

# Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00448 (Version 1)

## SECTION ONE: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

<b>Service &amp; Division:</b>	Transformation, Communities & Corporate Services Housing & Communities	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b>	Crawford Bell
		<b>Team:</b>	Communities
		<b>Tel:</b>	+447483919745
		<b>Email:</b>	crawford.bell@falkirk.gov.uk
<b>Proposal:</b>	Maddiston Community Education Centre - SPR	<b>Reference No:</b>	00448

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
07/01/2025	Expression of interest in Community Asset Transfer received

## 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 - 1,157 users.

Community - History Club.

Private Sector- Central Scotland School of Ballet, Ju-Jitsu, Child minding group, Giggles,

Public Sector- Councillor's Surgery.

Religious Groups -evangelical church youth.

7 of 19 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:**

A community centre is meant to be the hub of a village community where activities take place Its bad enough Maddiston don't get Xmas tree or lights but to close a building is awful it can be used for many things like a winter warm drop in place for people struggling but all the council want is greedy money.

Would have a huge negative effect on the community use local schools, supply transport to links.

The only community hall up this way. Hosts plenty activities for adults and kids. Big space for events. Near the primary school and playpark.

It would affect all age groups including family members of mine.

My wife and I are leaders at the Senior Youth Club, held in Maddiston Community Education Centre. The Club is run by a group of local volunteers every Friday night (7.00-8.45pm) for secondary aged youth from September to June. The Club has been running at the Centre for 13 years and we have seen a total of about 500 different teenagers attend the Club in this time – the vast majority are from Maddiston. Currently we have 25 teenagers attending regularly. Some of them have significant challenges in their life – family, health, social and behavioural. Some have autism and others have learning difficulties. We do not charge an entry fee. Some families in Maddiston struggle financially and we do not want to exclude any young person. The Centre provides a safe space for them to have fun, meet new friends, learn new skills, and relax. For some, being off the streets means they are away from the influence of under-age drinking, and experimenting with drugs. The Centre is relied on most by young people whose parents have no car or limited finances to access activities elsewhere (e.g. sports centres). If the Centre closed the young people in these families would struggle to participate in activities they enjoy doing at the Club.

My son attends a Jujitsu club at this facility and if it closes the club will be disbanded. What are kids supposed to do?

yes...there is nowhere else for me to go and meet friends.

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

My daughter uses this facility. This is the only facility in Maddiston. There is nothing else here and you intend to close it because you haven't bothered spending money to make it safe. You cannot close these buildings or hand them to the public in the state you are leaving them in, surely that is not okay? Prioritise them and include the rebuild in developers plans. There are a number of housing developers building currently, if you made the building of a new community venue part of the terms, I'm sure that would also encourage local people to support plans. You need to think bigger and long term if you want to get out of the hole you're in.

<b>Best Judgement:</b>	
<b>Has best judgement been used in place of data/research/evidence?</b>	No
<b>Who provided the best judgement and what was this based on?</b>	
<b>What gaps in data / information were identified?</b>	
<b>Is further research necessary?</b>	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.	19 Respondents in relation to Maddiston Community 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	
If NO engagement has been conducted, please state why.		
<b>How was the engagement carried out?</b>	<b>What were the results from the engagement? Please list...</b>	
Focus Group	No	
Survey	Yes	19 respondents for this building.
Display / Exhibitions	No	
User Panels	No	
Public Event	Yes	Braes Highschool January 10th 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			✓	Children and Young People attend youth programmes in this building. Comment notes antisocial behaviour alternatives and a lack of social opportunities and things to do.
Disability			✓	Young disabled children attend youth programmes in this building. Impact Unknown as no specific information was provided by respondents on the impact of closure.
Sex				
Ethnicity				
Religion / Belief / non-Belief			✓	A faith based group uses this facility
Sexual Orientation				
Transgender				
Pregnancy / Maternity				
Marriage / Civil Partnership				
Poverty			✓	A respondent noted youth activities are free. Residents may not be able to afford to go to other areas or pay for entry to activities.
Care Experienced				
Other, health, community justice, carers etc.				
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:**

	<b>Evidence of Due Regard</b>
<b>Eliminate Unlawful Discrimination (harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct):</b>	Inclusive consultation and engagement to include protected characteristics groups and individuals
<b>Advance Equality of Opportunity:</b>	A faith based group uses this facility closure of this facility could restrict opportunity to worship.
<b>Foster Good Relations (promoting understanding and reducing prejudice):</b>	A wide range of mainly youth groups use this hall, closure of this facility would restrict ability of those groups to come together and meet in an informal setting.

**SECTION SIX: PARTNERS / OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

<b>Which sectors are likely to have an interest in or be affected by the proposal / policy / project?</b>		<b>Describe the interest / affect.</b>
<b>Business</b>	Yes	A number of private businesses operate from this venue.
<b>Councils</b>	Yes	Councillor's surgery takes place in this venue.
<b>Education Sector</b>	No	
<b>Fire</b>	No	
<b>NHS</b>	No	
<b>Integration Joint Board</b>	No	
<b>Police</b>	No	
<b>Third Sector</b>	No	
<b>Other(s): please list and describe the nature of the relationship / impact.</b>		

## 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
Young People would be impacted by the closure of this building.	Young People	<p>Prioritise the most vulnerable in these groups if alternative location is required.</p> <p>Alternative Delivery Model – Community Asset Transfer</p>	Place Services	01/04/2024	<p>Council Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting stronger and healthier communities</li> <li>- Supporting a thriving economy and green transition</li> </ul> <p>Falkirk Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Theme 1: Working in Partnership with Communities</li> </ul>
Disabled persons attending services in the building would be impacted by its closure.	Disabled Young People	<p>Prioritise the most vulnerable in these groups if alternative location is required.</p> <p>Alternative Delivery Model – Community Asset Transfer</p>	Place Services	01/04/2024	<p>Council Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting stronger and healthier communities</li> <li>- Supporting a thriving economy and green transition</li> </ul> <p>Falkirk Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Theme 1: Working in Partnership with Communities</li> </ul>

Identified Impact	To Who	Action(s)	Lead Officer	Evaluation and Review Date	Strategic Reference to Corporate Plan / Service Plan / Quality Outcomes
Low income households would be affected by closure of this building.	Low Income Households	<p>Prioritise the most vulnerable in this group if alternative location is required.</p> <p>Alternative Delivery Model – Community Asset Transfer</p>	Place Services	01/04/2024	<p>CCouncil Plan: - Supporting stronger and healthier communities - Supporting a thriving economy and green transition</p> <p>Falkirk Plan: - Theme 1: Working in Partnership with Communities Theme 2: Poverty</p>
Faith based groups would be affected by closure	Faith and belief	<p>Prioritise the most vulnerable in this group if alternative location is required.</p> <p>Alternative Delivery Model – Community Asset Transfer</p>	Place Services	01/04/2024	<p>Council Plan: - Supporting stronger and healthier communities - Supporting a thriving economy and green transition</p> <p>Falkirk Plan: - Theme 1: Working in Partnership with Communities</p>

**No Mitigating Actions**

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

<b>Are actions being reported to Members?</b>	Yes
<b>If yes when and how ?</b>	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	Mitigations identified.
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**

<b>OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF EPIA:</b>	<b>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?</b>	Yes
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<b>ASSESSMENT FINDINGS</b>	Information gathering of groups who use this facility has been recorded, with further opportunity of participation through a survey.	
<b>If YES, use this box to highlight evidence in support of the assessment of the EPIA</b>		
<b>If NO, use this box to highlight actions needed to improve the EPIA</b>		

<b>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>?</b>	Yes	If YES, please describe: It is proposed that the mitigation is alternate delivery model or Community Asset Transfer. The impact on protected characteristics need to continue to be monitored and assessed.
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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	The evidence shows that a wide range of groups use this hall mainly faith based, young people and people with a disability.
LOW	Yes / No	

**SECTION ELEVEN: CHIEF OFFICER SIGN OFF**

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