

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Item No 3

9 JANUARY 2024

DEPUTATION REQUESTS

Subject	Deputation
3.1 In relation to Item 9.3 on the agenda – Venue and Events Booking Policy	Southside Community Centre Association SCIO (written submission only – attached)

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4 January 2024

Policy and Sustainability Committee
City of Edinburgh Council
Edinburgh City Chambers
High Street
EDINBURGH
EH1 1YJ

Dear Councillors,

Written deputation
Item 9.3 Venue and Events Booking Policy for consideration on Tuesday 9 January

We are writing to you today as the leaseholder of Southside Community Centre with regards to the above noted item of business which shall be considered at your meeting on 9 January 2024.

We wish to make comment around the preparation and planned implementation of the report and policy but at this stage wish to make no comment on its content.

The message that we often receive from individual Council Officers is that there is a desire to work with leaseholders such as us in a constructive and meaningful way, and that our shared endeavours in providing a Community Centre which meets the needs and aspirations of the communities it serves is taken through a partnership approach. However, such sentiments expressed by Council Officers are undermined by the way in which this report and policy has been prepared.

Although we raise no concerns with the intention of Council Officers to ensure that your Council is compliant with legislation, we are concerned that we were neither informed nor consulted on the report and policy in any way. This is despite us being one of the independent charities directly impacted. We actually only became aware of the report and policy through a chance viewing of your website.

Our charity believes that in order for Community Centres such as ours to continue to thrive we require your Council to work with us constructively and respectfully on all matters relating to Community Centres.

Therefore, we ask Committee to note our deputation, and to provide an undertaking to us, and other Community Centre leaseholders that Council Officers will always engage with us around proposed planned changes to management arrangements of the buildings we lease, and that such engagement will be taken at early stages.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher Ludlam
Chairperson

Southside Community Centre Association SCIO, 117 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9ER

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