

Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00465 (Version 1)

SECTION ONE: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Service & Division:	Corporate & Housing Services Housing & Communities	Lead Officer Name:	Crawford Bell
		Team:	Communities
		Tel:	+447483919745
		Email:	crawford.bell@falkirk.gov.uk
Proposal:	Ettrick Dochart Community Hall- SPR	Reference No:	

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	No	No

Other, please specify:

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

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

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.

Monthly usage sample - 463-508 users in the sample. 608 when a party is booked.

Community Activities -Food pantry, community café, cooking group, men's group, recovery community group, knit and natter, boys brigade, counsellor's surgery, toddler's group.

Private business and clubs - sewing, fitness classes, counselling, yoga band practice.

Of 21 survey respondents,10 expressed they have a protected Characteristic that disadvantaged them - Disabled, sexual orientation, sex, ethnicity, religion, and poverty.

This hall is regularly booked and used each week.

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

- The Group is for boys in the Hallglen Lauriston Area, no busses between areas and not many if any options of alternative buildings with storage changing venue away from Hallglen will close the group and be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the young people we serve
- If this facility were to close there would be no central point for food banks/pantries - no activities or support groups, no meeting space.
- Can walk to this centre especially since the Hallglen sports centre already closed.
- The facility provides a location for children's clubs supporting active lifestyles and teamwork. It's smaller size allows my child with sensory overload the ability to participate confidently, other spaces in the area are overwhelming for him due to size and noise, even with ear defenders. Finding this facility in our local area has allowed him to participate in classes and make friendships.
- Benefits local children in an area of deprivation, parents do not have access to transport including public for after school activities
- This hall has a great impact on our local community, it brings people together and helps to build a relationship which is so important to create a supported society.
- I do not see how this closure could be mitigated by the Council, other than by community ownership with financial support for a transfer. This however would depend on a group wanting to take on ownership
- Alternative accommodation with storage bin Hallglen, supported public transport with good times if we have to go out with Hallglen although I think it would closed due to the area and deprivation in he areas we serve.
- Lease the building to a community group or management committee - although I do feel that's a lot of responsibility for volunteers, who also typically work full time. If groups were to take on a lease, they need support from Officers to manage the centre. £6 million is nowhere near enough to save over 100 buildings.
- Free buses to alternative halls
- If community transfer is the only option then training in basic facilities management for any groups taking over the premises would be good to help equip the local groups with the skill sets to appropriately manage the buildings for the good of the community.
- Keep the building open for the community.

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.	21 respondents in relation to Ettrick / Dochart Hall, all identifying as users and local affected residents. A services 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	
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	21 respondents in relation to Ettrick / Dochart Hall, all identifying as users and local affected residents.
Display / Exhibitions	No	
User Panels	No	
Public Event	Yes	While all events were open to anyone from any area, there was an event held locally at Hallglen Primary 17 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			✓	Old and young people can walk to a local building for social activities. The sports hall is already closed (Hallglen)
Disability			✓	Supports active lifestyle and is the right size for children who are sensory sensitive. Children participated confidently with ear protectors and has enabled inclusive participation and friendships for children with disability.
Sex			✓	Men's groups, boy's groups may close or cost more to access under an alternative delivery model.
Ethnicity				Unknown, no impact information provided relative to this characteristic.
Religion / Belief / non-Belief				Unknown, no impact information provided relative to this characteristic.
Sexual Orientation				Unknown, no impact information provided relative to this characteristic.
Transgender				Unknown, no impact information provided relative to this characteristic.
Pregnancy / Maternity				Unknown, no impact information provided relative to this characteristic.
Marriage / Civil Partnership				Unknown, no impact information provided relative to this characteristic.
Poverty			✓	Bus transport to other halls would be expensive. Not many parents can afford halls. A high volume of community activity supporting low income families in the venue.
Care Experienced				
Other, health, community justice, carers etc.				Unknown, no impact information provided relative to this characteristic.
Risk (Identify other risks associated with this change)				

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):	Inclusive consultation and engagement to understand impact of withdrawal of this facility

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	A few small businesses operate from the premise.
Councils	Yes	Councillors Surgery.
Education Sector	No	
Fire	No	
NHS	No	
Integration Joint Board	Yes	Recovery Community groups and projects, health and wellness promoting activities, inequality health impact prevention activities.
Police	No	
Third Sector	Yes	Positive impact - Alternative delivery model would create a third sector social enterprise business model for this building with the potential to grow the third sector in many ways, employment, size, income, social benefits, community leadership role.
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
Closure would have an impact on several groups	Age- Older People Young People Sex- Men and boys Disability Poverty	Prioritise access to other venues for these groups. Ensure free or low cost transport would be available to get to alternative venue.	Place Services	01/04/2024	Council Plan - - Supporting stronger and healthier communities - Supporting a thriving economy and green transition.
Alternative delivery model may have an impact have an impact on several groups if costs to access activities increased	Age Sex Disability Poverty	Support to business plan and fund a community asset transfer.	Community Services Place Services	01/04/2024	Council Plan: - Supporting stronger and healthier communities 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.

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	Mitigations are available.
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	A wide range of groups use this hall and their views are reflected in the EPIA.	
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 impacts will need to continue to be monitored as asset transfer request option progressed and impacts on groups that will be prioritised for other venues.
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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: 24/01/2024