

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Operational Delivery
DATE	27 May 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Review of the Council's Operational Agreements with Learning Centre Associations
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/21/111
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Derek McGowan
REPORT AUTHOR	Alan Mulvie
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides Committee with the outcome of the review, instructed by Committee on 9 January 2020, of the Council's operational agreements with learning centre associations and seeks authorisation for the approval of new operational agreements.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Note that the learning centre associations are satisfied with the proposed new operational agreement as appended to this report;
- 2.2 Authorise the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to approve the operational agreement for each individual learning centre association;
- 2.3 Authorise the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to approve any alterations to the operational agreements as may be required from time to time.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. A review of Leased Community Centres and Learning Centres was undertaken in the Summer/Autumn of 2019 and a report taken to this Committee in January 2020. The Committee resolved to instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to review the Council's operational agreements with learning centre associations over the next 12 months and thereafter to report back to this Committee with the outcome and findings of this review.
- 3.2. The operational agreement is of relevance to the Council's learning centres which are:-

- Beacon Centre
- Bridge of Don Community Centre
- Cornhill Centre
- Cummings Park Centre
- Dyce Community Centre
- Froghall Learning Centre
- Hazlehead Learning Centre
- Kaimhill Learning Centre
- Manor Park Centre
- Mile End Learning Centre
- Rosemount Learning Centre
- Seaton 3Rs Learning Centre
- Sunnybank Community Centre
- Torry Youth and Leisure Centre
- Tullos Learning Centre
- Woodside Fountain Centre

Consultation Process

- 3.3. Following the Committee meeting, officers met with the Chairperson's Forum, which is a group that represents the interest of the learning centre associations, in March 2020, and agreed that a questionnaire would be developed and circulated to gather the associations' views on the operational agreement.
- 3.4. A consultation questionnaire was circulated to learning centre associations in April 2020 to ascertain their views on the existing operational agreement and how it could be improved. A similar questionnaire was also circulated to officers who work directly with, and support, the learning centre associations.
- 3.5. In August 2020 a virtual meeting was arranged to report back to the Chairperson's Forum on results from this exercise and, following this, the operational agreement was redrafted to reflect the comments that had been raised through the consultation questionnaires.
- 3.6. In February 2021, the redrafted operational agreement was circulated to learning centre associations and officers who work directly with, and support, the learning centre associations for final comment.
- 3.7. Following the comments received, further minor changes were made to the operational agreement and discussed at the Chairperson's Forum on 13th May 2021. Those present at the Forum meeting were satisfied with the proposed operational agreement which is attached as appendix 1. No learning centre association has objected to the proposed operational agreement.
- 3.8. The revised operational agreement does not alter, in principle, the arrangements already in place. It provides clarity to the existing arrangements and gives the option to include specific information regarding any local arrangements for additional support.

- 3.9. It should be noted that the local arrangements section will be customised for each association depending on what has been agreed at a local level. Any local arrangements will be as authorised by the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment.
- 3.10. The operational agreement indicates that the Council's booking system and the standard terms and conditions of hire will be used.
- 3.11. While the proposed operational agreement does not alter the existing arrangements, it should be noted that there is a potential loss of income if these arrangements continue. These associations could be asked to pay a hire charge as would be the case with other organisations. However, by working with associations to ensure their Community Programme of activities meets the needs of the local community, some of the Council's priorities are met and the benefit outweighs any potential lost income.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The associations will be bound by the Council's Space Hire Terms and Conditions. The Council is able to terminate the operational agreement at which time the Council would no longer waive the hire charges and the association would simply be treated like any other organisation.
- 5.2 The operational agreement provides more clarity than the previous version, including as to the relationship between the Council and the associations.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	The granting of priority access to learning centre associations may result in a lack of space for some other activities.	L	Improved communication will hopefully allow flexibility to alter bookings by mutual consent and the Council has the ability to end the operational agreement with notice.
Operational	Lack of clarity over who is responsible for a particular activity or building.	L	The proposed operational agreement provides more clarity. One to one engagement sessions should be carried out with each learning centre association when agreeing local arrangements, which

			should also clarify responsibilities.
Financial	By waiving the hire charges there is a risk that potential income is lost.	L	By ensuring that charges are only waived for activities that benefit the local community and Council priorities, this ensures that the benefit outweighs any potential lost income.

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	<p>The proposals within this report facilitate learning centre associations to deliver a community programme addressing local identified needs. While this will vary across the city, it is likely to have a positive impact on some of the Council's Policy statements in relation to People.</p> <p>Many of the learning centre associations provide activities which will support the delivery of Policy Statement 7 - Commit to closing the attainment gap in education while working with partners across the city and Policy Statement 9 - Promote diversion activities for youths and adults in our city with enhanced focused on our three locality areas</p>
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The activities delivered by learning centre associations have a positive impact on the LOIP stretch outcomes particularly in relation to stretch outcome 2 - 90% of working people in Living Wage employment by 2026.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	<p>The activities delivered by learning centre associations have a positive impact on the LOIP stretch outcomes particularly in relation to stretch outcomes:-</p> <p>4 - 90% of children and young people will report that they feel mentally well by 2026.</p> <p>7 - Child Friendly City which supports all children to prosper and engage actively with their communities by 2026</p> <p>11 - Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.</p>

Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The activities delivered by learning centre associations have a positive impact on the LOIP stretch outcomes particularly in relation to stretch outcome 13 - No one in Aberdeen will go without food due to poverty by 2026.
Regional and City Strategies	The proposals within this report support the Community Learning and Development Plan 2018-2021 by supporting communities to deliver activities to meet their local communities' needs and helping to build Stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – proposed operational arrangement

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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