



**Report to trustees meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb; Agenda item 8**  
**EAST CENTRE**

Brenda Grey has informed me that the Town Council may not proceed with applying for an asset transfer of East and has asked what the Partnership's position would be if this proves to be the case.

I think the site of East is of great importance to the town and has the potential to be refurbished into a lively and viable community centre. The consultants report we commissioned jointly with the Town Council and conducted by Tony Dodds said the building was structurally sound and could be saved.

However it would be a major undertaking. The Partnership has the ability to raise funds, borrow funds and trade in a way that the Town Council cannot constitutionally do and so may not face the same hurdles in taking the project forward.

The Town Council was about to commission a proper structural survey and employ a consultant to develop a business plan and this would still need to be done before coming to any conclusion about whether to proceed.

In previous discussions, the Partnership has always said that it would want to keep the youth service at East but this is a decision for the County Council who may decide otherwise. In any event, we would need to develop a business plan that met community needs but also produced a steady income to run and manage the overall site. This would involve shared usage of the site with other services.

So I would recommend that if the Town Council decides not to apply for an asset transfer:

- The Partnership again explores whether there is a viable and vibrant scheme for the site
- The Partnership again states its loyalty to keep the youth service at East
- The Partnership invites members of the Town Council to sit on a working party for East
- The Partnership commissions a consultants report, for which funding would have to be found, and considers the report before making a final decision.