

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture and Sport**

DATE: **30 May 2013**

DIRECTOR: **Gayle Gorman**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Community Centres**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/13/036**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the current position of a number of community centres across the city including those moving to leased centre status; Froghall Community Centre; and Cummings Park and Henry Rae Community Centres.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Note the update provided in the report
- b) Note that in respect of Leased Community Centres with long term old style leases currently in place, that officers intend to formally write to the affected Management Committees to ask that they voluntarily move onto the new lease and Management Agreement.
- c) Agree, in respect of Froghall Community Centre, to instruct officers to progress with the proposal submitted by St Stephen's Church for an initial period of one year while the Community Asset review is ongoing.
- d) Agree, in respect of Cummings Park and Henry Rae Community Centres, to take no action regarding the amalgamating of both community programmes into a single building at this time and to consider the future of both buildings as part of the ongoing community asset review (subject to any decisions relating to the Confidential report on this agenda about Henry Rae Community Centre.)

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Property Implications

The ongoing movement of community centres to leased centre status involves the putting in place of Leases and Management Agreements which govern how these centres are operated and places a number of specific obligations on the Council.

Legal Implications

Where agreement is reached with centres, then new leases and management agreements will be put in place as per the models agreed previously by Committee.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Move towards leased centre status

The following community centres have now moved from Council management to leased community centre status:

- Seaton Community Centre
- Mastrick Community Centre
- Northfield Community Centre
- Loirston Community Centre

The following existing leased community centres have now signed up to the new lease and management agreement:

- Balnagask Community Centre
- Balgownie Community Centre
- Catherine Street Community Centre
- Inchgarth Community Centre
- Tillydrone Community Centre
- Sheddocksley Community Centre

At the time of writing this report final discussions are ongoing with Management Committees of Old Torry Community Centre and it is anticipated that they will have signed up to the new agreements and moved to a leased centre status prior to the date of this committee:

Discussions are ongoing with the Management Committee of Kincorth Community Centre, which will be the final former Council run Community Centres are to move towards leased centre status.

A number of community centres are on long term old style leases, and it is intended to write to the affected Management Committees to request that they voluntarily move onto the new style lease and Management Agreement. The outcome of this communication will be reported back to a future committee. The affected community centres are:

- Airyhall Community Centre
- Danestone Community Centre
- Ferryhill Community Centre
- Hilton Community Centre
- Hanover Community Centre
- Kingswells Community Centre

5.2 **Froghall Community Centre**

The Management Committee that formerly ran Froghall Community Centre took a decision to cease operation of that centre at the end of January 2013. At that time, responsibility for the centre transferred to the Council.

At the time that the community centre management transferred to the Council, every effort was made by Council officers (with the support of members of the former Management Committee to relocate all activities within the centre so that the impact on the local community was minimal. These efforts have been successful, with all activities relocated or alternatives sourced. The exception to this is the Masonic Ladies Group which continues to operate out of the Centre. Full details of the programme are provided at Appendix A.

Officers also invited expressions of interest from local community groups to continue to operate the building as a community centre. Two such expressions of interest were received (St Stephens and Sunnybank) and were evaluated as follows:

The two proposals were considered against a series of criteria designed to show how well the proposal demonstrated joint working, varied programme, local involvement, addressing local needs, sharing council goals and long term viability.

The St Stephen's proposal scored higher on 11 questions compared to the Sunnybank proposal which scored higher on 4 questions. (Appendix B)

The stronger of the two proposals is from St Stephen's Church. This proposal intends to form a new organisation (a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which would also include representatives of the local community on its Management Committee. It is therefore recommended that the proposal from St Stephen's Church is progressed.

As both proposals demonstrate a willingness to work with the partners and the local community, following the Committee decision officers will encourage both organisations to share their knowledge and expertise in relation to Froghall Community Centre and the local community.

As a result of this evaluation and taking into consideration the ongoing Community Asset review, which forms part of the Community Learning and Library Audit Project, for which there is a separate committee item on the current agenda, and, given that the outcome of this review is currently

unknown, it is recommended that initially a lease, or licence to occupy, be provided for a single year with the intention of the lease being offered for a longer period, or occupation ended, at the end of its term depending on the outcome of the asset review.

5.3 Cummings Park and Henry Rae Community Centres

At the 22 November 2012 Education, Culture and Sport Committee, the committee resolved to: *Instruct officers to consult with the Management Committees for Cummings Park Community Centre and Henry Rae Community Centre on a proposal to merge these two community centres, and report back to this committee on the outcome of the consultation.*

Since that time, officers have undertaken consultation as follows:

Officers consulted the two Management Committees but also extended the consultation to include a wide range of community organisations, groups and individuals from across the four neighbourhoods served by the two Centres and in excess of 100 community representatives directly contributed to the consultation through meetings with officers,' including:

- Lord Provost Henry Ray Community Centre Management Committee
- Cummings Park Community Centre Management Committee
- Northfield Community Centre Management Committee
- Cummings Park Community Flat management Committee
- Byron Boxing Club
- Aberdeen Boxing Club
- Middlefield Community Project

Comments regarding the proposal were also provided by:

- The Tutor from Line Dancing group which use Cummings park Community Centre
- The Chairperson of the Leased Community Centre Forum
- The Secretary of the Silver City Ringcraft Club which use Cummings park Community Centre

A public meeting was also hosted by Cummings Park Community Centre Management Committee and attended by around 50 local people.

The outcomes of this consultation are:-

Those consulted:-

- Did not agree with the view that there was overprovision locally.
- believed the two community Centres served distinctive communities and had developed programmes which complemented each other and other local activities
- did not believe that one Centre could accommodate the existing programmes of both Centres and also stated that the hall at Lord

Provost Henry Rae Community Centre was unsuitable for many of the activities at Cummings Park Community Centre

- expressed concern that existing users of either Centre would face problems of distance and access to public transport if required to relocate

Neither Management Committee was interested in amalgamating with the other but would be willing expand their membership to include representatives of the other community centre management committee in the event of one closing.

Middlefield Community Project expressed concern that their work with children at the Henry Rae Centre would be threatened if that Centre closed or had capacity issues as a result of accommodating groups relocated from Cummings Park Community Centre.

The Management Committee of Cummings Park Community Flat suggested that a network of local community facilities in the Northfield Learning Community could work together to develop and promote activities across all the centres.

The two local boxing clubs said that they would not work together and would like dedicated space for their own boxing activities, not space that was shared with other boxing clubs or to some extent with other activities. They felt that existing arrangements offered sufficient opportunities for those who wished to participate in boxing and did not feel the proposed change was necessary

In the context of the ongoing Community Asset review, which forms part of the Community Learning and Library Audit Project, and the Leisure Asset Review, the long term future of these two community centres should be considered as part of this comprehensive review of community facilities. This will allow many more factors to be considered as part of a city-wide strategic approach.

The current lease at Cummings Park Community Centre came to an end on 15 May 2013. In recognition of the ongoing consultation and requirement to report back to committee, officers have provided a month by month licence to occupy to the Management Committee.

Members may also wish to have regard to the information concerning Henry Rae Community Centre a confidential report on Education, Culture and Sport Committee agenda.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – This report relates to ‘Aberdeen – the Smarter City’

- We will work with our partners to seek to reduce the levels of inequality in the city.
- We will enhance the physical and emotional wellbeing of all our citizens by offering support and activities which promote independence, resilience, confidence and self-esteem.
- We will provide a high quality education service within our schools and communities which will improve attainment and life chances of our children and young people to achieve their full potential in education, employment or training.
- We will improve access to and increase participation in arts and culture by providing opportunities for citizens and visitors to experience a broad range of high quality arts and cultural activities.
- Working with our third, public and private sector partners, we will provide opportunities for lifelong learning which will develop knowledge, skills and attributes of our citizens to enable them to meet the changing demands of the 21st century.
- We will aim to have a workforce across the city which has the skills and knowledge to sustain, grow and diversify the cultural economy.
- We aspire to be recognised as a City of Culture, a place of excellence for culture and arts by promoting Aberdeen as a cultural centre hosting high quality and diverse cultural events for the whole community and beyond.
- We will embrace the distinctive pride the people of Aberdeen take in their city and work with them to enhance the sense of well-being here, building strong communities which look out for, and look after one another.

This report also relates to the Combined Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement as follows:

- Protecting children and vulnerable adults
- People of all ages take an active part in their own learning to achieve their full potential Learning and training is appropriate and accessible to learner's needs
- Children and young people access positive learning environments and develop their skills, confidence and self esteem to the fullest potential
- Children, young people and their families/carers are involved in decisions that affect them. Their voices heard and they play an active and responsible role in their communities
- Educational attainment in Aberdeen is continuously sustained and improved
- School leavers enter positive destination of employment, training or further and higher education with a focus on and support for young people who require More Choices and More Chances
- Children and young people actively participate in their communities and have optimum involvement in decision making
- All children, young people and their families have access to high quality services when required and services provide timely, proportionate and appropriate response that meeting the needs of children and young people within Getting it Right for Every Child, (GIRFEC) requirements
- Improve the quality of life in our most deprived areas

- Citizens are increasingly more active in their communities regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, where they live, disability or faith/religion/belief and contribute to 'active citizenship'
- Develop pathways to participation which enhance the diversity of local representation at and engagement with regional, national and international arts, heritage and sporting events
- Our public services are consistently high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

Public - This report will be of interest to members of the affected Management Committees and may be of interest to the wider public as a result of the significant media coverage of the changes in community centres over the last couple of years.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Consideration of risk management at community centres is an ongoing operational consideration.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

22/11/12 Education, Culture and Sport Committee, Community Centres
 20/9/12 Education, Culture and Sport Committee, Community Centres
 6/7/12 Education, Culture and Sport Committee, Community Centres
 28/3/12 Special Education, Culture and Sport Committee, Community Centres
 23/2/12 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Community Centres
 24/11/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Community Development Fund – Childcare and Out of School Provision
 24/11/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Community Centres
 15/9/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Update on Implementation of Budget Decision - Reduce Communities Team
 17/6/11 Finance & Resources Committee, Kaimhill Community Facilities – Update on Progress of Management Agreement
 2/6/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Update on Implementation of Budget Decision - Reduce Communities Team
 2/6/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Lease Agreements for Voluntary Organisations Occupying Woodside Fountain Centre
 24/3/11 Education, Culture & Sport Committee, Implementation of Budget Decision – Reduce Communities Team

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix A – Froghall Programme at time of transfer to Council Management:

Day and Time	Programmed Activity	Comments
Monday 9am – 12pm	Drop in teas/ coffees	Management Committee confirmed that this session was not operational, therefore no relocation required.
Monday 9.30 – 11.30	Pathways Meetings	Pathways confirmed that this session had been unsuccessful and as such had ended some time ago.
Monday 5.30 – 9pm	Bingo	Bingo is also provided at local Community Centres, Catherine Street (Mondays and Thursdays) and Woodside Community Centre (Wednesdays.) Both of these community centres were contacted and confirmed that they would be very happy to welcome new players. This information was communicated to the bingo participants at Froghall.
Tuesday 9am – 12pm	Drop in teas/ coffees	MC confirmed that this session was not operational, therefore no relocation required.
Alternate Tuesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm	External Let for Old People's Consultation Group	Group was relocated to Catherine Street Community Centre.
Tuesday 6 – 10pm	Masonic Ladies Meeting	This group currently has keyholder access and their activity continues at Froghall Community Centre.
Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm	Zumba	This class stopped last year, therefore no relocation required.
Wednesday 11.30 – 3.30	Drop in teas/ coffees	MC confirmed that this session was not operational, therefore no relocation required.
Wednesday 1.30pm – 3.30pm	Local History Class	This class, run by WEA serves learners from across the city. Relocated to Sunnybank Learning Centre.
Wednesday 5.30 – 9pm	Bingo	Bingo is also provided at local Community Centres, Catherine Street (Mondays and Thursdays) and Woodside Community Centre (Wednesdays.) Both of these community centres were contacted and confirmed that they would be very happy to welcome new players. This information was communicated to the bingo participants at Froghall.
Wednesday 7pm – 8.30pm	Adult Karate Class	This class stopped last year, therefore no relocation required.
Thursday 11.30 – 1pm	Lunches	MC confirmed that this session was not operational, therefore no relocation required.
Thursday 1.30 – 3.15pm	Afternoon bingo	MC confirmed that this session was not operational, therefore no relocation required.
Thursday 6.30 – 7.45	Zumba	This class stopped last year, therefore no relocation required.
Friday 9 – 11.30am	Drop in teas/ coffees	MC confirmed that this session was not operational, therefore no relocation required.
Friday 6.15pm –	External Let -	Relocated to Community Wing at Seaton School.

8pm	Kids Karate Class	
Saturdays	Available for catered birthday party hire	There were no birthday parties booked at the time of handover. Any enquiries about birthday parties received since the handover to the Council have been redirected to other local community centres.

Appendix B – Comparison Scores from evaluation of submissions to manage

Officers assessed the extent to which each submission offered clear evidence that:-

Q#	Sunnybank Score	St Stephen's Score	Highest Scorer
other groups will be involved in developing the programme of activities	3	5	St Stephen's
other groups will be involved in the delivery of the programme of activities	3	4	St Stephen's
other groups will be involved in using the community centre.	3	4	St Stephen's
the service works effectively with a range of relevant local partners	4	4	Draw
the programme of activities provides variety for a mixture of groups and ages.	4	3	Sunnybank
the programme of activities enriches other activities which are available locally	4	3	Sunnybank
the programme of activities reflects the needs of the local community.	3	5	St Stephen's
the local community will be involved in influencing the programme of activity.	5	5	Draw
the local community will be involved in delivering the programme of activity.	4	3	Sunnybank
The proposal clearly evidence the expected outcomes from the programme of activities	2	3	St Stephen's
outcomes from the programme of activities reflect the priorities/goals of the Council.	2	2	Draw
the priorities/goals of the organisation reflect the priorities/goals of the Council.	2	2	Draw
clearly demonstrates that the organisation is financially sustainable.	2	4	St Stephen's
the programme of activities is financially sustainable.	2	4	St Stephen's
the organisation has the management capacity to operate the community centre.	3	5	St Stephen's
the organisation has the potential and capability to develop its current service delivery.	3	4	St Stephen's
the organisation has an appropriate and effective governance structure.	3	5	St Stephen's
the organisation will have all the	3	2	Sunnybank

required policies and procedures in place			
the organisation adheres to all the policies and procedures in place	3	4	St Stephen's
the organisation will comply with other relevant legislation including equalities, child protection and health & safety legislation	4	4	Draw