

**Gorebridge Family Learning Centre****Report by Mary Smith, Director, Education, Communities and Economy****1. Purpose of Report**

This paper updates Council on the projected cost of setting up a Family Learning Centre in the Gorebridge Beacon following the Council decision in May 2016 to approve the allocation of funding to support the Gorebridge Beacon Project. The report recommends allocating the necessary funds to complete setting up of a Family Learning Centre in Gorebridge identified as one of our priority areas.

**2. Background**

A report on the Gorebridge Community Development Trust Hub Project was presented to Council on 17 May 2016. The report set out the opportunity presented by the Gorebridge Community Development Trust to set up a Gorebridge Family Learning Centre (GFLC) in the Beacon. The GFLC will be delivered in partnership with Midlothian Sure Start and other key services and will provide 16 places (morning and afternoon) for 2 year old children. Gorebridge is one of the Community Planning Partnership targeted areas and delivering the GFLC aligns with the Early Years Vision set out in the Early Years Update paper to Council on 16 December 2014.

In May 2016 Council:

- *Agreed to allocate £0.125m of Early Years Childcare grant in 2016/17 to fund the additional construction cost of the (Trust) Beacon.*

The report also advised that:

- *At this time any additional spend required to adapt the internal layout and specification of the area, and to meet Care Inspectorate registration standards, has yet to be determined and a further report will be submitted to Council when this has been quantified.*

**3. Additional spend required**

Following consultation with Council staff and Midlothian Sure Start the architects for the Gorebridge Beacon project have prepared an estimate of the works required and submitted them to the contractor for pricing.

The initial estimate totals £39,500, including a 5% provision for contingencies, plus architect fees of around £2,000. This figure will be subject to some variation as details are finalised.

These works do not include the cost of furniture and play equipment, which is estimated at £25,000 based on the similarly-sized Woodburn Family Learning Centre. The furniture and play equipment for the centre is designed specifically for children, is high quality and made of natural materials with a long lifespan, and is sourced through social enterprises.

It is therefore anticipated that the total additional cost of setting up the Gorebridge Family Learning Centre will be no more than £70,000.

## **4. Report Implications**

### **4.1 Resource**

The additional expenditure for setting up the Gorebridge Family Learning Centre will be funded through the Early Years Childcare grant from Scottish Government.

### **4.2 Risk**

The Gorebridge Community Development Trust Hub Project report set out the support provided by the Council and the steps taken to reduce the risks associated with the Gorebridge Beacon.

The Family Learning Centre model has been successfully established at the Woodburn Family Learning Centre and will be tailored to local needs in Gorebridge to ensure it connects with families and the community.

### **4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

### **4.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

Getting it Right for Every Midlothian Child (GIRFEMC) 1: Children in their early years and their families are being supported to be healthy, to learn and to be resilient

GIRFEMC 4: Children and young people are supported to be healthy, happy and reach their potential

GIRFEMC 5: Inequalities in learning outcomes have reduced.

### **4.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

The preventative and early intervention nature the Family Learning approach has an impact, in the short, medium and long term, on outcomes for children and on a wide range of performance measures, for example those measured as part of reducing inequalities in learning outcomes.

### **4.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

Family Learning Centres provide multi-agency preventative support to the children and families most in need and ensures Midlothian's children have the best possible start in life.

### **4.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

Communities and other stakeholders will be involved in setting up and running the Gorebridge Family Learning Centre.

### **4.8 Ensuring Equalities**

The impact upon equalities groups of not supporting the Beacon was assessed in the May report to Council.

Underpinning the Family Learning Centre model is an ethos of equality, inclusion, social justice and the building of family resilience embedded in shared values and respect.

#### **4.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

The Scottish Government is committed to early years and the GFLC will be funded from the early years and childcare funding allocated to the Council by the Scottish Government.

The Council's Planning Policy & Environment team were shown the Early Years Update report to Council that set out the proposals for the Family Learning approach and centres. They advised that the vision did not constitute a 'plan' or 'programme' under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, and as such was not subject to any Strategic Environmental Assessment-related requirements of the Act.

#### **4.10 IT Issues**

The day to day operation of the GFLC will be carried out by Midlothian Sure Start and as a result there are no IT implications for Digital Services.

### **5. Recommendations**

It is therefore recommended that Council:

- 5.1** Notes the projected additional cost of setting up a Family Learning Centre in the Gorebridge Beacon;
- 5.2** Allocates £70,000 from the Early Years Childcare grant for the additional costs for setting up the centre.

**26 July 2016**

#### **Report Contact:**

Jacky Gillan  
Early Years Team Leader  
Tel No 0131 271 3694  
[Jacky.Gillan@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Jacky.Gillan@midlothian.gov.uk)

