

<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
Community & Children's Services	- For Information	13 January 2017
<b>Subject:</b> Aldgate Projects Update		<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community & Children's Services		<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Neal Hounsell, Acting Director, Community and Children's Services		

### Summary

The creation of Aldgate Square will have a significant impact on the communities that live, work and visit the area. This report updates Members on the progress of a number of projects associated with Aldgate Square that fall under the remit of Community & Children's services

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

### Main Report

#### Portsoken Pavilion

1. There have been a number of delays with the final design of the pavilion. However, following negotiations, both with Members (regarding a budget increase for the pavilion) and the Kier Group (regarding pavilion value engineering), the contract to construct the pavilion has been signed.
2. Last month the pavilion roof structure was completed and is now weathering in the yard of specialists, Littlehampton Welding Ltd. This month work has started on site. Officers are working with Kier to programme the delivery of both the Portsoken Pavilion and the consequent Aldgate Square landscaping. We are aiming to complete both aspects of the Aldgate Square project before the end of 2017.

#### Temporary location for Kahaila

3. In September 2015 Kahaila were approved by Community and Children's Services as Portsoken Pavilion and Café managers based on an expected start date in autumn 2016. In October 2016 Members agreed the offer of a temporary rental contract for 6 Harrow Place to Kahaila, in order that they, as

a charitable organisation, could begin to provide a café services in the Aldgate area.

4. Since that decision was taken, a one year lease was agreed between the City and Kahaila on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and work has commenced to fit out and open 6 Harrow Place as a café provided by Kahaila. We are currently anticipating an opening date in January 2017 and a verbal update will be given to Members at the meeting.

### **Aldgate Community Events**

5. The delays to the square have meant that the community play planned for June 2017 has been rescheduled. The Community Steering Group has used this as an opportunity to extend their programme of events. They will now be running a heritage trail and exhibitions funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in summer 2017. In the latter part of the year they are planning a programme of winter events, including a lantern parade, a Window Wanderland trail featuring decorated and lit up home and business windows, and a Christmas Fair. The community play itself will take place in spring 2018 and will focus on Victorian Aldgate.
6. The Group have also decided that they should rename themselves, to better reflect the breadth of their developing programme of work, and have chosen the name 'Aldgate Community Events' (ACE). As well as supporting the programme of work outlined above, they are starting to develop plans for a range of other events, including Saturday arts workshops for children, live music events and confidence-building workshops for young people to help them apply for jobs.
7. Officers are continuing to support ACE in a number of ways, but the group is becoming more independent as its members develop skills and confidence. They have already successfully bid for a number of small grants, in addition to the large HLF grant, and will be seeking more sponsorship and support throughout 2017. The eventual aim is that the group will become self-sustaining by summer 2018.

### **Implications**

8. The Chamberlain, Comptrollers, City Surveyors and Department of Built Environment have all been consulted in the production of this report and have no comments to add.

### **Conclusion**

9. The delays to the design and construction of Aldgate Square have had a knock on effect to the associated projects that fall under the remit of Community & Children's Services. This has led to a number of adjustments being made to our original plans but these have been managed.

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background Papers**

Portsoken Pavilion and Café – Letting and Management Contract – Sept 2015  
City Play East – July 2016  
Temporary location for Aldgate Square café – Oct 2016

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