



7 (b)

## Andover Town Council

### To receive and approve a project scope for a community initiative – U-Choose card

**From budget line:** Youth Services (4700/26)

**Indicative costs:** £3,009.79

**Produced for:** Community & Events Committee

**By:** Community and Events Officer

**Date of Report:** 19 January 2026

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#### **Recommendation to Committee:**

- **Confirm approval** of the U-Choose Project.  
*CE 161/11/25 Members received a report on U-Choose Holiday Card. Thanks were given to the Community and Events Officer for her hard work, research into the project and a very well presented report. Councillor K Bird proposed and Councillor M Farren seconded the motion and Members went into debate.*  
*CE 162/11/25 It was proposed by Councillor K Bird and seconded by Councillor M Farren and*  
**RESOLVED:**  
*Unanimously, that:*
  - A budget be approved to enable the Community and Events Officer to progress with the initiative.
  - The funding be taken from the Youth Provision budget line.
  - Officers be instructed to proceed with the initiative and a progress report be brought back to the next meeting.
- **Confirm and approve** the allocation of £3009.79 from Youth Services (4700/26) budget line, to cover costs.
- **Authorise** officers to organise and deliver the pilot project in the, Easter 2026 holidays, in collaboration with Andover Leisure Centre and Riverside Bowl and report back to Community and Events Committee with regular updates.
- **Report approval** to Full Council

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**Legal basis to provide:** Local Government Act 1972, s.145

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## **Project name: U-Choose**

**Project description:** A pilot scheme to provide young people (ages 11–16) with access to leisure and wellbeing venues during school holidays, aimed at reducing antisocial behaviour and easing financial pressures on families.

A card will be given to each participating child, for the pilot scheme this will allow them access to 2 free activities. Each participating venue will mark the card upon use and store the information on the activity accessed. At the end of the pilot, this information will be sent to ATC who will pay for the used activities, along with analysing the information. Costing sheet can be found in the linked documents.

### **Is the proposal a one off project, pilot or an ongoing project ?**

It is proposed that a pilot scheme be run for the Easter 2026 (Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026), with engagement from two of the secondary schools in Andover (tbc subject to approval). If the scheme proves successful the aim would be to roll it out across all secondary schools and grassroot organisations in Andover.

### **Who else will be involved:**

Andover Leisure Centre, Riverside Bowl, and Odeon Cinema (Odeon - pending pilot)

**Assumptions and Constraints:** to distribute the cards to the schools, parents pay or donate £5 for the card. Pupils receiving PPF can request the school buy their card from the PPF set aside. Constraints could be parents not engaging with the leisure centre to set the young person up for a temp membership.

**Start date and estimated finish date:** Easter holiday 2026 (30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026) is the proposed time for the pilot scheme to run.

### **Evidence of need:**

School holidays place increased financial burden on families and correlate with increased antisocial behaviour in the town. Local partners report higher youth demand for structured, low-cost activities.

### **Referrals:**

Schools involved with the pilot will promote and distribute the card. They will gather the payments and transfer to ATC at the end of the project.

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## Project Brief:

To provide discounted access to leisure venues for young people during the Easter 2026 school holiday, enabling safe, fun and healthy activities.

### Aims

- Reduce antisocial behaviour during school holidays
- Encourage physical activity and support confidence building
- Provide young people at least one enjoyable weekly activity
- Reduce financial pressure on families during school holidays

### Objectives

- Deliver a 2-week pilot scheme during the Easter 2026 holidays (30<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026)
  - Collaborate with Andover Leisure Centre, Riverside Bowl and Odeon Cinema (Odeon if pilot is successful)
  - Distribute up to 300 activity cards via local schools
  - Evaluate the impact and report findings to Community and Events Committee and Full Council
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## Risk and Mitigation:

**Risk:** Low parental engagement.

**Mitigation:** Work with schools for communications and simple sign-up process.

**Risk:** Venue collaboration risk

**Mitigation:** Secure agreements before launch in writing.

**Risk:** Capacity concerns

**Mitigation:** Limit card numbers (for pilot 300)

**Risk:** If Andover Town Council does not actively engage and provide initiatives to support residents—as highlighted in the Business Plan under public consultation—the reputational damage could be significant.

**Mitigation:** Run a pilot project, as suggested, to test feasibility and community interest. Trying and failing is better than failing to try.

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## Other funding available for ATC to apply for this project to run if successful:

No external funding required; parent contributions (£5 per card) may offset future costs.



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**Money remaining in the Budget line Youth Services for this project: £50,000.00**

**Stakeholders required for pilot**

<b>Andover Leisure Centre</b>	<b>Danny Churcher</b>
<b>Riverside Bowl</b>	<b>Ben Thambipillai</b>
<b>Secondary Schools</b>	<b>TBC (subject to approval)</b>

**Will this project meet the objectives set out in the Business Plan?**

Yes – supports health and wellbeing, community engagement, and skills development.

**Decisions from Committee:**

Decisions taken at Committee/Full Council that are relevant to the document,

C346/01/26	It was proposed by Councillor S Hardstaff and seconded by Councillor M Farren and	RESOLVED: Unanimously, that the U-Choose Project be referred back to the Community and Events Committee and brought back to the next Full Council meeting to report on progress.
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**Supporting Documentation relevant to this report:**

<a href="#">Link in the document here</a>	
<b>Financial breakdown</b>	<a href="#">List of costs</a>