

COMMUNITY CENTRE REVIEW

Submitted by: Executive Director – Operational Services

Portfolio: Stronger and Active Neighbourhoods

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To seek authority to commence a review of Community Centres provided by the Council and to establish a project group to undertake this work.

Recommendations

- (a) That Cabinet agree the brief of the Community Centre review.
- (b) The Cabinet approve the consultation programme.
- (c) That Cabinet agree to receive a future report in relation to the modernisation of Community Centre Provision within the Borough.

Reasons

To facilitate the decision-making and delivery processes regarding the provision of Community Centres for the residents of the Borough.

1. **Background**

1.1 On 20 June 2012, Officers submitted a report to Cabinet highlighting the strategic need to undertake a review of the Borough's Community Centres, and as a result of this report, Cabinet made the following decisions:

- Approved the scope and the timeframe of the review and the establishment of a project working group.
- That the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee form a working group or task and finish group to shadow the work of the project working group, and as part of its work visit each site, speak with committees, users and make recommendations to the Cabinet for the future use of centres.
- That an interim report is submitted to Cabinet with a detailed plan of how the review will be conducted, including engagement with management committees and stakeholders having obtained the views of the Task and Finish group.
- That Officer's submit regular updates and progress reports to the Task and Finish Group during the review period.
- That a further report is submitted to Cabinet in the future in relation to the modernisation of community centre provision within the Borough.

2. **Issues**

2.1 Since your last meeting Officers have worked to implement the decisions made by Cabinet and subsequently the following tasks have been completed.

- Each of the fifteen management committees has been contacted informing them of the decisions that were made by the Cabinet on 20 June 2012.
- An Officer working group has been established which will meet on a monthly basis. The focus of this group will be to ensure that the community centre review is completed within the agreed timeframe and in order to achieve a project management structure has been developed to undertake the review. This can be seen at Appendix A.
- The project brief for the review and the consultation plan for the community centre review can be seen at Appendices B & C respectively of this report. Both of these documents were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 11 September 2012. They were supportive of the proposals for the review and agreed to establish a task and finish group of around 6 members to shadow the work programme. Letters were sent to group leaders for nominations to the task and finish group which were considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Committee on 24 September 2012 where 6 members were selected to include those with and without involvement on community centre management committees,

3 **Proposal**

- 3.1 That Cabinet agree your Officers recommendations set out in this report.

4. **Reasons for the Preferred Solution**

- 4.1 To enable the community centre review to move forward in line with the agreed timeframe, and to achieve the Council's vision for Community Centre provision of delivering effective community based activities that are provided through a well located network of high quality community centres, providing services people want and that are managed and well resourced.

5. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 5.1 It should be noted that the Community Centre review will be carried out within existing revenue resources of the Council.
- 5.2 The current budget for the provision for Community Centres for the financial year 2012-13 has been set at £203,560 excluding central establishment costs and monies allocated within the capital programme. It is therefore envisaged that the community centre review will ensure that this valuable resource is spent in an effective and efficient manner whilst still maintaining a service that meets the needs of the Boroughs Communities.

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- 6.1 The provision of accessible community facilities contributes to the delivery of the Council's Strategic Priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan. There will be a positive impact on those relating to health improvement, quality of life, and support for disadvantaged communities, community safety and potentially broader regeneration objectives for the Borough.

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 7.1 The Council has powers, under the Local Government Act 2000, to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Borough's residents.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1 As part of the Community Centre review and the implementation of any recommendations,

an equalities impact assessment will be undertaken. Overall any changes will be made in accordance with the Council's equal opportunities policy and procedures to enhance community cohesion.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 A full risk assessment/log will be developed in conjunction with the Council's Business Improvement Officer (Risk & Insurance) and will be subject to regular review by the project board as the risk owners, as identified in the risk management strategy.

9.2 Risks of not following the recommendations of your officers include not achieving corporate priorities; increased financial implications in central establishment costs; missed opportunities to develop local community engagement.

10. **Key Decision Information**

10.1 It is proposed that in order to achieve the aim of the Council for Community Centre provision across the Borough, that the following outcomes will be achieved as a result of the Community Centre review:

- Transparency and equity in resourcing Community Centres in order to provide effective services to local people.
- To ensure that the Community Centres continuously improve, and meet the aspirations of local neighbourhoods.
- To develop capacity and maximise resources through increased support through the Community Centre commissioning group. This should help the existing management committees access external funding.
- A more robust management structure for community centres.
- Increased capacity and competencies within local communities, enabling the Council to explore transferring Council assets to community groups where it is appropriate to do so.

11. **Previous Cabinet Decisions**

20 June 2012

12. **List of Appendices**

Appendix A - Community Centre Review Management Structure.

Appendix B - Community Centre Brief

Appendix C - Consultation Programme – to be provided at the meeting