

PEOPLE COMMITTEE

14 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LOCALITY BASED SERVICES – UTILISATION OF COMMUNITY CENTRES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform members on potential ways forward for usage of the three Community Centres that are located in three of the Council's four Priority Neighbourhoods, following the completion by Leicestershire County Council (LCC) of their Early Help Review.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That members support the aim to reinvigorate The Cove, The Edge and Fairmead Community Centres by trialling initiatives from within existing resources.**
- 2.2 **That the learning from the proposed trials is used to inform the broader corporate asset review being led by the Director for Growth and Regeneration**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The three buildings, The Edge, The Cove and Fairmead, are owned by the Council and historically have been used to deliver both designated Children's Centre activities as well as being available for community use. The agreements in place in place with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) covered a 50/50 split between community and children's centre usage.
- 3.2 The conclusion of the Early Help Review will see the Edge being retained as a Family Wellbeing Centre along with the LCC owned Venture House whilst the Cove and Fairmead will remain as undesignated buildings. This presents an opportunity for the Council to reset its relationship with the County and refocus on how the three buildings could be better used in collaboration with local communities going forward. For at least two of the buildings they will become 100% community buildings unless any ongoing new agreement can be reached with LCC or the Council assesses their use for alternative use/disposal.
- 3.3 The Neighbourhood Management report to Town Area Committee in November 2017 approved the updated Priority Neighbourhoods and monitoring areas as shown at Appendix A along with the flexible neighbourhood management model presented at Appendix B.
- 3.4 With this increased emphasis on priority neighbourhoods coupled with LCC finalising their proposals for Early Help, we have an opportunity to reinvigorate all three community centres, including the Edge.

- 3.5 The establishment of the Neighbourhood Support service has already led to increased engagement with our priority areas, however the prospect of being able to base our services from the community centres will enhance the impact the service can have upon residents. Facilitation of community events, support for tenants and the ability to react to issues, alongside the opportunity to understand communities more effectively will be improved by the on site provision of these services.
- 3.6 A number of additional suggestions to explore will further increase and enhance our ongoing development of trailblazing approaches that support our commitment to tackling root causes of issues through early intervention. This can include (but is not limited to) the following:
- Supporting Children's and Families based services
 - Customer Services e.g. drop-in or advice clinics
 - Me and My Learning support and partnership services, including self help groups (potentially freeing up asset space at Phoenix House)
 - Community Safety and Neighbourhood Support engagement
 - Homelessness and Tenancy Support. The potential to increase proactive engagement through the recruitment of Housing Officers and provision of outreach services for which the Centres will become key locations in enabling vulnerable residents to access prevention information and advice more easily. This service could be funded through the Homelessness Reduction Grants from Central Government
 - Voluntary and third sector usage including debt advice
 - Increased usage from Residents' Groups.
 - Sport and Physical Activities
- 3.7 Any proposed usage will be assessed in line with the planned Asset Review being undertaken by the Director for Growth and Regeneration which will assess the long term viability of Council assets including the community centres. The options set out within this report will also be used to inform this review and the wider usage of Council assets across the Borough.
- 3.8 The proposals can start to be trialled as soon as possible utilising existing resources (2019/20 budgets) with access, feedback and impact on demand evaluated to judge long term viability beyond 2019/20.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The drive to re-energise the Community Centres is vital to support our embedded culture of tackling the holistic needs of families, tackling root causes and achieving high levels of integrated service provision for vulnerable people across our partnerships. Doing so will have a significant impact on the following corporate priorities:
- PP1 – Helping people fulfil their potential and achieve their ambitions
 - PP2 – Work with our partners to address vulnerability and tackle the root causes of social problems, building safe, happy and healthy communities.
 - PP3 – Focussing on our priority neighbourhoods, support people to overcome disadvantage and live well independently.
 - OG1 – Delivering quality services to business and residents; understanding what really matters to our customers.

- 4.2 The review of the children's centres needs to be considered within the context of wider property reviews that are being undertaken including the use of Parkside to generate income as well as the review of Phoenix House in order to ensure those properties with the greater commercial viability are used for that purpose and others that are more appropriate for community use are used accordingly.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In 2017/18 the total charge to LCC for their share of the running costs for the three Children's/Community Centre buildings was approximately £54k. The decision not to use the Cove and Fairmead following the Early Help Review will mean that the Council will lose in the region of £34k per annum towards the running costs of the centres. This is expected to take effect from April 2020 although there are ongoing negotiations with LCC that might change this. The usage of the Centres in the way suggested should help with achievement of ongoing reductions in reactive demand for services. Consideration needs to be given to the mitigation of this loss of £34k from 2020/21 on the council due to the financial constraints the council is operating within.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

- 6.1 There are currently ongoing negotiations with LCC surrounding the legal notice period requirements for the Cove and Fairmead.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 7.1 Implementation of the proposals contained within this report will have a positive impact on community safety.

8.0 EQUALITIES

- 8.1 Delivery of more integrated outreach services proposed within this report will have a positive impact on equalities. An Equality Impact Assessment will need to be carried out prior to implementation of such services.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 .

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant			3	
	D	Low			1, 2	
	E	Very Low				
	F	Almost Impossible				
			Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4

IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Failure to deliver integrated services
2	Community disengagement
3	Failure to maximise income generation to the council

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no implications identified

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Management team and Policy Forum members have been consulted.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All Town Wards

Contact Officer: Aysha Rahman and Albert Wilson
Date: 4th November 2018

Appendices : Appendix A Priority Neighbourhoods and Monitoring Areas
Appendix B Neighbourhood Management Model

Background Papers: None

Reference : X:\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\People Committee\2018-19\141118