

## Slough Borough Council

**Report To:** Trustee Committee  
**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
**Subject:** Glyndwr Outdoor Centre – Allocation of Proceeds  
**Chief Officer:** Richard West, Executive Director Place and Community  
**Contact Officer:** Tony Madden, Development Manager  
**Ward:** All  
**Exempt:** No  
**Appendices:** None

### 1 Purpose of Report

To ask the Trustees to decide how the income from the sale of the Glyndwr Outdoor Centre should be invested to benefit the youth of Slough and whether officers should explore capital or revenue options for investment.

### 2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Trustees are requested to instruct officers to explore one of the following options and bring recommendations back to the next meeting:

(a) consider utilisation of the income for a capital project such as installation of play equipment

or

(b) explore revenue projects to provide education, recreation and leisure-time activities/ services for disadvantaged or SEND young people in Slough

or

(c) Transfer the Trust funds to another charity with similar charitable objectives.

### Commissioner Review

*“Normally capital held by a trust cannot be deployed for revenue purposes, only the interest received on the capital invested. The revenue option in the report would normally be very restricted in such circumstances. Trustees need to be satisfied on this point before considering which option to pursue.”*

### 4. Report

The Glyndwr Outdoor Centre is in Neath, South Wales and was given in Trust to the Council.

The Trustees agreed to sell the Centre as it had fallen into disrepair and was no longer suitable to meet the objectives for which it was passed to the Council:

*“in the interests of social welfare for the purpose of education recreation and leisure-time activities for boys and girls having need of such facilities (particularly for those who are deprived or disadvantaged or handicapped) resident within the time being of the Borough of Slough so as to develop their physical mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and that their conditions of life may be improved.”.*

The income from the sale of the property needs to be applied for the purposes of the charity.

## 5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The Centre was sold outside the auction process via an auction house for an agreed price of £65,000. After the auction fees were deducted, Slough received an income payment of £63,160 from the sale.
- 5.2 The Trust agreed at a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to reimburse SBC for bills paid and for fees charged on the property from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 onwards. These recharges totalled £2,581 and £60,579 plus interest accrued since remains available for allocation by the Trust.
- 5.3 In order to present this report SBC officers have had initial discussions on options for use of the funds but a steer from the Trust is required before more detailed work can be carried out. With a rising SEND population in Slough with increasing needs it was felt that investment of the funds to support this cohort would provide the best added value for use of the funds and support the aims of the Trust; this is reflected in some of the comments below.

### **Capital Options:**

- 5.4 In line with the aims of the Trust to support ‘education recreation and leisure time activities’ play equipment in a local public park could be considered. This equipment could be of a specialist nature such as being Autism friendly to meet the needs of residents with SEND. Recent experience by the Parks Team suggests that the level of funding available would only create one stand-alone play area. This would limit how many young people would benefit from the new equipment.

**Example of a £50K project on a school site outside Slough:**



- 5.5 Providing facilities in a park would have the benefit that anyone can access them at any time, enhancing the range of facilities already available. To manage the wear and tear and avoid this becoming a cost to the council, a portion of the available Trust funding would need to be set aside for ongoing maintenance for up to 15 years at c£800 per annum.
- 5.6 An option for spreading the benefit of the funds wider would be to locate the facilities at Arbour Vale School, who educate 325 pupils with high needs from all areas of Slough. An initial discussion with the school showed support for the idea and indicated they would add their own funding to the project if it went ahead. This would mean that the school maintains the equipment (saving  $15 \times \text{£}800 = \text{£}12\text{K}$ ) but access would be limited to school users.

**Revenue Options**

- 5.7 An alternative option is to provide services for youngsters; this would mean funding things like salaries and rental of spaces for activities. Initial discussions with officer colleagues has suggested two options for utilising the funds to provide services for youngsters.
- 5.8 One option would be to invite expressions of interest or bids from community groups that provide services to underprivileged Slough children or those with disabilities. Initial discussions with the Community Development Team has suggested there are 20+ groups that could potentially apply for funding.
- 5.9 Options for allocating the funding would be determined by the Trust and the criteria published within the application form. The level of funding available is such that either one main group or a number of different groups could be supported at the same time over a number of years. There would also be the option to focus funding on SEND pupils if that was desired by stating this as a priority within the application criteria.
- 5.10 Although the Council's plans and strategies may be relevant to any issues before the Trustee Committee, where there is any conflict between the Council's plans and

strategies and the objects of the trust instrument being considered in any particular case, the objects of the trust must prevail.

6. **Conclusion**

- 6.1 Trustees are asked to consider their preference for investing in equipment located either in a public park or Arbour Vale School or if they prefer to fund ongoing services for disadvantaged young people in Slough. Officers will then prepare a further report with more detail on options and costings.

7. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

The sum of £60,951 plus interest for 2021/22 remains available for Trust purposes.

Once the funds are fully spent the Trust can be wound up.

Any recipient would need to agree that if funds are allocated for a capital project that requires maintenance they will identify their own funding for this purpose, as neither the Trustees or Council are in a position to do so.

(b) **Risk Management**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunity</b>
<b>Finance</b> Funds are allocated for a capital project that will require future maintenance that the Trust or Council cannot afford	Any recipient to agree in writing that they will pay for ongoing maintenance of the equipment and keep it in good condition	Maintenance or contributions to the project funded by a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party would bring added value
A recipient does not use the funds as intended	The Council will confirm by written agreement that the funds will be used as agreed and this will be monitored	

(c) **Legal Implications**

The income from the sale of the property must be used to achieve the charitable objects set out at paragraph 4 (a) above for the benefit of disadvantaged young people in Slough. This can be used as capital or revenue funding.

(d) **Equalities Impact Assessment**

An EIA is not required.

(e) **Workforce**

There are no workforce implications.

(f) Property

There are no property implications.

(g) Carbon Emissions and Energy Costs

The property has been sold, so there are no carbon or energy implications.

8. **Background Papers**

None