

14. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

(a) Question notified in time for replies to be provided with this Briefing Note

(1) **Question to the Board Member, Young People, Education and Community Development (Councillor Steve Curran) from Councillor Jean Fooks**

Youth Ambition Fund

Could you give Council a report on how the £240k 'Youth Ambition' fund has been spent this financial year?

Response: To develop a sustainable programme that makes a real difference to young people's lives we are taking a strategic approach. Initial steps have been to work with Anna Wright (Educational Advisor) to develop an up to date understanding of needs. This work is being supported through the Local Government Association's 'Roots to Success' programme which provides free consultancy support to improve services for young people. We have also worked with partners to attain a better understanding of what is already being delivered and understand opportunities for more joined up work. This work has provided the information to develop a Youth Ambition Strategy which will come to CEB on the 10th of April.

Coupled with this we have also launched our youth ambition grants which will see £50,000 per year awarded to voluntary and community groups. We will increasingly support these groups to build their capacity and help them attain funding from other sources. We have also launched a free access session at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre and continued sessions at Wood Farm and Court Place Farm that would have otherwise not been funded. We are also sponsoring the Youth Awards which take place on the 21st Feb. To resource this work we have recruited two people who will help to deliver the programme.

This leaves just over £100,000 which we intend to roll over into the new financial year for match funding bids; one such bid has just been submitted to Sport England.

(2) Question to the Board Member, Cleaner, Greener Oxford (Councillor John Tanner) from Councillor Jean Fooks

Payment for garden waste bags

I see that the administration is proposing to save £20k by insisting that residents pay by direct debit for garden waste bags. This is blatantly discriminatory and unfair. Will you confirm that the saving can be made by offering a direct debit facility but continuing to accept cash or cheques, as well as debit card transactions, in future?

Response: although we will encourage direct debits it will still be possible to pay by cash or cheque.