

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Item No 3

10 November 2020

DEPUTATION REQUESTS

Subject	Deputation
3.1 In relation to Item 7.7 on the agenda – Community Centres and Library Re-opening Update	Jack Kane Community Centre

Jack Kane Community Centres deputation for the Policy and Sustainability Committee 10th November 2020:

Convener, Vice Convener and elected members of the Committee thank you for agreeing to hear this deputation from the Jack Kane Community Centre in respect to gently opening our centre for the resumption of essential but limited indoor youth work. As one shoe does not fit all, this deputation relates specifically to the Jack Kane Community Centre and the confidence and capacity that our organisation has in delivering this ambition.

Our board today submit this deputation from a position of hopelessness,

- **Four months down the line** from the P&S committee that was held on the 6th August, this charity is still waiting on criteria being developed on which we can apply.
- There has been no **meaningful discussions** or acceleration on specific individual community centres needs to ascertain their capability to deliver.
- Our charity at **no time** has asked for additional resources from the CEC and offered to assist in mitigating financial pressures that the CEC may incur in the short term with a view to reviewing matters in a timely fashion.

Our board and committee are looking not to open to the wider public but to deploy a single occupancy **pilot** project which would seek to gently open our centre in a safe and compliant way. The benefits of this controlled and restricted access would mean that we could deliver services as laid out in the Scottish Government Framework for the renewal of youth work services.

To this end we have three clear questions as laid out below:

1. We welcome the recommendation in the report that an additional £200k is to be set aside to safely open community centres and libraries.
What will be the total amount of this fund which will be set aside specifically for community centre openings?
2. Given that a joint paper relating to community centres and libraries re-opening was submitted to the P&S committee on the 6th August. In this time,
Why has six libraries opened with a further four to open to the public in December, when there has been no acceleration of this nature regarding specific community centres?
3. This board alongside young people throughout the last few months have attempted to be at the forefront both locally and nationally in articulating the benefit of service delivery.
Why then is there still no clear process, no timelines and seemingly limited desire to make this happen in centres that have both the capacity and capability to fulfil young people's needs whilst ensuring a safe and secure environment?

Our ambitions are still to ensure a secure and welcoming environment for essential youth work to take place, we have had an extensive window of opportunity, however as each month goes by it feels like the curtains are slowly closing. This board and the [young people](#) of this community do not want to be in the same position at the end of this month whilst 'discussions are on-going'.

John Witherspoon
Chairperson
9/11/20