Police and the Council.
- 4.3 Sally Flint, the SBC Community Safety Co-ordinator, is looking to spend a further £2,000 SAFE money to support the scheme and we would also look to apply to the Police Initiative Fund for an additional £5,000.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

Wheels currently charge £250 per session. This charge includes Staffing, Insurance, Materials and Travelling expenses. We are looking to negotiate this down to £150. If this amount is agreed then the total of £6,000 would cover 2 sessions per week for 20 weeks.

### **5.2 Legal Implications**

Approval to the spending of this money is an Executive decision under the Local Government Act 2000 and therefore Council can only endorse the proposal. The Executive (or officers under delegated powers) will give final approval to the expenditure.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2003.

## **APPENDICES**

NONE