

# Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 5 October 2023

## Community Centre Strategy Reporting

Executive/routine  
Wards

Routine  
All

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Culture and Communities Committee is asked to note this update on the development of a community centre strategy for the city.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Andrew Field, Head of Community Empowerment

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# Report

## Community Centre Strategy Reporting

### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 This report responds to an adjusted motion by Councillor Thornley which was approved by Committee on 10 August 2023 on community centre strategy reporting.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 On 7 March 2023, Culture and Communities Committee [approved](#) the proposed approach to be taken to the development of a community centre strategy for the city. In addition to approving the approach, Committee agreed to establish a time limited All Party Oversight Group (APOG) to oversee the strategic review and development of a community centre strategy.
- 2.2 On 10 August 2023, Committee approved a [motion](#) by Councillor Thornley entitled Community Centre Strategy Reporting. The motion requested an interim report be presented to Committee at its October meeting, providing an update on the approach being taken and progress to date.

### 3. Main report

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#### **Approach to developing a Community Centre Strategy for the city**

- 3.1 Following Committee approval of the approach to developing a Community Centre Strategy for the city, a briefing note on this was circulated to all Councillors in July 2023. A copy of the briefing note is attached in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The note highlights that, in addition to community centres operated by the Council, there are a number of community spaces which the Council has no involvement in but which provide valuable support and services in local areas.
- 3.3 As reported to Committee (and summarised in the note), the plan for a strategic review of the current arrangements, focused on:
  - 3.3.1 Service provision and building use.
  - 3.3.2 Management committee structures, function, and sustainability.
  - 3.3.3 Property condition, location, and accessibility.
  - 3.3.4 Lease arrangements.

3.3.5 Staffing.

3.3.6 Finances, including funding, expenditure and income.

3.3.7 Local context, such as neighbouring community assets/projects.

### **Progress Update**

3.4 An invitation was sent to all community centre management committees in July 2023 to set up an introductory meeting with them to discuss the work of the Community Empowerment and Engagement service.

3.5 At time of writing, introductory meetings have taken place with the management committees of:

- Sandy's Community Centre
- Pentland Community Centre
- Southside Community Centre
- Balerno Village Trust
- Bingham Community Centre
- Craigentiny Community Centre
- Gilmerton Community Centre
- Gorgie War Memorial Hall
- Kirkliston Community Centre
- Rannoch Community Centre
- Rosebery Hall
- Valley Park Community Centre
- St Brides Community Centre
- Colinton Mains Community Centre
- Muirhouse Millenium Centre

3.6 In addition, meetings are scheduled with the centre management committees of:

- Royston Wardieburn Community Centre
- Gate 55 Community Centre
- Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre
- Tollcross Community Centre

3.7 The meetings begin with an introductory presentation, followed by discussion. A copy of the presentation is attached in Appendix 2.

3.8 At the request of the APOG in June 2023, an all councillor briefing on the approach to the development of our strategy was arranged for 15 August in the Business Centre at the City Chambers. This took the format of a short presentation (attached

in Appendix 3) from officers followed by a discussion with members. Eighteen Councillors were in attendance and at time of writing, a number of those unable to attend have requested a further session to be arranged.

#### **4. Next Steps**

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- 4.1 Introductory meetings will continue with management committees and engagement will be on-going (including those non-Council Community spaces) throughout the development of the new Community Centre Strategy.

#### **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 There are no direct financial impacts arising from this report.

#### **6. Equality and Poverty Impact**

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- 6.1 Any proposals resulting from the strategic review of community centre provision would require an equality and poverty impact assessment.

#### **7. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications**

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- 7.1 Any proposals resulting from the strategic review of community centre provision would require to be considered and agreed in line with the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act.
- 7.2 Any proposals would need to be made in cognisance of building condition and would thus have to be closely aligned to the Corporate Property Strategy.

#### **8. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 8.1 Community centre management committees and stakeholders are being consulted with throughout the development of this work programme.

#### **9. Background reading/external references**

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- 9.1 Community Centre Strategy [report](#) for Culture and Communities Committee, 7 March 2023.

#### **10. Appendices**

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- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Councillor Briefing Note.
- 11.2 Appendix 2 – Management Committee Presentation.
- 11.3 Appendix 3 – Councillor Presentation 15 August 2023.

# Appendix 1 - Elected Member Briefing

## Community Centre Strategy

Community Empowerment and Engagement Service  
Place Directorate  
10 July 2023

### 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 This briefing gives an overview of the current management arrangements of Community Centres in Edinburgh and the development of a Community Centre strategy.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 There are 35 Council run Community Centres in Edinburgh. Each Community Centre is leased to a Management Committee who are a Charity in their own right. By virtue of this the CEC avoids paying rates on the Centres which would be a significant cost to the Council.
- 2.2 The current leases are now out of date and in 2019 the Council agreed to carry out a lease review with a view to updating all leases, after consultation with Management Committees. This process was delayed by the pandemic.
- 2.3 The current leases allow for Management Committees to let out rooms in their Centres and charge a fee. They also allow them to sub-lease rooms but only with the express permission of the Council and, any agreed sub leases must reflect the terms of the lease the Management Committee holds with the Council.
- 2.4 Most Centres have Council staff on site from Business Support and Facilities Management. The level of staffing hours provided varies across each Centre. All energy and cleaning costs are covered by the Council as well as health and safety, wind and watertight repairs.

### 3. Main Points

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- 3.1 At present an assessment of Council owned community centre buildings in 2020 identified that improvements are required to the fabric of many of these buildings, with an estimated capital cost of £13.6m (which is currently unfunded). A programme of building surveys is underway to bring this assessment up to date.
- 3.2 In addition to the community centres which are operated by the Council, there are a number of community spaces which provide valuable support and services in local areas but in which the Council has no involvement. As noted in a motion to

the Council in June 2022 and again on 9 February 2023, some of these centres are having difficulties in raising funding and are facing an uncertain future.

3.3 It is proposed to undertake a strategic review of the current arrangements for community centres looking at the following aspects:

- Service provision and building use.
- Management committee structures, function, and sustainability.
- Property condition, location, and accessibility.
- Lease arrangements.
- Staffing.
- Finances, including funding, expenditure and income.
- Local context, such as neighbouring community assets/projects.

3.4 The Governance of the strategic review and the development of the Community Centre Strategy will be overseen by a time limited All Party Oversight Group (APOG) and a new Community Empowerment Board chaired by Paul Lawrence with representatives from relevant Council departments. .

#### **4. Next Steps**

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- 4.1 The APOG will meet throughout the duration of the development of the strategy.
- 4.2 Consultation will be carried out with all Community Centre Management Committees, including those non-Council Community spaces, over the financial year 2023/24.

#### **5. Contact Details**

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Tel : 07885 233 181

# **Community Centre Management Committee 2 August 2023**

# The Lifelong Learning Review

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3 new service areas came from the review of the Lifelong Learning service which was situated in the Children & Families Directorate.

Community Empowerment & Engagement – Place Directorate

Libraries & Wellbeing - Place Directorate

Wider Achievement & Lifelong Learning – C&E Directorate

# Community Empowerment & Engagement

## Who Are We?



# What We Will Do - Our Work With You

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We are responsible for working with management committees to ensure that community centres have a sustainable future.

We will be working with you to develop a community centre strategy for the City.

You will have a named officer for your centre.

# What We Will Do - Our Work With You

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Working with you, we will look at issues of

- Management committee structure and function, building use and service provision,
- Property condition, location and accessibility,
- Ownership and leasing arrangements,
- Staffing
- Funding, spend and community centre income.

# Our Work With you Community Centre Strategy

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We want to ensure we have a sustainable community centre estate in the City.

We are responsible for the development of a community centre strategy for Edinburgh

Service delivery is our single most important consideration.

A focus on what sort of activities are taking place for local communities will drive our work.

# Community Centre Strategy

## The Outputs

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One size does not fit all. We will produce a series of individual reviews by the end of this year upon which an overall strategy can be developed.

Community centres will not be looked at in isolation. The strategy will be aligned with other Council led initiatives.

# Community Centre Strategy Governance Arrangements

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We will have a regular programme of meetings with management committees to help develop this strategy.

Internally we will be helped through an officers' group which includes officers from the Finance, Legal, Health & Safety, Facilities Management, Communications, Estates, Business Support and Children & Education services.

An All-Party Oversight Group will oversee this work. It is made up of Councillors from the Culture & Communities Committee and will meet every two months. We will report to this Committee

# Community Centre Strategy and the Shared Prosperity Fund

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Alongside the development of the strategy, we are partnering with EVOG on the governance requirements of existing committees.

This will be delivered through a 2-year SPF programme

This will be a tailored programme of work developed in consultation with Management Committees and will cover all areas of your business including charitable responsibilities and law, business planning, recruitment and succession

# Questions & Discussion

# Community Engagement and Empowerment Service

## Community Centre Strategy – Councillor Discussion Session

15<sup>th</sup> August 2023

# The Purpose of the Session

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To discuss with Members the approach that will be taken to the development of a community centre strategy for the City.

**Community**

**Engagement**

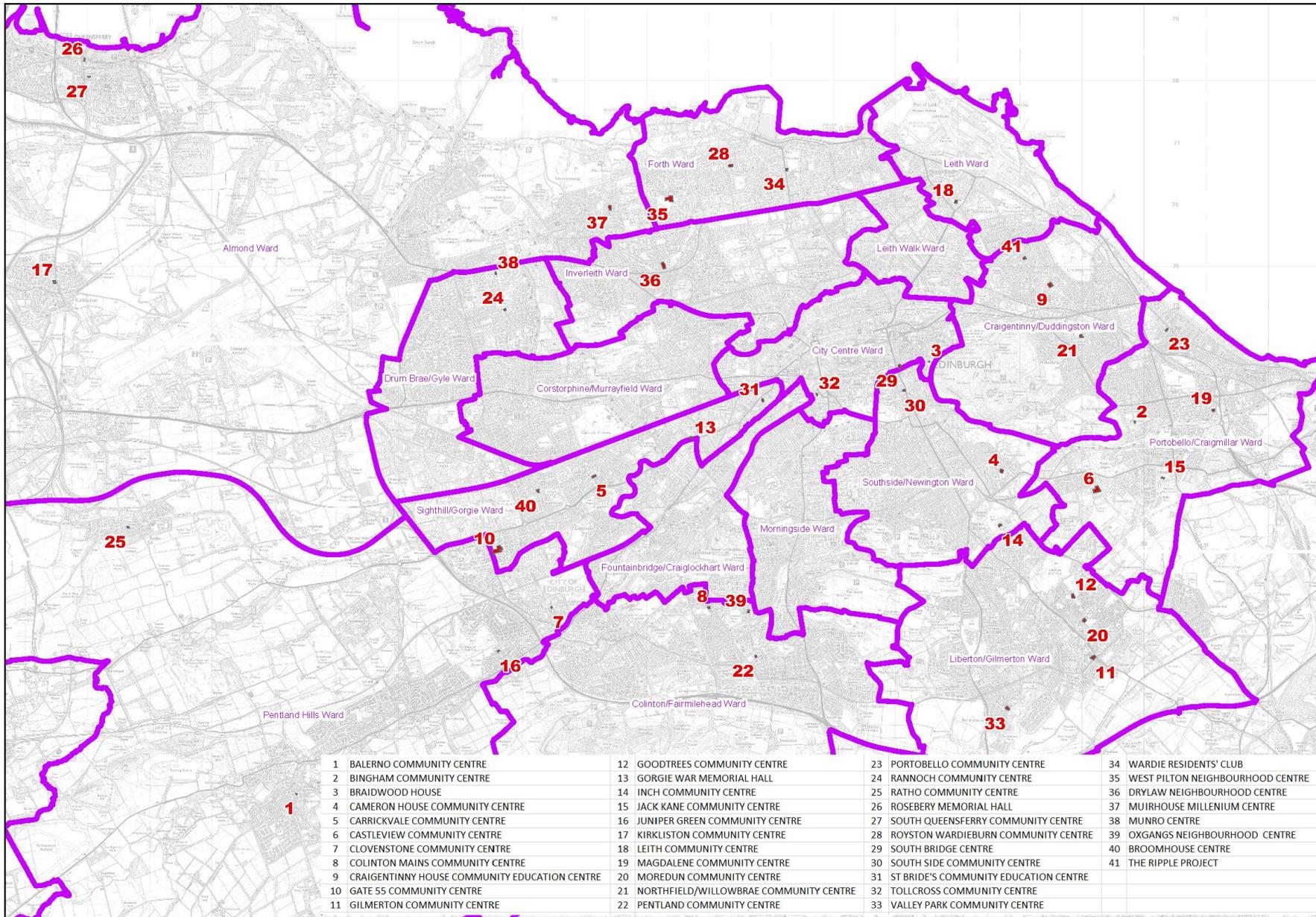
**Empowerment**

# Why A Review ?

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- The Public Funding Environment
- Unfunded Capital Requirements
- Council Staffing Re-Organisation
- Variable Management Committee strengths
- Historic Leasing Arrangements

# Community Centres and Community Owned Buildings by Ward



# What Are We Doing ?

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## Culture and Communities Committee March 2023

- Approved the proposed approach to be taken to the development of a community centre strategy for the city. To include non-Council owned buildings.
- Agreed to establish a time limited All Party Oversight Group (**APOG**), to oversee the strategic review and development of a community centre strategy

# Who is carrying this work out?

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The Community Empowerment & Engagement service is leading on this work.

Internally we will be helped through an officers' group which includes officers from the Finance, Legal, Health & Safety, Communications, Facilities Management, Estates, Business Support and Children & Education services.

# How Will We Do It?

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Working with:



Aim:

Develop a series of individual profiles of community centres across the City.

# What We need to Consider

Under 6 headings  
and taking an area-  
based approach we  
will look at issues of:

Management committee  
structure and function

Property condition,  
location and  
accessibility

Ownership and leasing  
arrangements

Staffing

Funding, Spend and  
Community Centre  
Income

Building use and  
service provision

# The Leasing of Community Centres



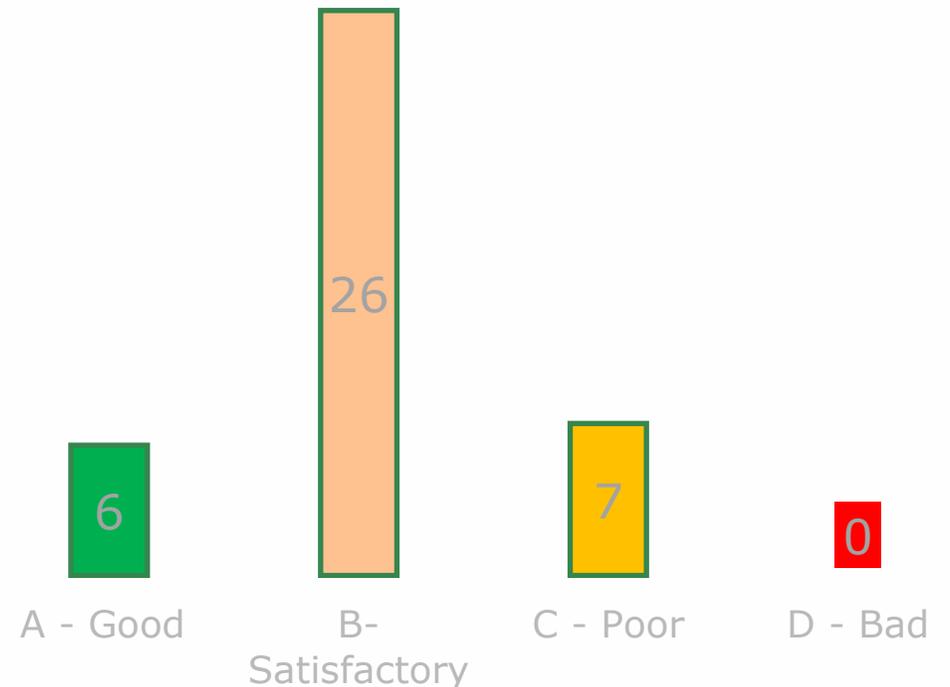
# The Condition of Community Centres



# Condition Summary

- 39 Community Centres Surveyed
- Total identified 5 year investment requirement of circa £15.5m
- Inflationary pressures on construction costs – estimates provided as part of survey are for guidance purposes and actual project costs will vary

Condition Banding - Community Centres



# Our SPF Partnering Programme



# The Timeline

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To Complete a strategic Review

To prepare proposals for the budget setting process for the financial year 2024/25



**Financial Year  
2023/24**

# Strategic Links

Corporate  
Property  
Strategy



20 Minute  
Neighbourhood –  
Living Well Locally



Net Zero



Our Future Work



# Questions, Comments, Discussion