Andover Town Council

Item No.

- To **receive** the report and **discuss** the U-Choose scheme
- To **consider** and **approve** a budget so the Community and Events Officer can continue working on this initiative.
- **Consider** using and **approving** money from the Youth Provision budget line (25/26).
- To **instruct** Officers to proceed with the initiative and report progress at the next meeting.

Produced for: Full Council	**By:** Community and events Officer	**Date of Report: 16th December 2025**

Purpose

The Community & Events Committee recommended this initiative 'U-Choose holiday card' be bought to Full Council for final approval before proceeding with the project.
To present members with the project management document, project initiation document, and this report will explain the proposal and objectives of this project.
The documents provided will outline recommendations from the Community & Events Officer following research into the potential new initiative aimed at supporting young people and their families in Andover during school holidays.

Background

The Community & Events Officer attended a Youth Forum hosted by Test Valley Borough Council in June 2025. Inspired by the subjects discussed at this forum and having identified gaps within provision for young people, the Community & events Officer explored the feasibility of introducing a school holiday provision for young people aged 11–16 years old. The intention is to address several key community challenges. The proposed initiative, titled 'U-Choose', would pilot during the Easter 2026 school holidays (30th March – 10th April 2026).

The legal basis of this initiative : *LGA 1972 s.137*, *LGA 1972 s.145* (providing entertainment), and *LG&RA 1997 s.31* (crime prevention).

Proposal Summary

The *U-Choose* scheme would provide young people with access to a range of healthy, safe, and engaging activities at local leisure venues. The initiative is designed to:

- **Reduce social isolation** among young people
- **Alleviate financial pressure** on families during school holidays
- **Encourage physical activity and wellbeing**
- **Support local leisure and entertainment businesses**
- **Help reduce antisocial behaviour** in the town

The scheme would operate through a physical activity card, distributed via schools, which young people could use to access subsidised or fully funded activities. The card would be stamped at each use and returned for evaluation at the end of the holiday period.

Alignment with Andover Town Council Business Plan

1. Supporting Young People and Families
Business Plan Priority: Enhance opportunities for young people and support families facing economic challenges.

- Subsidised access to leisure activities for ages 11–16.
- Focused on school holidays, a financially challenging time for families.

- Delivered via schools to ensure equitable access.

2. Promoting Health and Wellbeing
Business Plan Priority: Encourage physical activity and mental wellbeing across all age groups.

- Structured, safe activities that promote physical and social engagement.
- Helps reduce isolation and excessive screen time during school breaks.

3. Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
Business Plan Priority: Improve community safety through partnership working.

- Offers positive alternatives to unsupervised time in public spaces.
- Builds relationships between young people, schools, and local venues.

4. Strengthening Community Partnerships
Business Plan Priority: Collaborate with local organisations to deliver community-focused services.

- Delivered in partnership with schools, leisure providers, and youth organisations.
- Supports local businesses and builds a scalable model for future collaboration.

5. Financial Responsibility and Innovation
Business Plan Priority: Deliver value for money and explore innovative funding models.

- Low-cost, high-impact delivery via activity cards.
- Potential for partial cost recovery through voluntary contributions.
- Enables reinvestment into future holiday provision.

Recommendations

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