

Report for: Cabinet - 16 September 2025

Item number: 20

Title: Rising Green Youth Hub

Report authorised by: Ann Graham, Corporate Director: Children's Services

Lead Officers: Jackie Difolco, Director: Early Help, Prevention and SEND
Simone Common, Head of Service: Early Help and Prevention

Ward (s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non-Key Decision:** Yes

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 Rising Green Youth Hub occupy the ground and first floor premises, Unit 4, 2B Lymington Avenue, Wood Green ("the premises") under a lease dated 7 May 2021. Budget for the running costs for Rising Green Youth Hub were not provided as part of setting up the provision and have been funded by a range of temporary funding sources which expire in March 2026, alongside the lease which expires on the 6 May 2026.
- 1.2 A decision is required as to whether the Council should seek to enter into a new lease, to allow Rising Green Youth Hub to operate and continue to fund the running costs, or close Rising Green Youth Hub.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 This report asks Cabinet to make a decision regarding the funding for, and future of Rising Green Youth Centre. Located in Lymington Avenue, Rising Green was developed with young people as a centre in the heart of the borough where little or no provision was available for many years. Space is rented from the landlord, with the current lease due to expire in May 2026. From initial enquiries, the landlord has agreed in principle to grant a new lease until May 2028 on the expiry of the new lease on 6 May 2026. This is contingent on funding and formal head of terms being agreed with the landlord.
- 2.2 Opening in 2022, Rising Green has become a popular and well-used facility with services provided through a partnership model incorporating many local partners. There is no doubt that the centre has met a local need and continues to do so. It has also diversified, offering many additional services as the Wood Green Family Hub. The aim has been to maximise use of the centre at all times.
- 2.3 As the report sets out, initial funding for the centre was identified through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), reserves funding from the Supporting Families Programme,

Family Hubs and other sources. However, much of this funding is ceasing and a decision now needs to be made around funding the rent and running costs if the centre is to remain open.

2.4 The options available are set out in paragraph 5.1 below. Cabinet colleagues are asked to consider and approve the recommendation below for implementation.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Cabinet agree for additional budget to be secured to fund running costs for the building from April 2026 – March 2028 equating to the sum set out in the Exempt Part B report to allow Rising Green Youth Hub to continue to operate from the current location.

3.2 That Cabinet notes the content of this report.

4. Reasons for Decisions:

4.1 Rising Green Youth Hub located in Wood Green opened in August 2022. Capital works and three years of running costs until March 2025 were funded predominantly from Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy funding (SCIL) alongside Neighbourhood CIL. A budget for dilapidation costs was not factored in as part of the development of Rising Green Youth Hub.

4.2 Contained within Exempt Part B of this report.

4.3 The costs of youth staffing have been met through use of the payments by results funding achieved through the Supporting Families Programme (SFP) which is due to end in March 2026. There will be no further funding available from this point.

4.4 Following CIL funding ending in March 2025, officers have been able to utilise funding from the Family Hubs Programme and SFP grant reserves within the service to fund the sum set out in the Exempt Part B of this report.

4.5 From April 2026, there will be no further funding available for both staffing and running costs for Rising Green Youth Hub. An organisational review of Early Help services (Children Centres, Youth Service and Family Support) will be completed over this year to achieve MTFS savings of £505k by the 1 April 2026. This will involve restructuring services to provide a reduced 'Early Help Offer' incorporating the lost revenue for staffing at Rising Green Youth Hub.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 The options for Rising Green Youth Hub are:

- a) agree for growth funding to fund running costs for the building from April 2026 – March 2028 equating to the sum set out in the Exempt Part B report and seek to enter a new lease with the Superior Leaseholder of the premises, from the expiry of the existing lease in May 2026 to March 2028, to allow Rising Green Youth Hub [RGYH] to remain in the premises. This is the preferred option as there is no viable alternative service

provision at this stage, however the ongoing lease costs are unbudgeted and therefore will require savings to be made from other services across the Council.

b) agree for recurring growth funding from March 2026 to fund running costs for Hub to operate from new premises from lease expiry in May 2026. This will enable the youth hub to relocate elsewhere within Wood Green beyond May 2028.

c) close Rising Green Youth Hub by May 2026.

5.2 Officers explored whether further funding could be provided from CIL. However, the corporate approach, including from Finance, is to focus CIL allocation on projects within the current capital programme which means.

a) CIL allocations should help reduce capital borrowing costs to the council,

b) CIL allocations are generally on capital projects and not on revenue as they are not sustainable. It was agreed as an exception to fund revenue costs for Rising Green in 2020 that would not be repeated again.

5.3 Contained within Exempt Part B of this report.

5.4 The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) have increased funding allocating £750,000 for local authorities to expand their current youth offer via the Local Youth Transformation pilot. Twelve local authorities were selected representing a range of geographical contexts, two London boroughs have been invited, Islington and Southwark. Haringey was not selected to participate therefore not able to consider how this could contribute to future running costs for RGYH.

5.5 DCMS also launched the 'Better Youth Spaces Fund' allocating £30.5m for small scale capital projects of up to £100k. Forty-two priority areas have been selected for applications. Haringey was not invited to apply, however neighbouring boroughs Enfield, Hackney and Islington have been. As Haringey was not selected to apply, we are therefore not able to consider how this could contribute to future running costs for RGYH.

5.6 Officers explored whether they could utilise the Family Hubs grant funding to pay for the running costs at RGYH. Four percent of the overall Family Hubs Grant over 3 years can be used to fund capital costs for the four Family Hubs that were opened between 2022 and 2025. This equated to £200k for all four family hubs, with capital costs determined as minor refurbishment works to improve accessibility for families and infrastructure costs such as shared IT systems. No revenue costs were provided for any of the Family Hubs. As Rising Green Family Hub required little capital works due to it being a recently refurbished building, officers were able to negotiate for some of the capital allocation to be offset against the running costs for RGYH. This was for 25-26 only with the remaining costs being met by grant reserves within the service. The grant reserves balance will be nil by April 26. The remaining capital budget for Family Hubs is committed for capital works at Park Lane Family Hub which had to relocate from Kenneth Robbins House, and equipment for young children at both Muswell Hill Family Hub and Wood Green Family Hub and therefore further negotiations on flexibility of using capital funds is not an option.

5.7 Future funding has been confirmed for the Family Hubs programme from 2026 for a further three years. However, this will now be expanded to all local authorities (LA's) with

no expectation for pilot LAs to develop new Family Hubs, therefore there will not be a capital allocation to draw down from April 2026. The vast majority of spend within the Family Hubs Programme is ringfenced for commissioned specialist services for children aged under 5 such as parent infant psychology services and breastfeeding support, however the expectation is that LA's deliver a programme for 0 – 25-year-olds and their families making best use of existing resources. There is regular scrutiny of spend and delivery of the agreed action plan by the Department for Education through formal monitoring meetings.

6. Report

Background information

6.1 In September 2023 the Department for Media, Culture and Sport (DMCS) published new guidance on the duty of tier one local authorities to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, leisure time activities and facilities for young people aged 13 to 19 - and 20 to 24 for those with learning difficulties and disabilities.

6.2 The statutory duty remains that outlined in Section 507B of the 1996 Education Act requiring local authorities, so far as is reasonably practicable, to secure access for all qualifying young people to a sufficient quantity of youth service, namely:

- a) a sufficient quantity of educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being and sufficient facilities for such activities and
- b) a sufficient quantity of recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities

6.3 Rising Green Youth Hub is one of three council run youth centres (Bruce Grove and Project 2020) which play a key role in implementing our Haringey Youth Strategy 2025-2030. Refer to background information outlined at 11.1 re: Haringey Youth Strategy.

6.4 Rising Green Youth Hub opened in August 2022. Offering youth provision within the central part of the borough, the hub provides a universal youth offer over three evenings and a range of targeted youth groups for young people who are young carers, homework clubs, girls and young women, get your grades up, alongside therapeutic sessions working with the Vanguard Project (therapeutic) and one to one mentoring. More detail on the range of youth activities and services provided directly from Rising Green Youth Hub can be found here: [Rising Green Youth Hub | Haringey Council](#). Approximately 90 individual young people attend Rising Green each week, equating to approximately 300 contacts per week. Impact is evidenced through both qualitative and quantitative measures such as performance indicators, case studies and evaluation reports demonstrating the positive impact RGYH has on young people and their wider communities.

6.5 Youth workers within Rising Green Youth Hub also undertake outreach work within a range of settings. The primary focus of this work is to support young people at risk of exclusion, exploitation and those involved in anti-social behaviour or on the periphery of criminality. This has worked really well in responding to community tensions and undertaking outreach work with young people out of hours. This has been of great benefit especially to children's social care who have used this mechanism.

6.6 Youth Workers based within Rising Green also deliver a programme of centre based and leisure based recreational services throughout the school holidays. Activities range from cooking, sports, music, arts and formal learning. The programme is delivered for each week of the school holidays in addition to the regular programme.

6.7 Across the week, our partners deliver services over the daytime and evenings, this includes the SEND Supported Internship Programme, Autism Youth Group and Department from Work and Pensions Employability services, Haringey Works, Nia Project, Humankind, Trail Balzer, Tottenham Spurs Foundation, Aspire, Food Print for Good, Youth Justice Bike Repair Project. These services are provided in kind for young people accessing Rising Green Youth Hub at no additional cost to the council.

6.8 Rising Green has been developed as a partnership hub, with a strong emphasis on youth employability. To facilitate this, a Partnership Manager role was established in 2023. Funding for this post was initially joint funded by the Economic and Regeneration service; however this contribution has now ceased, and the work is currently being absorbed by the Youth Service Manager.

6.9 Our fourth Family Hub, Wood Green Family Hub is based within Rising Green Youth Hub and opened on the 17 March 2025 providing services for children aged 0 -19, up to 25 for those who have disabilities and their families. The Family Hub services offered alongside the youth offer include breastfeeding support, stay & play, baby wonder, parenting programmes, peri natal therapeutic support. These are new services all funded by the Family Hubs Grant. Since the launch we have families with young children actively register and using services within the Family Hub. Since April 25, 120 parents and children under 5 have accessed Family Hub services within RGYH.

Current situation

6.10 Contained within Exempt Part B of this report.

6.11 As per section 4.5, Officers will seek to meet the costs for staffing through an organisational review of early help and prevention services to both achieve savings for MTFs and absorb future staffing costs for Rising Green Youth Hub. This would leave a balance of the sum set out in the Exempt Part B of this report.

6.12 Contained within Exempt Part B of this report

6.13 Contained within Exempt Part B of this report

6.14 Contained within Exempt Part B of this report

6.15 Contained within Exempt Part B of this report

6.16 If the decision is to close Rising Green Youth Hub, work will commence immediately due to formal processes required including lease exit. Whilst opportunities will be explored to deliver outreach youth services within the local area (e.g. libraries, street-based provision), it is extremely likely that we will be unable to replicate the current

offer and will reduce council run centres-based youth provision to two youth centres within the borough.

- 6.17 If the decision is to seek a new lease agreement, earlier planning will commence to ensure there are alternative options explored and implemented beyond April 2028.

7. Contribution to Corporate Delivery Plan 2024 - 2026

- 7.1 The objectives of the youth justice service are aligned with the priorities within Haringey's Corporate Delivery Plan' specifically:

Theme 3: Children and young people

- Outcome 2 Happy Childhoods - All children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family networks and communities.
- Outcome 3 Successful Futures - Every young person, whatever their background, has a pathway to success for the future

Theme 7: A Safer Borough

- Outcome 1: A borough where all residents and visitors feel safe and are safe.

8. Carbon and Climate Change

- 8.1 In March 2019, Haringey Council declared a climate emergency, with the bold ambition of becoming a net-zero council by 2027 and a net-zero borough by 2041. Rising Green Youth Hub has been recently developed and supports environmental sustainability.

9. Statutory Officers comments

Finance

- 9.1 The financial implications are set out within the report.

- 9.2 If the recommendation is agreed by Cabinet, the staffing costs associated with the continuation of Rising Green to 2028 will be managed through the existing Children's Services budget. The running costs and those associated with the lease arrangements as set out in the Exempt Appendix remain unbudgeted from March 2026 to 2028.

- 9.3 As reported to Cabinet in July 2025, the Council has a budget gap of at least £44m in 2026/27. Therefore, the additional costs as set out in the Exempt Appendix for the continuation of the provision at Rising Green Youth Centre will require cost reductions to be identified from other services across the Council on a £ for £ basis or add to the existing budget gap and potentially increase the requirement for Exceptional Financial Support for Government for 2026/27.

- 9.4 Any use of Exceptional Financial Support will be subject to approval by Government and will give permission to borrowing for such day-to-day services. Any borrowing will be over a 20 year term and based on current rates, every £1m equates to £62,000 of annual borrowing costs.

Legal

- 9.5 The Director of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9.6 Contained within Exempt Part B of this report

9.7 Contained with Exempt Part B of this report.

9.8 Contained within Exempt Part B of this report

9.9 Contained within Exempt Part B of this report

9.10 Contained within Exempt Part B of this report

9.11 Cabinet is being asked to approve the cost at Recommendation 3.2 which must be within the budgetary framework as approved by full Council.

Equalities

9.12 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard the need to:

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act,
- b) advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not,
- c) foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

9.13 The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

9.14 Rising Green Youth Hub is underpinned by guiding principles of access, equity, and representation: to provide all young people with the opportunity to benefit and participate in a local youth offer. By providing a varied and local youth offer, Rising Green Youth Hub has a positive impact on those with protected characteristics, by fostering good relations through youth service provision and advancing equality of opportunity for those who share a protected characteristic and who do not, through more collaborative ways of working and transparent commissioning. In particular, it is anticipated that young people from diverse and ethnic minority backgrounds, and those from low socioeconomic backgrounds will be positively impacted. Rising Green Youth Hub supports the Haringey Youth Strategy which shares the vision for youth services in Haringey, supported by an action plan that will be delivered with young people and the wider youth sector.

9.15 If the decision is made to close Rising Green Youth Hub, a comprehensive equalities impact assessment will be undertaken to consider the implications of this and how best to mitigate against these.

10. Use of Appendices

Appendix A – Exempt Report

11. Background Papers

11.1 [Haringey Youth Strategy 2025 – 2030](#)

11.2 [Spending Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy \(SCIL\) Cabinet 8 Dec 2020](#)

12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Refer to Rising Green Youth Hub Part B which is exempt from publication as it contains information classified as exempt under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 in that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.