

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2018  
title: HENTHORN ROAD YOUTH SHELTER  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Committee with information about an ongoing issue regarding anti-social behaviour at the youth shelter on Henthorn Road.
- 1.2 To seek a view from Committee about the future of the shelter.
- 1.3 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
  - Community Objectives – To help make people's lives safer and healthier
  - Corporate Priorities - To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area
  - Other Considerations – To respond to identified issues

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The youth shelter was installed some years ago as part of the youth work programme which the County Council provided at that time. Although LCC still provide some youth work in Clitheroe it is limited as a result of budget savings made over the past several years.
- 2.2 At the time of installation there were outreach youth workers who would engage with the young people who gathered at the shelter and they would have worked with them on diversionary activities.
- 2.3 In the absence of youth workers working directly in the community the shelter has now become a source of considerable anti-social behaviour.

### 3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The youth shelter is not popular with local residents who have raised numerous concerns about the behaviour of users of the shelter, both during the day and in the evenings, together with the mess which is left each day in and around the shelter.

- 3.2 In response to these concerns, the Council are currently visiting the shelter area 3 times per week to help ensure the Henthorn Road area is kept as clean and tidy as possible, removing litter, bottles, cans and drug related paraphernalia.
- 3.3 The issue has been flagged with the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership, in order to raise the concerns about the behaviour of users with the Police and other bodies to help eradicate it and the detrimental impact it is having on the lives of local residents.
- 3.4 The removal of the youth shelter is an option, though it does run the risk of the ASB simply moving to another part of the area or further afield within the town. It is highly unlikely that the people causing the problems will simply disappear if the youth shelter is removed.
- 3.5 The youth shelter fills a gap in the wall which acts as boundary on one side of the dog walk; the other boundary is the fence around Henthorn Park. Removing the shelter will require the gap created having to be addressed with either a gate or barrier of some type, to prevent dogs from running out of the exercise area on to the road.
- 3.6 If removed, the shelter is not suitable for re-use. The act of taking it out of the concrete will necessitate it being cut at the base and the residual footings being made safe.
- 3.7 Removal of the shelter will be very popular with many residents, though unlikely to be received well by the people who use it. Within the immediate area there is limited diversionary activity for the target group which currently use the shelter as a gathering point.
- 3.8 The parents of the young people, who are causing the issues, appear to be unaware of their behaviour or are uninterested. The police have sought to intervene, though with limited success.
- 3.9 Currently there are no resources to provide the type of youth work needed to address the behaviour which the shelter attracts.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – Currently the Council's cleansing team are spending time regularly cleaning the area, visiting more often than would be expected for such a residential area. Removal of the shelter will require a couple of days to cut the shelter out of the concrete and make good the concrete base. A gate or barrier would need to be installed where the current access way to the shelter is located.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – There is nothing to prevent the shelter from being removed, it is on Council owned land and although the funding came originally from LCC, the problem is one which this Council is trying to address.
- Political – None in the context of this report.
- Reputation – The Council has a role in trying to ensure that the quality of life residents have is, given the powers the Council has, the best it can be. The current situation is despite the best efforts of Council staff causing a problem for nearby residents. The primary issues of behaviour being something which the Council has limited powers or resources to address and where the young people will be displaced to is unknown.
- Equality & Diversity – If the shelter is removed, the young people who gather there might feel their voice is not being heard, even though it is their behaviour which is causing the issues at the heart of the problem.

## **5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

Considers the report and decides what outcome they would like officers to pursue with the youth shelter.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS  
None

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