

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 11 October 2016

Governance Arrangements and Council Support to Community Centre Management Committees - Update

Item number 7.6

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

Executive Summary

This report provides an update to the previous report to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 6 October 2015. It describes the current situation in relation to planning future governance arrangements for community centres.

Links

Coalition Pledges [P33, P36, P41](#)

Council Priorities [CP4](#)

Single Outcome Agreement [SO2, SO3, SO4](#)

Governance Arrangements and Council Support to Community Centre Management Committees - Update

1. Recommendations

Committee:

- 1.1 Notes that the organisational review for Lifelong Learning which includes Community Learning and Development concludes in Spring 2017;
- 1.2 Agrees that a briefing session is arranged for Elected Members to outline the progress of this review.

2. Background

- 2.1 31 of the 38 Community Centres are leased to Management Committees that are usually made up of user groups and/or local residents. The Management Committees or Trustees are unincorporated associations with charitable status registered with Office of Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). This registration saves approximately £1.2m in rates. At least two management committees have recently converted their status to become Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO).
- 2.2 The Council and Management Committee manage the community centre facilities in partnership. In this way both Council priorities and locally responsive provision takes place. All income generated from centre use, in the form of lets to local groups or agencies are held by the Management Committee.
- 2.3 CLD clerical staff currently provide operational support to the Management Committee to ensure it meets OSCR requirements.
- 2.4 The current model has been in place for approximately 40 years without a full review of the principle structures. A Partnership Portfolio was developed as a result of the Review of CLD and consultation with stakeholders.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 There is a variety of factors that make further changes to community centre governance arrangements premature. These factors are set out below.
- 3.2 The community centre estate is part of the Council's ongoing property review due to report in 2017. This review will involve proposals to consider libraries, community

centres and other properties as alternative locations for service delivery in local areas. This may result in changes to the management arrangements of shared spaces and spaces used differently.

- 3.3 As part of an engagement process with community centre management committees twenty centres were visited by CLD management to discuss options for future management of the centres. Discussion covered options such as asset transfer, managing reductions in staffing, new ways of working required through a reduced staffing complement, and the role of management committees to ensure centres are fit for the future. These were exploratory discussions only at that stage.
- 3.4 The review of FM arrangements which directly affects the support for centres' opening hours has not yet been concluded so leading to uncertainties around sustaining the opening hours for centres in the future.
- 3.5 The changing environment and the adoption of the Community Empowerment Act may lead to changes within governance arrangements for a range of local facilities including community centres.
- 3.6 The organisational review for Lifelong Learning which includes Community Learning and Development will begin in Autumn 2016 to be concluded in Spring 2017. This will result in the implementation of a new locality-based service of Lifelong Learning with new governance arrangements. The involvement of community centres in this service provision including the partnership with local people will be critical to the success of the new service area. The review will result in a reduced staffing complement for CLD which will have implications for the staffing of community centres.
- 3.7 The final factor which has impacted on progress with community centre governance arrangements concerns the existing clerical support to management committees. As part of the Business Support Services organisational review clerical staff will no longer have these support tasks within their job description.
- 3.8 In conclusion CLD's intention was to refresh and update the Community Centre Partnership Portfolio however due to the uncertainties identified above, around the future support and management for community centres CLD has postponed this work until there is more clarity on the way forward.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 There is an understanding of the need for some certainty on the future governance and support for community centres before governance arrangements can be explored.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There is no financial impact.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1 There are no adverse impacts arising from this report.

7. Equalities impact

7.1 There is no adverse impact.

8. Sustainability impact

8.1 Establishing good partnership arrangements with local people in the support and management of community centres ensures centre programmes are relevant to local communities.

9. Consultation and engagement

9.1 There will be a consultation process with management committees to shape the future governance arrangements to ensure community centres are fit for the future as effective locations for delivery of leisure and learning opportunities. The Council will also engage local stakeholders in discussion around future governance arrangements.

10. Background reading/external references

[Governance Arrangements and Council support to Community Centre Management Committees – Education, Children and Families Report - 6 October 2015](#)

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11. Links

Coalition Pledges

P33 Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used
P36 Develop improved partnership working across the Capital and with the voluntary sector to build on the “Total Craigroyston” model
P41 Take firm action to resolve issues surrounding the Council’s property services

Council Priorities	CP4 Safe and empowered communities
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2 Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health SO3 Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential SO4 Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric