

Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00419 (Version 1)

SECTION ONE: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Service & Division:	Transformation, Communities & Corporate Services Housing & Communities	Lead Officer Name:	Crawford Bell
		Team:	Communities
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Proposal:	Camelon Community Education Centre - SPR	Reference No:	0419

What is the Proposal?	Budget & Other Financial Decision	Policy (New or Change)	HR Policy & Practice	Change to Service Delivery / Service Design
	Yes	No	No	Yes

Who does the Proposal affect?	Service Users	Members of the Public	Employees	Job Applicants
	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Other, please specify:

Identify the main aims and projected outcome of this proposal (please add date of each update):

01/04/2023	Considering closure or alternative delivery model of this community building.
22/01/2024	Ongoing support to explore a Community Asset Transfer throughout 2023 and 2024

SECTION TWO: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For budget changes ONLY please include information below:		Benchmark, e.g. Scottish Average
Current spend on this service (£'0000s)	Total:	
Reduction to this service budget (£'0000s)	Per Annum:	Financial savings detailed in the report; Strategic Property Review Update, Falkirk Council, 31st January 2024
Increase to this service budget (£'000s)	Per Annum:	
If this is a change to a charge or concession please complete.	Current Annual Income Total:	
	Expected Annual Income Total:	
If this is a budget decision, when will the saving be achieved?	Start Date:	
	End Date (if any):	

SECTION THREE: EVIDENCE Please include any evidence or relevant information that has influenced the decisions contained in this EPIA. (This could include demographic profiles; audits; research; health needs assessments; national guidance or legislative requirements and how this relates to the protected characteristic groups.)

A - Quantitative Evidence This is evidence which is numerical and should include the number people who use the service and the number of people from the protected characteristic groups who might be affected by changes to the service.

Camelon is an area of higher deprivation ranked by the SMID index. This building is attached to a larger building that is already closed. Patches have been recently undertaken on the roof of this building. if this is not successful, this building my need to close for safety reasons prior to the conclusion of the SPR.

Monthly usage sample - 1886 users in 4 week sample.

Community: Pen Group, Ukulele classes, Table Tennis, Card Making, Card Nutz, Dancing, Line Dancing.

Private Sector: YOGA, Gym, Boxing, DSFW, Tae Kwon Do, Parasice, Highland Dancing - There are two boxing groups located in this building.

Public Sector: ESOL, School group, Thrive, NHS Brain Gym, Councillors surgeries.

7 of 15 survey respondents, expressed they have a Protected Characteristic that disadvantaged them.

B - Qualitative Evidence This is data which describes the effect or impact of a change on a group of people, e.g. some information provided as part of performance reporting.

Social - case studies; personal / group feedback / other

Comments from those who identify as having a Protected Characteristic:

This building is used daily by hundreds of people, if it were to be closed you would be taking away some people's only form of getting out to see other people and speak to others. The centre is the heart of the community with people from all over the area using it everyday. This would cause loss of jobs to the self employed people within the building.

"We are a group that include an older demographic and participants with downs syndrome and others with MS, we meet every week and member get to interact together while playing table tennis,

The benefits of table tennis are well documented to improving the quality of life of the older generation and MS sufferers".

The group I go to for reading and writing is only available in the Camelon Centre. I feel safe coming to this building; the people are very nice.

Senior citizens make use of many council facilities. In particular, I have used Camelon Community Centre at least twice a week for thr past 8 years. Its closure would have a big impact on me.

As an elderly user of the facility my access to council facilities is limited by virtue of distance and appropriateness re mobility.

Another hall made available that would be available during the day with reliable transport links.

Do not close the building. If it has to close, make sure the group runs somewhere that it also feels safe to go to.

Comments from those who do not identify as having a Protected Characteristic but have made comments on impact of closure on those who do:

This is the only venue in Camelon providing a venue for table tennis in the area, this venue provides a place for our older and disabled residents to meet and interact in a safe environment.

Best Judgement:	
Has best judgement been used in place of data/research/evidence?	No
Who provided the best judgement and what was this based on?	
What gaps in data / information were identified?	
Is further research necessary?	Yes / No
If NO, please state why.	

SECTION FOUR: ENGAGEMENT

Engagement with individuals or organisations affected by the policy or proposal must take place

Has the proposal / policy / project been subject to engagement or consultation with service users taking into account their protected characteristics and socio-economic status?	Yes	
If YES, please state who was engagement with.	15 Respondents in relation to Camelon Education Centre identifying as users and local affected residents. A series of public events were held in libraries and schools across Falkirk during January 2023 and one online event. Ongoing support to explore a CAT throughout 2023 and 2024	
If NO engagement has been conducted, please state why.		
How was the engagement carried out?	What were the results from the engagement? Please list...	
Focus Group	No	
Survey	Yes	15 responses relating to this building.
Display / Exhibitions	No	
User Panels	No	
Public Event	Yes	Falkirk Library 17th January 2023.
Other: please specify		
Has the proposal / policy/ project been reviewed / changed as a result of the engagement?	Yes	
Have the results of the engagement been fed back to the consultees?	Yes	
Is further engagement recommended?	Yes	

SECTION FIVE: ASSESSING THE IMPACT

Equality Protected Characteristics: What will the impact of implementing this proposal be on people who share characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010 or are likely to be affected by the proposal / policy / project? This section allows you to consider other impacts, e.g. poverty, health inequalities, community justice, carers etc.

Protected Characteristic	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Please provide evidence of the impact on this protected characteristic.
Age			✓	Older people report feeling safe in the venue and that it is accessible. The impact of closure would be reduced opportunities for social connection and reduced health.
Disability			✓	The table tennis group has person with Down's Syndrome and MS as participants. Respondents noted health benefits from participating. Impact of closure would be reduction in health and inclusion.
Sex				
Ethnicity				
Religion / Belief / non-Belief				
Sexual Orientation				
Transgender				
Pregnancy / Maternity				
Marriage / Civil Partnership				
Poverty				Unknown as, no impact information received from respondents.
Care Experienced				
Other, health, community justice, carers etc.				
Risk (Identify other risks associated with this change)	Further engagement should take place with users to better assess the impact. Note that this building has recently had a roof patch. Should this not be successful, the building may need to close for safety reasons prior to the conclusion of the SPR.			

Public Sector Equality Duty: Scottish Public Authorities must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance quality of opportunity and foster good relations. Scottish specific duties include:

	Evidence of Due Regard
Eliminate Unlawful Discrimination (harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct):	Inclusive consultation and engagement to include protected characteristics groups and individuals
Advance Equality of Opportunity:	Inclusive consultation and engagement to include protected characteristics groups and individuals
Foster Good Relations (promoting understanding and reducing prejudice):	The closure of this building would negatively impact on a wide range of groups to meet together in an informal community setting,

SECTION SIX: PARTNERS / OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Which sectors are likely to have an interest in or be affected by the proposal / policy / project?		Describe the interest / affect.
Business	Yes	Some businesses operate from this building.
Councils	Yes	A few Council services operate from this building.
Education Sector	No	
Fire	No	
NHS	Yes	Two NHS services operate from this building.
Integration Joint Board	No	
Police	No	
Third Sector	No	
Other(s): please list and describe the nature of the relationship / impact.		

SECTION SEVEN: ACTION PLANNING

Mitigating Actions: If you have identified impacts on protected characteristic groups in Section 5 please summarise these in the table below detailing the actions you are taking to mitigate or support this impact. If you are not taking any action to support or mitigate the impact you should complete the No Mitigating Actions section below instead.

Identified Impact	To Who	Action(s)	Lead Officer	Evaluation and Review Date	Strategic Reference to Corporate Plan / Service Plan / Quality Outcomes
Older People would be impacted by the closure of this building.	Older Persons	Prioritise the most vulnerable in these groups if alternative location is required. Alternative Delivery Model – Community Asset Transfer	Place Services	01/04/2024	Council Plan: - Supporting stronger and healthier communities - Supporting a thriving economy and green transition Falkirk Plan: - Theme 1: Working in Partnership with Communities
Disabled persons attending services in the building would be impacted by its closure.	Disabled Persons	Prioritise the most vulnerable in these groups if alternative location is required. Alternative Delivery Model – Community Asset Transfer	Place Services	01/04/2024	Council Plan: - Supporting stronger and healthier communities - Supporting a thriving economy and green transition Falkirk Plan: - Theme 1: Working in Partnership with Communities

No Mitigating Actions

Please explain why you do not need to take any action to mitigate or support the impact of your proposals.

Are actions being reported to Members?	Yes
If yes when and how ?	Strategic Property Review reported to Members in March 2023, and an updated report to Members in 2024. Further report in January 2025.

SECTION EIGHT: ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

Only one of following statements best matches your assessment of this proposal / policy / project. Please select one and provide your reasons.

No major change required	No	
The proposal has to be adjusted to reduce impact on protected characteristic groups	No	
Continue with the proposal but it is not possible to remove all the risk to protected characteristic groups	Yes	Mitigation identified where impact could be assessed. Further engagement with Centre users is recommended to fully assess the impact of this building.
Stop the proposal as it is potentially in breach of equality legislation	No	

SECTION NINE: LEAD OFFICER SIGN OFF

Lead Officer:

Signature:	<i>Crawford Bell</i>	Date:	22/01/2024
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SECTION TEN: EPIA TASK GROUP ONLY

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF EPIA:	Has the EPIA demonstrated the use of data, appropriate engagement, identified mitigating actions as well as ownership and appropriate review of actions to confidently demonstrate compliance with the general and public sector equality duties?	Yes
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ASSESSMENT FINDINGS	It is clear a wide range of groups use this building most notably older and younger people and also people affected by disability.	
If YES, use this box to highlight evidence in support of the assessment of the EPIA		
If NO, use this box to highlight actions needed to improve the EPIA		

Where adverse impact on diverse communities has been identified and it is intended to continue with the proposal / policy / project, has justification for continuing <u>without making changes been made</u>?	Yes	If YES, please describe: The proposal for mitigation is that an alternate delivery model or a community asset transfer is developed. The EPIA also states that this building might close before the SPR concluded. The impact of these mitigations or closure should continue to be assessed and monitored.
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LEVEL OF IMPACT: The EPIA Task Group has agreed the following level of impact on the protected characteristic groups highlighted within the EPIA		
LEVEL		COMMENTS
HIGH	Yes / No	
MEDIUM	Yes	
LOW	Yes / No	

SECTION ELEVEN: CHIEF OFFICER SIGN OFF

Director / Head of Service:			
Signature:	<i>Karen Algie</i>	Date:	09/01/2025