

EPIA Questionnaire

As a local authority, we must ensure that every decision that is made is inclusive of all the people that could be potentially affected. We have legal and moral duty towards the communities we serve, which is why we record and report on this information.

The [Equality Act 2010](#) defines the characteristics that are protected from discrimination, such as age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The [Fairer Scotland Duty](#) includes those who are affected by socio-economic disadvantage.

So that we can show the decision makers the impact your organisation has on local communities, we need to prepare an Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment as a critical part of the Community Asset Transfer process.

Please fill out the following questions and matrices to help us prepare an Equality and Impact assessment

In section 5.1.1 of the Request Form we have asked about community consultation activities conducted for this proposal. In following section we require numbers generated by your actions, or that are projected by your planned use of the asset in question.

Surveys - How many responses / hits did surveys conducted ref the transfer and subsequent / projected usage of the Asset generate in total? What was the split of positive to negative?

How was the engagement carried out?	Number of responses received	What were the results from the engagement? Please provide details including positive and negative feedback
Focus Group	☒ 21 + 4	Focus Group (6 November 2025), 2nd Focus Group (25th Jan 2026) We held a facilitated, in-person focus group session to engage directly with group leaders, users, trustees, members, volunteers, and local residents. Attendees (21 total in Nov) included representatives from: • <i>Satori Mind</i> (mental health, trauma, personal development) • <i>Soul Fusion</i> (faith based support) • <i>Caledonia Services – HSCP</i> (mental health & community wellbeing) • <i>Connect 2</i> (addiction recovery, trauma, complex needs) • <i>Kettlercise</i> and <i>Zumba Gold</i> (women's health and adult fitness groupos)

- *Daughters of the Reformation* (intergenerational cultural and heritage-based group)
- Local community residents and members

Activities and Outputs:

- Live contributions to a **Visual Planning & Ideas Board**
- Roundtable consultation on the **SCIO constitution, hall expansion plans, and shared governance**
- Expressions of interest in:
 - Mental health first aid sessions
 - Sensory-friendly lets
 - LGBTQ+ space
 - Interfaith and cultural bridging
 - Volunteering pathways and food poverty support
 - Social enterprise and community kitchen models
 - Expansion into Pavilion 1 (therapy/sensory), Pavilion 2 (multipurpose: corporate/skills training/studio), and the industrial kitchen (food hub)

The purpose of the session was to:

- Review and discuss the SCIO Constitution and Community Asset Transfer
- Confirm the SCIO as the **sole management and governance authority** for Thornhill Community Centre
- Plan the reintroduction of displaced activities
- Identify priorities for future use, expansion, and growth under SCIO leadership

Feedback themes:

- Strong support for SCIO-led governance, with full control of access, timetabling, and future use
- Strong appetite for reinstating previously displaced activities and restoring balance, including:
 - *Bingo, arts and crafts, cafe*
 - *Elderly support, neurodiverse, and mental health groups*

		• Full support for the planned expansion, including: ○ <i>Pavilion 1: therapy/sensory space</i> ○ <i>Pavilion 2: training/multi-use room</i> ○ <i>Industrial kitchen: food poverty, cooking classes, social enterprise models</i> • Groups expressed interest and investment in: ○ Scaling up existing offers/programmes ○ Offering employability training, volunteering pathways, and men's/LGBTQ+ health sessions ○ Hosting social enterprise activity ○ Delivering public-facing services like mental health support and community food initiatives • Attendees had also supported a WhatsApp group for group leaders, shared promotion, and improved internal comms under SCIO direction Areas of concern: • Discussion on groups (including those with protected characteristics: elderly and neurodiverse) that felt forced to leave due to worry around the temporary Full Repairing and Insuring (FRI) licence and what impact that has for the long-term use of space in the hall. • Participants noted that under the FRI, the only way to avoid closure by Falkirk Council was to reduce the timetable with RMWG temporarily holding a licence. This is uneasy for users but understand the position to protect the long-established existing community and group access. • RMWG are recognised in the discussion as an incoming let only, not the managing SCIO. It was noted the RMWG operate from several community centres across Falkirk and surrounding areas already. Overall the tone was future-focused, collaborative, and aligned around a shared vision of inclusive community delivery under the now strategic, transparent leadership of the FTCH SCIO.
Survey	☒ 126	We conducted an initial online survey using Google forms to ask the local community if they support our plans for taking over Thornhill Community Hall through Community Asset Transfer. The results of the survey were overwhelmingly positive. The local community are in support of our aspirations of taking on community ownership with 124

votes in favour (98.4%). Evidence is contained within our CAT application and business plan that was submitted on 1st October 2025.

The survey was posted on our new Facebook page 'Thrive at Thornhill', shared numerous times to various pages and by individual followers, and to over 20no. local Facebook groups including: Falkirk Billboard, Grahamston & Middlefield Community Group, Falkirk Community Hub, Braes Blether plus many more. We were able to gather 126 responses to find out what activities local people would like to participate in as we go forward. Details and outcomes as follows:

Online Survey (Google Forms July to Sept 2025)

A Google Form was issued to consult the wider community on our plans to take on **community ownership of Thornhill Community Hall** via the CAT process.

Promotion/Sharing Channels:

- Posted on the **Thornhill Community Centre Facebook Page**

Shared widely across **over 20 local Facebook groups**, including:

- Falkirk Billboard
 - Grahamston & Middlefield Community Group
 - Falkirk Community Hub
 - Braes Blether
 - Bainsford & Langlees Community Page
- (Full share available on request)

- Circulated through **existing user groups' mailing lists and WhatsApp groups**

- Promoted in the centre itself via **posters and signage and physical copies of the survey**

Headlines and Survey Results Summary:

- **98.4% (124 out of 126)** support SCIO-led community ownership of Thornhill Community Centre
- Over 100+ open comments were submitted suggesting future ideas and supporting inclusive local governance (**contained in business plan submission on 1st October 2025**)
- Respondents included existing users, Falkirk residents, families, local businesses, care home staff, group leaders, volunteers, and people interested in joining and/or returning to the centre

Display / Exhibitions	☒ 30+	We gathered feedback using an interactive colourful 'ideas-board' and wall display, situated in the main hall, and from a suggestion box via our admin inbox, both of which are open to all existing and prospective users. Supporting evidence: Photographic evidence submitted with application The display has remained live for over three months with individuals engaging both during and beyond our focus group session on 6 November 2025 as well. It allows for ongoing input and feedback from our community. We estimate at least 30 individual contributions were made. Feedback was anonymous (in part) but visible to others, creating this collaborative atmosphere of shared ideas. Specific activities and services requested on the Ideas Wall include: • Reintroduction of Bingo nights • Hosting of Psychic Nights • Formation of Theatre Groups • Establishment of Arts and Crafts groups • Wider choice of Fitness and Exercise classes, including: ○ Yoga ○ Chair Yoga ○ Tai Chi ○ Badminton • A Café within the centre and community kitchen hire facilities • Youth Club and Youth Group programming • Regular Community Days and Family Fun Events • Return of the popular Ladies Charity Day • Support Groups for Carers, Victims of Domestic Abuse, and Older Ladies at Risk of Isolation • Spiritual Church services • Adult Education options including: ○ Digital literacy classes
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- **Language classes**
- **Back to Work support sessions**
- **Kids' Dance Classes and Toddler Groups**
- **ASN Children's Support Sessions**
- **Themed Parties** for children throughout the year (e.g. Halloween, Christmas, Summer)
- **Drop-in Sessions** for:
 - **Money advice**
 - **Mental health and wellbeing support**
- **First Aid Training**
- **Inclusive fundraisers** designed to bring the community together
- **Holistic events and Spiritual Retreats**
- **Cooking Classes** and access to the proposed new **industrial kitchen**
- Establishment of a **Food Bank**
- **Advice and Outreach Services** (e.g. welfare rights, social work)
- Revival of the **Local Historical Society**

This rich feedback reflects an exceptional range of community-driven ideas and inclusive priorities. It clearly shows the need for extended, flexible space, and it demonstrates widespread community ownership of the centre's future direction. Several of the suggestions directly align with our planned redevelopment of the centre, particularly the addition of:

- **Pavilion 1: Therapy/Sensory Space**
- **Pavilion 2: Multipurpose Room / Training Hub**
- **Industrial Kitchen with Café Capabilities**

This evidence complements our survey and focus group responses and demonstrates live, responsive engagement rooted in the real needs and aspirations of the community.

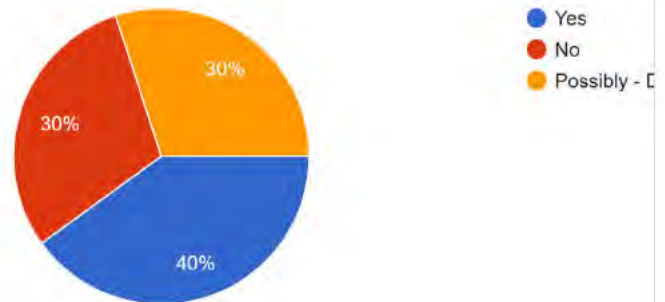
We will continue to use this feedback to attract new lets, business, and enterprise, in order to provide a regular and sustainable income streams.

User Panels	☒ 20	Approximate number of contributors: 20 group leads and user representatives Supporting evidence: Written responses, survey data, direct group leader feedback, focus group minutes Throughout the development of this Community Asset Transfer proposal we have been actively engaging with users. While we did not call this a “User Panel” in name, the mechanism has functioned as one. We consulted with each regular and prospective user of the centre, and their feedback has directly shaped our plans for ownership and expansion. User representatives and leads engaged include: • Caledonia Services (Falkirk Health & Social Care Partnership) • Zumba Gold with [REDACTED] • Zumba (regular) with [REDACTED] • Kettlercise with [REDACTED] • Hartbeeps Forth Valley • Headway Falkirk • Daughters of the Reformation (Orange Lodge Ladies) • Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries • Falkirk Full Gospel Community Church • Connect 2 Forth Valley • Soul Fusion • Satori Mind • Art & Soul • Monday Club • Count Me In Music Group • Buddhist Church Reps • Community Focus Scotland CIC • Birthday party/event / trainers / organisers (ad hoc lets) Many of these leads provided feedback previously, or via written questionnaires, or contributed to our focus group held on 6
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		November 2025, which acted as an informal user forum. Their views informed: • The space expansion plans (therapy/sensory space, multipurpose/training room, kitchen) • The need for flexible, low-cost lets • The importance of inclusive scheduling and voluntary sector empowerment • The development of our future use strategy with targeted community priorities Key feedback themes raised via user panel mechanisms: • Overwhelming support for community ownership led by the current SCIO • A desire to reintroduce previously lost sessions (e.g. bingo, cafe, social days) • Need for better communication channels (e.g. creation of the new WhatsApp group for group leaders now in progress) • Requests for improved facilities, heating, sound systems, and new booking system (we will introduce Hallmaster) • Concern around the impact of the FRI lease • Support for a diverse, inclusive community, which is not dominated by any one group This process allowed us to understand not just current use, but also aspirations for growth, potential for social enterprise activity, and requirements for inclusive access (disability, LGBTQ+, faith-based, and neurodiverse users were all represented).
Public Event	☒	While this was structured as the focus group, it also served as an open community-facing event, with invitations shared via hall posters, direct outreach to group leaders and for their user groups, and via word of mouth. The event allowed participants to hear updates on the Community Asset Transfer, discuss the future of the centre, and share ideas on a large visual planning board. Photographic evidence has been retained. *See Focus Group
Other: please specify		Future Centre User Needs

Would you expand your activities or services if additional suitable space became available?

10 responses



"We would be looking to run recovery courses in a separate side space whilst having our main group of service users in the main hall."

"For bigger functions fundraisers"

"If there was an option to expand and provide a wellness centre, we would look to host our Meditation Group's there (weekly x3). If an industrial kitchen was fitted we could facilitate Cooking Group's (weekly x2) and would interested in working together to provide a Community Based Cafe to the area."

"For Youths and children's classes and private meetings in the future"

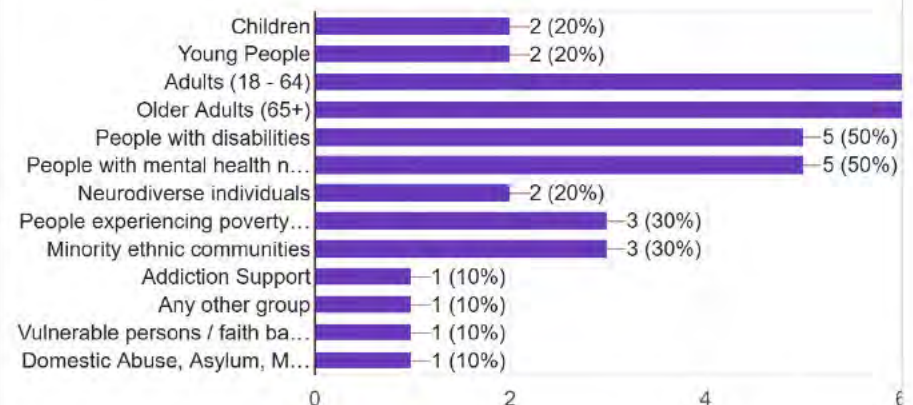
"Potential to run more classes"

"Offer bespoke options as well as mainstream options"

"Offer a wider variety of activities from 1-2-1 services to small groups and large groups"

Who does your group primarily serve?

10 responses



Any other information about surveys: Please refer to the Future User Needs Google responses that supports the 'Other' section above.

How many statements, comments or letters of support were generated by Surveys, Discussions, Meetings or other means of gaining the opinion of the public? Please attach evidence of these.

Our survey generated over 100 comments and statements of support. In addition, we issued a bespoke EPIA questionnaire to all user group leaders, receiving detailed written responses. The following statements are taken directly from group leaders' questionnaire responses and illustrate the depth of impact the centre has across our community:

Caledonia Services (Falkirk Health & Social Care Partnership): *"Our group has made use of this local community space, which has created a safe environment for us to facilitate our groups. Without the use of the hall the groups would be diluted and we would not have the same success rate in attendance if we had to deliver these in other social settings."*
"Our groups give our attendees a safe space to come and engage with others, reducing social isolation, fostering relationships and offering meaningful activity."

Headway Falkirk (Brain Injury Support): *"We would be unable to continue with our group. We have looked into other places locally and have found no others that would meet all our needs. Even if we were able to find somewhere else it would have a huge impact on our group as people with brain injuries find change very difficult and some would have trouble getting public transport to other less local places."*
"Headway is the only group in Forth Valley that offers this support."

Connect2 Forth Valley (Addiction Support): *"Major impact. We are in some cases the only support they have."*
"The centre is vital and is a hub for many organisations and clubs which the local people depend on. The loss of ownership would be devastating to the community."

Hartbeeps Forth Valley (Baby and Toddler Classes): *"Our classes are a safe space for parents and carers to meet together, talk and support one another through their journey of having children. Including the ups and downs of post-partum depression, reflux, weaning, milk allergies, breastfeeding etc."*
"If the centre wasn't available to our group parents would struggle to attend the classes as the public transport to the centre is good and some of our parents can't drive. This would perhaps impact their social circle / ability to get out of the house / loneliness etc."

Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries (African-led Christian Church): *"It helps improve their Mental Health, Social, physical and Spiritual wellbeing. The children taught a good moral standard of being a good example wherever they go and uphold a good value to others."*
"The community securing ownership of the hall will ensure a stable lower rental rate that will give small groups in the community with little financial base or support to be able to use the facilities. It will also allow a wider different interest group the opportunity to use the facilities. This is what community facilities are built and meant for."

Falkirk Full Gospel Community Church (MZIT): *“Greatly improves people’s spiritual and mental health.”*

Zumba Gold: *“Classes have a huge impact on this population as well as providing a safe place to exercise and improve health, they have the opportunity to meet new/old friends and they have social gatherings and keep communication going after classes. All this combined provides a healthier physical and mental health lifestyle.”*

Kettlecise: *“Apart from the physical aspect I believe participating in physical exercise has a very positive impact on overall wellbeing and health in addition to the social interactions.”*
Full EPIA questionnaire responses from all groups are attached as supporting evidence.

How many separate groups / sports teams will use the asset once transferred? Please list all user groups, activities and separate teams.

We currently have **12no ‘protected’ lets** that are established user groups operating regular lets at Thornhill Community Centre:

1. Caledonia Services — Falkirk Health & Social Care Partnership (community-based mental health support, twice weekly)
2. Headway Falkirk (brain injury support group, weekly)
3. Connect2 Forth Valley (addiction recovery and support, weekly since 2019)
4. Hartbeeps Forth Valley (baby and toddler classes, weekly)
5. Satori Mind (mental health, trauma management, personal development, weekly)
6. Art and Soul (creative arts and therapeutic expression,)
7. Zumba Gold with Carol Callander (older adults low-impact fitness, twice weekly)
8. Zumba with Carol Ure (general fitness, weekly)
9. Kettlecise with Anthea Barrett (exercise class, weekly)
10. Daughters of the Reformation — Orange Lodge Ladies (intergenerational women’s cultural and heritage group, 46 years at the centre)
11. Falkirk Full Gospel Community Church — MZIT (Christian worship, Sundays)
12. Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries (African-led church, Sundays and looking to expand into additional community services including foodbank provision)

In addition, prior to the temporary Full Repairing and Insuring (FRI) licence arrangement, the following groups were also regular users of the centre and have expressed a desire to return or could return based on availability and on successful completion of the Community Asset Transfer:

- The Monday Club (elderly support including care home residents, ~40 weekly plus carers)
- Count Me In David Faulds Music (neurodiverse music group, ~12 weekly)
- Soul Fusion (spiritual wellbeing and protected belief, ~18 weekly)
- Men’s Orange Lodge (~8 weekly)

These groups had left temporary or reduced their attendance due to concerns around the FRI licence arrangement and its impact on long-term timetabling and access. Their planned return post-CAT represents a significant restoration of community service provision, particularly for older people and neurodiverse individuals.

The centre also hosts regular weekend bookings for birthday parties, private celebrations, community events, and one-off hires, generating approximately 40 users on avg per week pre-FRI.

Confirmed and pipeline groups for post-CAT delivery include:

- Yoga with Jenni (weekly let, confirmed interest)
- KCR Therapies and Training (multi-use therapy and training space, confirmed interest)
- Heavens Above Spiritual Church (weekly, existing audience of approximately 25 — displaced from other venues with no alternative local provision)
- Forth Valley College (hospitality training, adult learning classes, digital literacy programmes — partnership confirmed in principle)
- Men's health sessions (in development)
- Counselling services (confirmed interest)
- Health outreach services (in discussion)
- Community café operation (multiple groups interested in supporting via volunteer model)
- Foodbank provision (in partnership with Gospel Church expansion plans)
- Operatic Society for weekly and monthly lets – in discussion

We will allow the following types of lets: access to diverse health and wellbeing services; faith, cultural, and religious services; neurodiverse and disability support; creative arts; counselling and therapeutic services; fitness and physical activity; education and training; and community enterprise. Access to facilities will be available for both one-off bookings and long-term hires, with use of the space by other community groups supported through both occasional and ongoing arrangements. The venue will remain available for private functions such as celebrations, meetings, and events.

We wish to note that despite the competitive nature of this CAT process, our SCIO remains open to accommodating Rainbow Muslim Women's Group as a managed let within our inclusive timetable. This offer was first made during pre FRI discussion in September and remains available. Our operating model is built on diversity of use and inclusion of all community groups, not exclusion.

How many service users in total are projected for the Asset post transfer?

Prior to the temporary FRI licence arrangement, Thornhill Community Centre served approximately 386 regular weekly users across all lets, events, and activities. The FRI arrangement has caused demonstrable disruption, with several established groups, including The Monday Club (elderly and care home residents), Count Me In (neurodiverse music group), Soul Fusion (spiritual wellbeing), and the Men's Orange Lodge, either leaving or significantly reducing their attendance. There is real concern among remaining groups during the FRI period, and some users and group leaders have expressed hesitancy about committing to expanded activity until the long-term future of the centre is secured through the CAT process.

Our current 12 established groups represent and maintain approximately 234 unique weekly users. On successful completion of the Community Asset Transfer, we project the following phased growth:

Phase 1 (Year 1 — Immediate restoration): Return of displaced groups (Monday Club, Count Me In, Soul Fusion, Men's Orange Lodge) restoring the centre to its pre-FRI baseline use of the main hall to 350–386 weekly users, plus confirmed new lets including Yoga with Jenni, KCR Therapies, and Heavens Above Spiritual Church, bringing the projected total to approximately 430–460 weekly users.

Phase 2 (Years 2–3 — Expansion through redevelopment): Following completion of pavilion redevelopment (Pavilion 1: therapy/sensory space; Pavilion 2: multipurpose training room) and industrial kitchen installation, we project growth to approximately 550–650 weekly users. This growth will be driven by Forth Valley College programmes (hospitality, adult learning, digital literacy), men’s health sessions, counselling services, health outreach, community café operation, foodbank provision, and additional lets attracted by the expanded and improved facilities.

This represents a projected increase of approximately 70% on the pre-FRI baseline, achieved through a combination of restored services, confirmed new lets, and expanded capacity enabled by the Enablement Fund investment.

People with protected Characteristics

We need to evidence how many people with protected characteristics will be impacted by the asset transfer to illustrate the scale of the benefit to the decision makers.

This section also allows you to consider other factors that could impact users, for example a specific service or team designed for those with a specific need.

Protected characteristic / other factors	Name of groups / activities	Approx. no of participants
We have identified the numbers of people with protected characteristics who will be impacted by the asset transfer below, largely drawing on our experience from the previous year to accurately predict annual numbers in the future and open achieving our Community Asset Transfer.		
Age	Children and Young People Our community centre engages children and young people aged 0–18 in a range of activities. Based on our EPIA questionnaire data from existing groups, the following children and young people attend the centre weekly: - Hartbeeps Forth Valley: 50 children under 5 years attend weekly with their parents/carers. This is our largest single group and provides vital support for new parents, including those experiencing post-partum depression, social isolation, and those who cannot drive and rely on the centre’s accessible location near bus routes. - Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries: 17 children and young people attend weekly (3 under 5, 8 aged 5–11, 6 aged 12–17). The church actively teaches children positive moral standards and community	93 CYP per week (children and young people). 69 people over 60.

	values, and provides spiritual counselling and support for families. • Falkirk Full Gospel Community Church: 2 young people aged 12–17 attend weekly. • Caledonia Services (HSCP): While predominantly an adult mental health service, the age range of participants extends from 26 upwards, with service users who are parents and carers. • Total children and young people currently attending weekly: approximately 69 Post-CAT, we anticipate growth in this age group through: Forth Valley College youth-facing programmes, kids' dance classes, ASN children's support sessions, themed children's parties, and youth group programming — all identified as priorities through our community consultation and ideas wall feedback. We also want to highlight the value of our activities in the context of youth work and diversionary activity. With few youth clubs or traditional youth work provision outwith school hours left in the community, taking part in regular social activities with the support of trusted adults as volunteers is a valuable opportunity for young people that will be protected for the future with the achievement of our Community Asset Transfer. Older People Our centre serves a significant number of older adults, providing essential services that combat social isolation and support physical and mental health: • Zumba Gold (twice weekly): 18 participants, majority aged 60 and over, all female. [REDACTED] notes: <i>"Classes have a huge impact on this population... they have the opportunity to meet new/old friends and they have social gatherings and keep communication going after classes."</i> • Daughters of the Reformation (Orange Lodge Ladies): 38 women, intergenerational group with a significant proportion of older members. This group has been at Thornhill Community Centre for 46 years — one of the longest-	
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	established community organisations in the Falkirk area. • Headway Falkirk: 5 participants aged 61–75+, all with acquired brain injury, physical disabilities, and long-term health conditions. • Connect2 Forth Valley: 2 participants aged 61–75, attending addiction support services. • Caledonia Services: 25 participants aged 61 and over (20 aged 61–75, 5 aged over 75), all with mental health conditions. • Kettlecise: 3 participants aged 61–75. • Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries: 2 participants aged 61–75. Total older people (aged 60+) currently attending weekly: approximately 93 Prior to the FRI licence arrangement, The Monday Club provided weekly support for approximately 40 older adults plus their carers, including residents from local care homes who were brought to the centre for social activity. This group left due to concerns around the FRI arrangement. Their planned return post-CAT would increase the older people served to approximately 140+ per week. Count Me In (neurodiverse music group, 12 weekly) also served older adults and was similarly displaced. Post-CAT, we anticipate further growth through: chair yoga, tai chi, bingo nights (identified through community consultation), digital literacy classes for older adults (Forth Valley College partnership), and the proposed community café which would provide a regular social hub for older residents in the area.	
Sex	Our centre is open to all regardless of sex or gender. Based on EPIA questionnaire data from our 12 existing groups, the current gender profile of our users is as follows: Female users identified across groups: - Hartbeeps: 18 female adults (plus babies/toddlers of both sexes) - Zumba Gold: 18 (all female) - Zumba: approximately 15 (predominantly female) - Kettlecise: 10 (all female) - Daughters of the Reformation: 38 (all female) - Headway: 15 female - Caledonia	220 Girls and Women. 120 Male

	Services: 65 female - Mountain of Fire: 21 female - Connect2 Forth Valley: data not broken down by sex but mixed group - Art and Soul: predominantly female (estimated 10) - Satori Mind: mixed group (estimated 10 female) Estimated total female users: approximately 220+ per week Several of our groups serve women exclusively or predominantly, including Zumba Gold, Kettlecise, and the Daughters of the Reformation. These provide safe, women-only or women-majority spaces for physical activity, social connection, and cultural heritage. Hartbeeps serves predominantly mothers and female carers, providing critical support for maternal mental health including post-partum depression. Male users identified across groups: - Hartbeeps: 32 male adults - Headway: 3 male - Caledonia Services: 55 male - Mountain of Fire: 15 male - Connect2 Forth Valley: mixed group - Satori Mind: mixed group Estimated total male users: approximately 120+ per week Post-CAT, we plan to introduce dedicated men's health sessions to address the well-documented gap in men's health and wellbeing provision locally. This was identified as a priority through our community consultation and aligns with national health priorities around male mental health, social isolation in men, and early intervention.	
Ethnicity	Our community centre welcomes all regardless of their ethnicity. Through our EPIA questionnaire process, we have identified significant ethnic diversity among our existing user groups — evidence that was notably absent from the Council's own 2024 EPIA, which received zero responses from anyone identifying as not from a UK or non-white background. Black African / Caribbean community: Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries is an African-led Christian church with 34 participants from African/Caribbean/Black backgrounds, plus 2 from other White backgrounds. This congregation includes 17 children and young people and is	49+ from BAME backgrounds.

	actively looking to expand its community presence. Post-CAT, the church plans to use additional space for broader community services including foodbank provision, serving not only their congregation but the wider community. This represents a significant commitment to community wealth building from within the centre's ethnic minority community. Falkirk Full Gospel Community Church (MZIT) also serves a diverse congregation with members from multiple ethnic backgrounds. Multi-ethnic service provision: Caledonia Services (HSCP) reports a diverse participant base including: 85 White Scottish/British/Irish, 20 other White background, 5 Asian/Asian Scottish/British, 5 African/Caribbean/Black, and 5 Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups. As a statutory health and social care service, Caledonia's presence at the centre ensures that mental health support is accessible to people from all ethnic backgrounds in the Thornhill area. Total users from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic backgrounds currently attending weekly: approximately 49+ We wish to emphasise that our SCIO's operating model is built on inclusion of all communities. Despite the competitive nature of this CAT process, we have offered and continue to offer Rainbow Muslim Women's Group a managed let within our inclusive timetable, recognising the importance of cultural and ethnic diversity within the centre. Our position has always been that the centre should serve the widest possible cross-section of the community, not be dominated by any single group or demographic. Post-CAT, we anticipate further growth in ethnic diversity through: Forth Valley College ESOL and adult learning programmes, interfaith and cultural bridging events (identified at our focus group), and continued expansion of our African-led church communities who are committed to broader community service delivery. *we do not have data to support RMWG	
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Religion / Belief / Non-belief	Thornhill Community Centre serves multiple faith communities and maintains a supportive, inclusive environment for people of all beliefs and none: Christian faith: - Falkirk Full Gospel Community Church (MZIT): 10 weekly, all Christian. [REDACTED] notes the church <i>“greatly improves people’s spiritual and mental health.”</i> The church has been at the centre for 3 years and has already provided a letter of support. - Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries: 18 weekly, all Christian. An African-led congregation that offers free/subsidised places, transport support, and spiritual counselling. [REDACTED] states: <i>“If we are unable to find another place of worship we cannot worship on physical meeting.”</i> The church is committed to expanding into foodbank and broader community services post-CAT. - Headway Falkirk: All participants identify as Christian. Spiritual and philosophical belief: - Soul Fusion (displaced during FRI, planning to return post-CAT): 18 weekly, a spiritual and philosophical wellbeing group. Soul Fusion provides a space for people exploring belief, meaning, and purpose outside of traditional religious structures. Approximately 75% female attendance. This group serves people from LGBTQ+ backgrounds and refugees. - Satori Mind: 18 weekly, offering meditation, mindfulness, and personal development — services that span secular wellbeing and spiritual practice. Post-CAT confirmed: - Heavens Above Spiritual Church: approximately 25 weekly. This group has an existing audience and has been displaced from other venues, with no alternative local provision available. Their inclusion post-CAT addresses a direct gap in spiritual provision in the area. Total faith and belief community users: approximately 89+ weekly (current and returning groups) Interfaith inclusion: Our centre’s operating model actively supports interfaith coexistence. We host African-led Christian congregations alongside spiritual and philosophical groups, and have offered a managed let to Rainbow Muslim Women’s Group. Our focus group identified interfaith and cultural bridging as a priority for the	89+ weekly
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	centre's future, and we are committed to ensuring the timetable accommodates the needs of all faith communities without dominance by any single group.	
Sexual orientation	Our centre is inclusive of all sexual orientations. Sexual orientation is not a prerequisite for participation in any of our activities, and we maintain a welcoming environment for all. Through our community consultation, we identified the following: • Our community engagement survey included 2 responses from local people who identified as LGBTQ+. • Soul Fusion's participant group includes people from LGBTQ+ backgrounds, and the group provides a safe, affirming space for spiritual exploration regardless of sexual orientation. • Members of our volunteer team identify within the LGBTQ+ community. • Our focus group on 6 November 2025 specifically identified the creation of dedicated LGBTQ+ space as a priority for the centre's future programming. Post-CAT, we plan to develop targeted LGBTQ+ programming including dedicated safe-space sessions. This was identified as a community priority and aligns with our commitment to ensuring that every protected characteristic is actively welcomed, not merely tolerated. This will be developed in partnership with local LGBTQ+ organisations and individuals.	See response to the left.
Transgender	Transgender identity is not a relevant factor in the delivery of our group's activities, and we welcome all people regardless of gender identity. We plan to make our toilet facilities gender neutral to ensure the facilities are inclusive for all users, including those who are transgender or non-binary. This will be implemented as part of our post-CAT facility improvements and reflects our commitment to practical, meaningful inclusion rather than tokenistic policy statements	See response to the left.
Pregnancy / Maternity	Hartbeeps Forth Valley is our primary pregnancy and maternity-focused service, operating weekly on Thursdays with approximately 50	100

	parents/carers and their babies and toddlers attending each week (200 monthly). Hartbeeps provides a critical safe space for parents and carers navigating early parenthood. [REDACTED] notes: <i>“Our classes are a safe space for parents and carers to meet together, talk and support one another through their journey of having children. Including the ups and downs of post-partum depression, reflux, weaning, milk allergies, breastfeeding etc.”</i> The group’s participants include foster carers, parents who have experienced domestic violence, parents with language barriers, and parents experiencing social anxiety. Many cannot drive and rely on the centre’s location near bus routes. If the centre were not available, [REDACTED] states parents <i>“would struggle to attend... this would perhaps impact their social circle / ability to get out of the house / loneliness.”</i> Total pregnancy/maternity users: approximately 50 parents/carers and 50 babies/toddlers per week (100 total) Post-CAT, we anticipate growth in this area through additional toddler groups, kids’ dance classes, and the proposed community café which would provide an informal drop-in space for parents between scheduled activities.	
Marriage / Civil Partnership	This is not a determining factor for participation in any of our activities. The centre is open to everyone regardless of their marital status, whether in a marriage, civil partnership, or neither. The centre is also regularly used for private celebrations and family events at weekends, supporting community cohesion across all relationship structures.	See response to the left.
Disability	Thornhill Community Centre is a vital hub for disability support services, and this is one of the areas where the impact of the Community Asset Transfer is most significant. Our EPIA questionnaire data reveals an exceptionally high concentration of disability-related need among our user groups: Headway Falkirk (Brain Injury Support): All 8 weekly participants (30–40 monthly) have acquired brain injuries resulting in: physical disabilities (all), learning disabilities (all), mental	This number is potentially a lot higher with hidden disability and those that did not disclose

	health conditions (all), long-term health conditions (all), and sensory impairments (5). [REDACTED] states: <i>“Headway is the only group in Forth Valley that offers this support.”</i> The group has looked into other venues locally and <i>“found no others that would meet all our needs.”</i> People with brain injuries find change very difficult and would struggle with public transport to less local alternatives. This is an irreplaceable service for some of the most vulnerable people in the Forth Valley area. Caledonia Services — Falkirk Health & Social Care Partnership: 130 monthly participants (25 weekly), all with mental health conditions. 80 participants also have physical disabilities. This is a statutory health and social care service operating from the centre, commissioned through the HSCP. [REDACTED] confirms that without the centre, <i>“the groups would be diluted and we would not have the same success rate in attendance.”</i> Connect2 Forth Valley (Addiction Support): 12–16 weekly participants, many with co-occurring mental health conditions and complex needs. states: <i>“We are in some cases the only support they have.”</i> The service has operated from the centre since 2019 and provides daytime support, advocacy, and addiction support services. Count Me In — David Faulds Music (displaced during FRI): 12 weekly participants, all neurodiverse. This music group provided a dedicated activity for people with neurodivergent conditions and was displaced during the FRI licence period.. Satori Mind: 18 weekly participants engaged in mental health, trauma/pain management, and personal development services. Summary of disability data from EPIA questionnaires: • Mental health conditions: 130+ (Caledonia alone) plus participants across Headway, Connect2, Satori Mind, and others • Physical disabilities: 80+ (Caledonia) plus all Headway participants • Learning disabilities: All Headway participants	
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	• Sensory impairments: 5 (Headway) • Neurodivergent conditions: 12+ (Count Me In, returning post-CAT) • Long-term health conditions: All Headway participants plus others across groups • Total users with identified disabilities attending weekly: approximately 180+ We recognise that many disabilities are hidden or undisclosed due to personal preference. The true number of users with disabilities is likely significantly higher than recorded. We observe that being part of services at our centre and doing regular physical activity helps individuals to overcome some of the challenges they experience as a result of their disability. We will ensure all spaces within our community centre are accessible to all. Post-CAT facility improvements include: improved heating (identified as essential by multiple groups including those serving people with physical disabilities and older adults), better accessibility (requested by Connect2), additional rooms/spaces for breakout and quiet areas, and the development of Pavilion 1 as a dedicated therapy/sensory space — directly responding to the needs of our disabled and neurodiverse community.	
Poverty	Poverty and financial hardship are significant factors for our user base, and the centre plays a critical role in providing affordable, accessible services to people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. Our EPIA questionnaire data reveals the following: • Caledonia Services (HSCP): 100 participants face poverty/financial hardship (out of 130 monthly — 77% of their service users) • Connect2 Forth Valley: 16 participants face poverty/financial hardship (out of 12–16 weekly — effectively all participants) • Headway Falkirk: 2 participants face poverty/financial hardship • Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries: Poverty data not recorded numerically, but the church offers free/subsidised places and transport support specifically to ensure financial hardship is not a barrier.	20 (roughly 1 in 6) people in the local community looking for this service at Thornhill Community Hall from our Community Engagement survey. 119+

	██████████ emphasises that community ownership will “ensure a stable lower rental rate that will give small groups in the community with little financial base or support to be able to use the facilities.” - Falkirk Full Gospel Church: 1 participant identified as facing financial hardship Total users facing poverty/financial hardship: approximately 119+ per month across evidenced groups Our SCIO takes active steps to ensure poverty is not a barrier to participation. Multiple groups offer free or subsidised places (Caledonia Services, Mountain of Fire, Connect2). Our community survey results showed that people are looking for support with cost of living and access to essentials, and we plan to address this through: - Local partnerships with organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau and DWP - Funded and subsidised spaces through existing lets including Satori Mind and Connect2 - Foodbank provision in partnership with the Gospel Church’s planned expansion - Community café offering affordable meals and social connection - Forth Valley College programmes including employability support, digital literacy, and adult learning — reducing barriers to economic participation - Maintaining affordable, accessible let rates to ensure low-income groups and small community organisations can continue to operate from the centre The centre’s location central, near bus routes, walkable from surrounding communities is repeatedly cited by group leaders as essential for participants who cannot afford transport costs. Connect2’s ██████████ notes: “Due to its locality it doesn’t require transport or cost to travel to the centre.	
Care Experienced	Our user groups include people with care experience across multiple services: Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries: 6 care experienced individuals	10+

	• Connect2 Forth Valley: 2 care experienced individuals • Headway Falkirk: 2 care experienced individuals • Hartbeeps: Foster carers have previously attended classes with children in their care • Total identified care experienced individuals: 10+ We do not expect children, young people, families, or individuals to disclose care experience in order to attend any activities within our centre. If we are made aware that a young person or other individual attending the centre is care experienced, we will support them appropriately on a case-by-case basis, recognising that all people and circumstances are unique. Our approach is to ensure the centre is a safe, welcoming environment where care experienced people can access the same opportunities as everyone else, without stigma or additional barriers.	
Other	Refugees and Asylum Seekers: - Connect2 Forth Valley: 1 participant with refugee/asylum seeker status - Satori Mind: Refugees attend this group Post-CAT, we anticipate growth in refugee participation through Forth Valley College ESOL programmes, interfaith and cultural bridging events, and the welcoming, inclusive atmosphere maintained across all our groups. Domestic Violence and Abuse: Multiple groups serve individuals who have experienced domestic violence and abuse: - Headway Fakirk: 4 participants - Caledonia Services: 15 participants - Connect2 Forth Valley: 1 participant, Satori Mind:2, Hartbeeps: Parents who have experienced domestic violence attend classes (number not formally recorded but disclosed through relationship with group leaders) Total identified DV/abuse survivors: 20+ These individuals rely on the centre as a safe space. The disruption or loss of their established services would have a disproportionate impact on their wellbeing and recovery. Social Isolation: Social isolation is the single most prevalent additional support need across	Various see left panel

	our user groups: - Caledonia Services: 130 participants (entire cohort) - Headway Falkirk: 7 participants - Connect2 Forth Valley: 2 participants - Zumba Gold: The majority of participants are older women for whom the class is a primary social connection Total identified socially isolated individuals: 139+ The centre's role in combating social isolation is fundamental. For many of our users, particularly older adults, people with brain injuries, those recovering from addiction, and those with mental health conditions, the centre is their primary point of social contact. The loss or disruption of this would have severe consequences for their wellbeing and, in some cases, their safety.	
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Potential examples: **Age** - Baby & toddler groups; **Ethnicity** - ESOL groups; **Religion / Belief / Non-belief** - Church groups, **Poverty** – Foodbank

Evidence 04.01a: FTCH email to the Council submitting its EPIA (CAT clarification response 4)

Text copy of email as sent by FTCH to the Strategic Property Review team. Attachments: FTCH EPIA (Evidence 04.01), blank EPIA questionnaire, six focus group photographs.

Dear [REDACTED] and the SPR Team

Please find attached our final email, number 4 for our CAT clarification responses.

This includes our completed Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment (EPIA) document, supporting our Community Asset Transfer application.

This EPIA has been developed through an extensive and multi-layered consultation process spanning several months, including:

- An online community survey conducted between July and September 2025, generating 126 responses with 98.4% (124 of 126) in support of community ownership under the SCIO. Over 100 written comments were received and have previously been submitted as part of our CAT application and business plan on 1st October 2025.
- Two focus group sessions held with group leaders, user representatives, trustees, members, volunteers, and local residents, which directly informed the centre's future use priorities and expansion plans.
- A Future Centre User Needs survey, the results of which were shared with the Council on 21st January 2026, with 11 of our 12 existing user groups completing responses.
- Individual EPIA questionnaires issued to all existing user groups, with responses received from 9 groups in full with the remainder summarised in email, covering the full breadth of protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and the Fairer Scotland Duty. A blank copy of the original questionnaire issued to all groups is attached for reference.

The EPIA draws on evidenced data from across our user base, which collectively serves users spanning every protected characteristic including age (from babies to over-75s), disability (including acquired brain injury, mental health conditions, physical disabilities, and neurodivergent conditions), ethnicity (including African/Caribbean-led church communities and multi-ethnic statutory health services), faith and belief (Christian, spiritual, and philosophical groups), sex, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation, and socio-economic disadvantage.

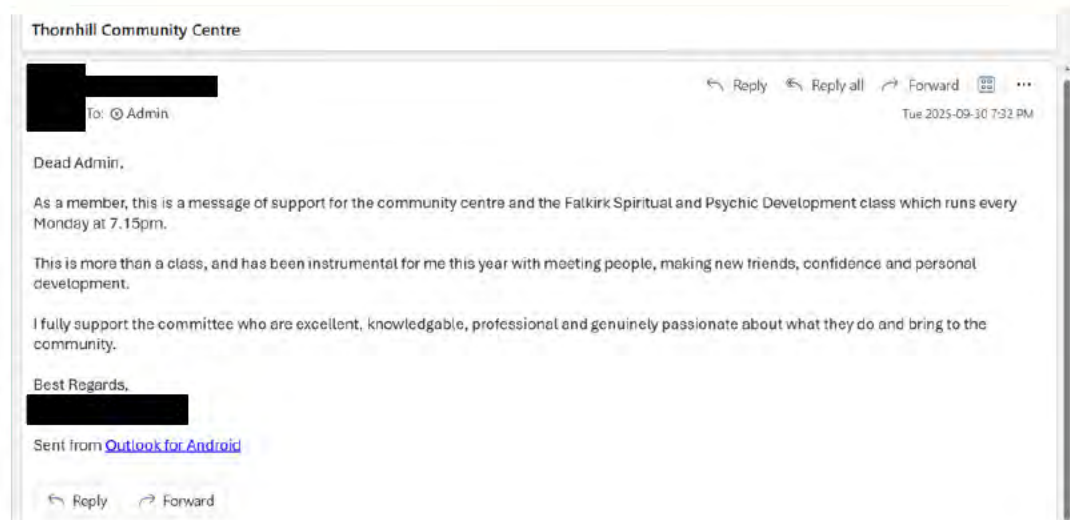
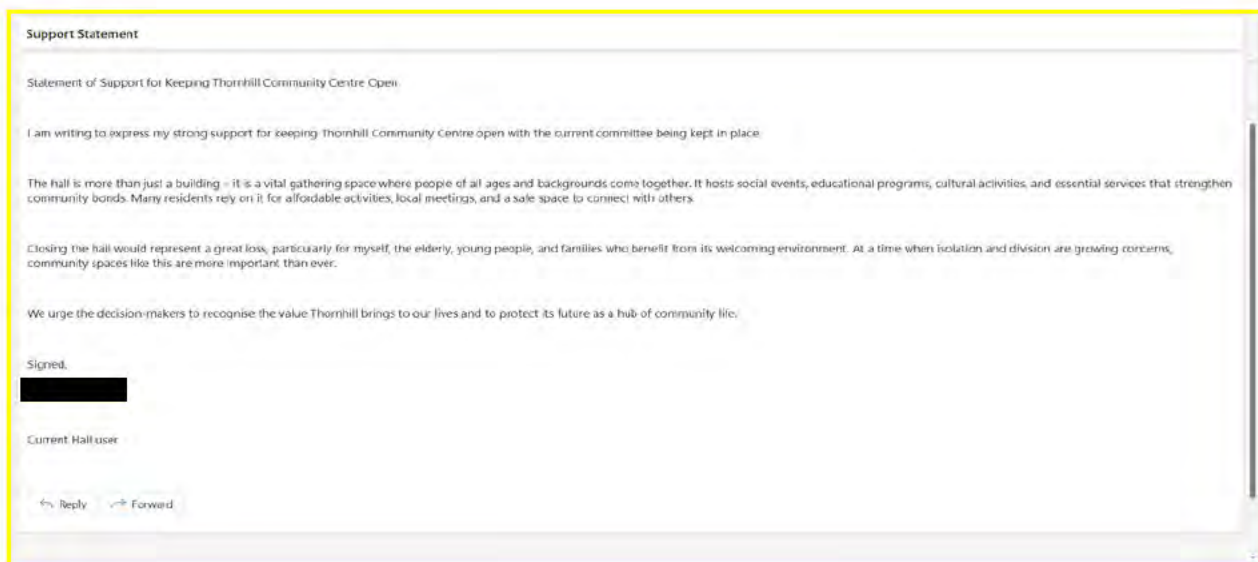
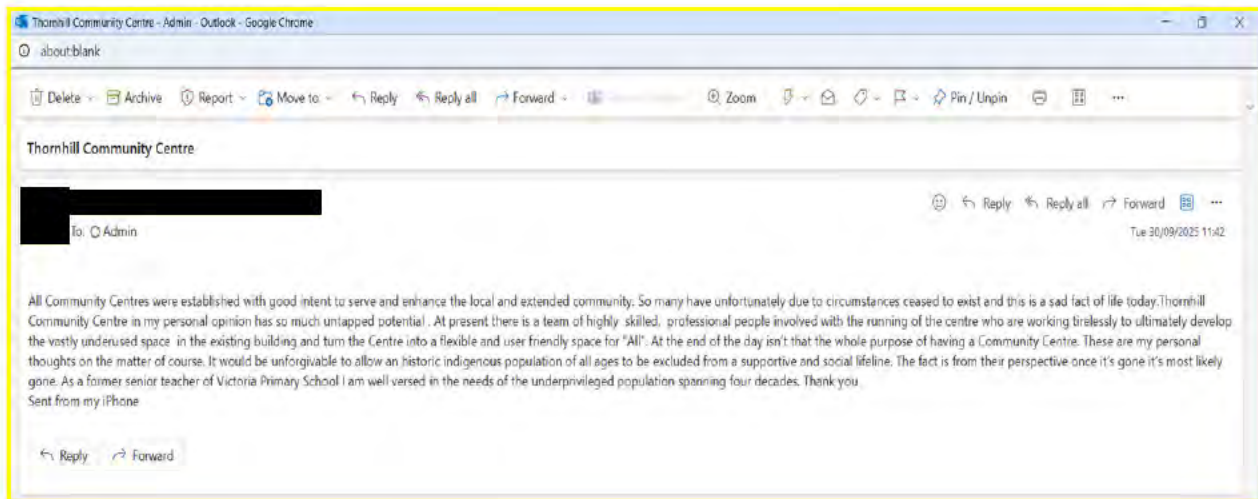
We also attach 6 photographs from our first focus group session held on 6th November 2025. We would note that not all attendees wished to be photographed and the images therefore represent a portion of those who attended and contributed.

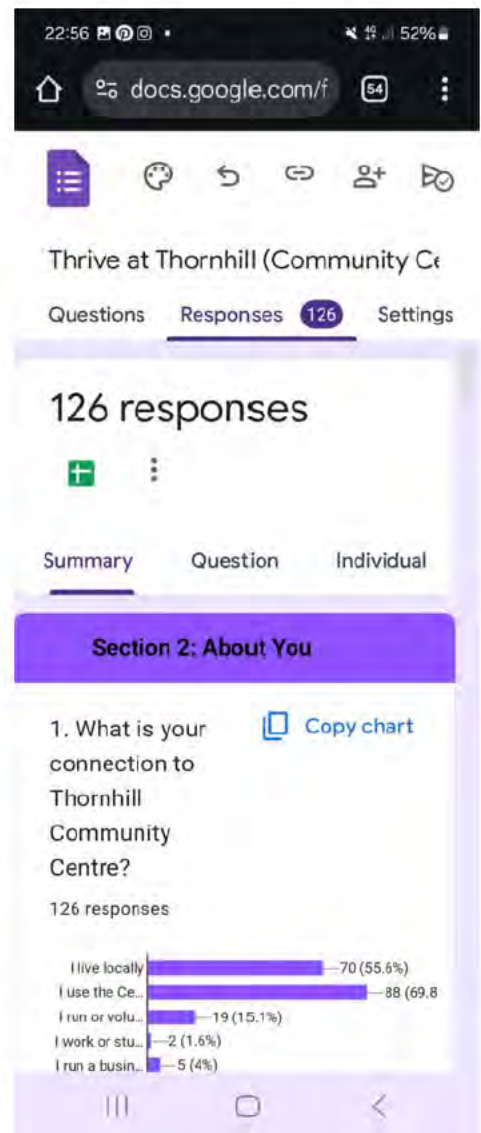
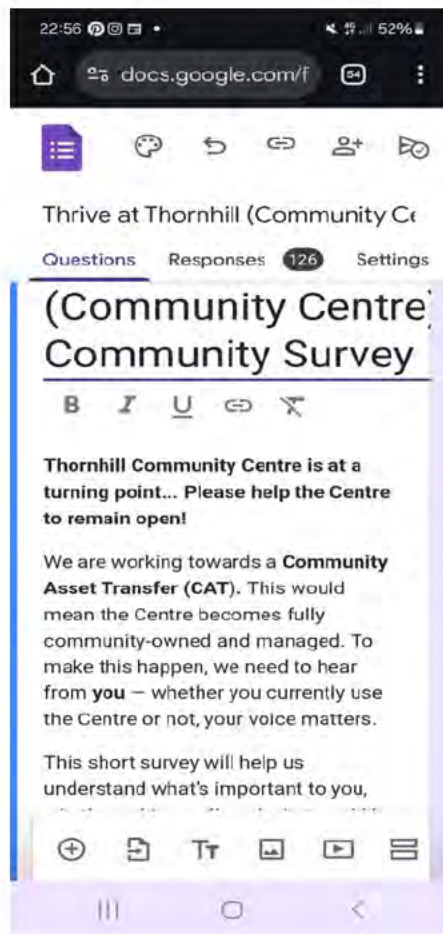
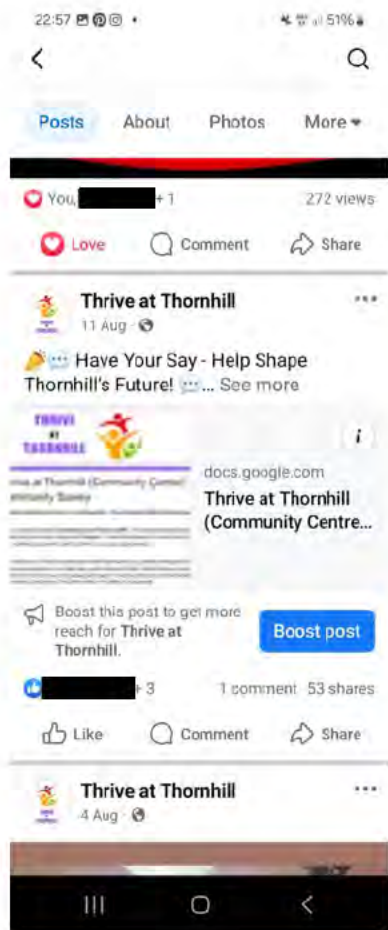
For completeness, and consistent with our position throughout this process, we wish to confirm that our operating model remains open to accommodating Rainbow Muslim Women's Group as a managed let within our inclusive timetable, should they wish to do so. This offer was first made during September as part of pre FRI discussions and remains available regardless of the competitive CAT process. Our SCIO is committed to serving the widest possible cross-section of the Thornhill community, and our EPIA evidences this commitment across all protected characteristics and inclusive community approach.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if any further information is required.

Kind regards

Falkirk Thornhill Community Hall SCIO





Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00471 (Version 1)

SECTION ONE: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Service & Division:	Transformation, Communities & Corporate Services Housing & Communities	Lead Officer Name:	
		Team:	Communities
		Tel:	
		Email:	
Proposal:	Thornhill Community Hall - SPR	Reference No:	471

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	Building being considered for Community Asset Transfer (CAT)

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:	01/04/2024	
	End Date (if any):	31/03/2025	

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.)
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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.
Jan 2023 usage survey identified 180 users in a week: A range of small businesses for fitness, preschool activities and a children's party, a few community and social activities including bingo and an 'ethnic group'. Of the 6 survey respondents for Thornhill Hall, 3 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	
Unknown, no comments received in relation to impact. 1 comment received 'Community centres are the heart of the local 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.	6 respondents in relation to Thornhill Community Hall 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	6 respondents for Thornhill Hall.
Display / Exhibitions	No	
User Panels	No	
Public Event	Yes	No specific comments on this venue raised
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				Unknown, no comments received.
Disability				Unknown, no comments received.
Sex				Unknown, no comments received.
Ethnicity				Unknown, no comments received.
Religion / Belief / non-Belief				Unknown, no comments received.
Sexual Orientation				Unknown, no comments received.
Transgender				Unknown, no comments received.
Pregnancy / Maternity				Unknown, no comments received.
Marriage / Civil Partnership				Unknown, no comments received.
Poverty				Unknown, no comments received.
Care Experienced				
Other, health, community justice, carers etc.				Unknown, no comments received.
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 survey and consultation process
Advance Equality of Opportunity:	Inclusion of protected characteristic groups in the consultation
Foster Good Relations (promoting understanding and reducing prejudice):	Due regard demonstrated towards older persons groups and ethnic minority groups.

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	The majority of activities taking place in the venue are run by small businesses. Closure would require them to find alternative venues and alternative delivery may increase rental costs.
Councils	No	
Education Sector	No	
Fire	No	
NHS	No	
Integration Joint Board	No	
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

No Mitigating Actions

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

3 disabled persons did not report an impact of the decision on them.

The usage survey identified an 'Ethnic Group' but no comments or responses were received by anyone who identified as not from the UK or non-white background. Further engagement with this group is recommended to better assess the impact of changing the delivery model or closing this building.

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	No impact information provided by users that reported having a disability.
Stop the proposal as it is potentially in breach of equality legislation	No	

SECTION NINE: LEAD OFFICER SIGN OFF

Lead Officer:

Signature:		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
ASSESSMENT FINDINGS 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	There is some evidence of use by protected characteristic groups - usage survey indicates that building used by older persons and also ethnic minority groups - proposed changes will have an impact although difficult to say if negative positive or neutral.	
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: It is hoped to progress to an alternate model of delivery or Community Asset Transfer as a mitigation to closure. The impact of closure or any mitigations on groups with protected characteristics who use the building should be further explored and monitored as they are developed.

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	More information needed to determine impact on protected characteristics groups.
LOW	Yes / No	

SECTION ELEVEN: CHIEF OFFICER SIGN OFF

Director / Head of Service:			
Signature:		Date:	09/01/2025

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		✓		The Community Asset Transfer of the property ensures the property remains open, with a positive impact on all users including young and old: - RMWG Elderly Group – Weekly yoga sessions - Promoting physical and mental wellbeing for older women through gentle movement and mindfulness. - The group wishes to highlight the value of their activities in the context of youth work and diversionary activity. With few youth clubs or traditional youth work provision outwith school hours left in the community, taking part in regular social activities with the support of trusted adults as volunteers is a valuable opportunity for young people that will be protected for the future with the achievement of the Community Asset Transfer. - Data on the numbers and protected characteristics of the groups currently using the Hall was not available to RMWG but they have stated that they will honour all existing lets.

				The group states: The services at our community centre will be open to all regardless of any disabilities. We will ensure all spaces within our community centre are accessible to all. Our centre is open to all regardless of ability. We also recognise that some disabilities can be 'hidden' or not disclosed to us due to personal preference of an individual or family. We observe that being part of services at our centre and doing regular physical activity helps individuals to overcome some of the issues they experience as a result of their disability. We have hosted a training course for anyone to attend based around neurodiversity awareness, and our aim is to host similar training in the future. - Data on the numbers and protected characteristics of the groups currently using the Hall was not available to RMWG but they have stated that they will honour all existing lets.
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Sex		✓		The Community Asset Transfer of the property ensures the property remains open, with a positive impact on all users regardless of sex: The group estimates a current 20/80 split between males and females. The group states that it has a particular focus on working with women from an ethnic minority background who may face cultural, linguistic, economic, or social barriers. They create safe, inclusive spaces where women can connect, learn, and thrive. Through a wide range of social, educational, and wellbeing-focused activities, the organisation fosters empowerment, reduces isolation, and promotes active participation in community life. - Working Women Group - Designed for women in employment, offering a space to connect, unwind, and engage in personal development activities. - Data on the numbers and protected characteristics of the groups currently using the Hall was not available to RMWG but they have stated that they will honour all existing lets.
Ethnicity		✓		The Community Asset Transfer of the property ensures the property remains open, with a positive impact on all users including people from all ethnic backgrounds The centre will remain open to all with no restrictions based on ethnicity. The majority of attendees at core RMWG activities are from an ethnic minority background, but attendance at groups hosted by RMWG is not restricted according to ethnicity. - Data on the numbers and protected characteristics of the groups currently using the Hall was not available to RMWG but they have stated that they will honour all existing lets.

Religion / Belief / non-Belief		✓		The Community Asset Transfer of the property ensures the property remains open, with a positive impact on all users including people of all faiths and none. The group states that they do not keep a record of the religion/belief/non-belief of any users and that the centre is available for use by all, without restrictions. There is a church group who meet every Sunday within the community centre and this let will be honoured, as will all the current lets. - Data on the numbers and protected characteristics of the groups currently using the Hall was not available to RMWG but they have stated that they will honour all existing lets.
Sexual Orientation		✓		The Community Asset Transfer of the property ensures the property remains open, with a positive impact on all users including people of all sexual orientations: The group states that sexual orientation is not a relevant factor in the delivery of their activities. “We maintain a supportive and inclusive environment where people can use the services available at our community centre regardless of sexual orientation or other characteristics.” - Data on the numbers and protected characteristics of the groups currently using the Hall was not available to RMWG but they have stated that they will honour all existing lets.

Transgender		✓		The Community Asset Transfer of the property ensures the property remains open, with a positive impact on all users including transgender people: The group states that transgender identity is not a relevant factor in the delivery of their activities. “We maintain a supportive and inclusive environment where people can use the services available at our community centre regardless of protected characteristics.” - Data on the numbers and protected characteristics of the groups currently using the Hall was not available to RMWG but they have stated that they will honour all existing lets.
Pregnancy / Maternity		✓		The Community Asset Transfer of the property ensures the property remains open, with a positive impact on all users including those who are pregnant: The group state that they will be open to offering the space to any Pre/Postnatal support. “We have a number of attendees who in the time that they have attended our groups or events, who have been pre/postnatal, and there is always support there. We have plans in the future to offer specific pre/postnatal classes.” - Data on the numbers and protected characteristics of the groups currently using the Hall was not available to RMWG but they have stated that they will honour all existing lets.
Marriage / Civil Partnership		✓		The Community Asset Transfer of the property ensures the property remains open, with a positive impact on all users including people of all relationship status. The group state that this is not relevant for their organisation and that the centre is open to everyone, regardless of their marital status, whether in a marriage, civil partnership, or neither. - Data on the numbers and protected characteristics of the groups currently using the Hall was not available to RMWG but they have stated that they will honour all existing lets.

Poverty		✓		The Community Asset Transfer of the property ensures the property remains open, with a positive impact on all users including those living with poverty. The group states that they take steps to ensure as far as possible that poverty is not a barrier to participation in their activities, with all activities and events free to attend. They state that they are opening a food pantry service for the local community, that will aim to help alleviate poverty within the local community. - Data on the numbers and protected characteristics of the groups currently using the Hall was not available to RMWG but they have stated that they will honour all existing lets.
Care Experienced		✓		The Community Asset Transfer of the property ensures the property remains open, with a positive impact on all users including care experienced people. The group states that they do not expect children and young people, families, or individuals to disclose if they are care experienced in order to attend any activities within our centre. "If we are made aware that a young person, or other individual, attending the centre is care experienced we will support them appropriately, deciding what this means on a case-by-case basis and recognising that all young people, and circumstances, are unique." - Data on the numbers and protected characteristics of the groups currently using the Hall was not available to RMWG but they have stated that they will honour all existing lets.
Other, health, community justice, carers etc.	✓			N/A
Risk (Identify other risks associated with this change)				
		Evidence of Due Regard		

Eliminate Unlawful Discrimination (harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct):	All groups progressing with Community Asset Transfer have their Applications and Business Plans evaluated to ensure evidence of due regard. Officers are satisfied the evidence provided by RMWG meets the required standard. Evidence is provided below: Many members of the RMWG, when surveyed about the possibility of having a permanent base, highlighted the importance of having a safe and welcoming environment where people from all backgrounds can come together, share experiences, and access support without barriers. The group state that “In today’s climate, where anti-immigrant sentiment has sadly gained traction across the UK — and where Falkirk has witnessed distressing incidents including attacks on local mosques — the need for safe, inclusive spaces is more urgent than ever. Our centre will stand as a symbol of solidarity and resilience, actively working to bring communities together, foster understanding, and promote social harmony.”
Advance Equality of Opportunity:	All groups progressing with Community Asset Transfer have their Applications and Business Plans evaluated to ensure evidence of due regard. Officers are satisfied the evidence provided by RMWG meets the required standard. Evidence is provided below: The group state that Falkirk’s evolving demographic landscape, marked by rising ethnic diversity and concentrated deprivation, underscores a growing need for inclusive, community-led services. "Ethnic minority populations, particularly in Falkirk East and West, have increased significantly, with many residents facing cultural, linguistic, and economic barriers to mainstream support." The group are planning food provision, skill-building programmes and social activities and state that their “holistic approach ensures that support is extended to all residents affected by deprivation and isolation, regardless of background.”

Foster Good Relations (promoting understanding and reducing prejudice):

All groups progressing with Community Asset Transfer have their Applications and Business Plans evaluated to ensure evidence of due regard. Officers are satisfied the evidence provided by RMWG meets the required standard. Evidence is provided below:

The work that RMWG has done over the years to promote cross-cultural understanding is cited in letters of support from local organisations:

“They generously share their expertise, offering cooking classes and catering services that have brought people together and introduced many to new cultural experiences”. ([REDACTED])

“Having worked with the RMWG for several years, I have witnessed firsthand their unwavering commitment to empowering women, fostering cross-cultural understanding and promoting social cohesion within our community” (Braveheart)

“We are confident that under their stewardship, the Thornhill Community Centre will [...] enable collaborative partnerships across communities and strengthen social cohesion” (Central Scotland Regional Equality Council)

From the Business Plan page 12: “The Rainbow Muslim Womens Group not only aims to address the specific needs of ethnic minority women and families but also seeks to serve the wider local community. By offering inclusive, low-cost services such as food provision, skill-building programmes, and social activities, the group intends to foster connection, resilience, and wellbeing across diverse groups in the area.”

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	No	
Councils	Yes	If the group are successful in their bid, the council will provide aftercare support including advice, signposting and potentially match funding, as with all legally concluded Community Asset Transfers.
Education Sector	No	
Fire	No	
NHS	Yes	The group state that they will honour current lets including the NHS-aligned Caledonia Services (HSCP community-based mental health support) The group will continue to partner with the NHS to deliver services such as dental hygiene sessions for children. The health charity Braveheart, a funded partner of the NHS, has provided a letter of support expressing an interest in joint use of the Centre, if the group are successful in their bid.
Integration Joint Board	No	
Police	No	
Third Sector	Yes	The national charity The Conservation Volunteers (TVC) has expressed an interest in joint use of the Centre, if the group are successful in their bid. Community groups and churches will continue to operate from the building.
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

No Mitigating Actions

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

This property was identified for closure as part of the Strategic Property Review from 1st October 2025 as agreed by Council in January 2024.

The opportunity for a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) was identified as a mitigation to closure and this was noted in the EPIA's undertaken at that time.

This EPIA has been undertaken with the information available to Falkirk Council at this time and based on current operations. However, under a CAT model, it is up to the community group to manage the operations of this building going forward, as Falkirk Council have now withdrawn from the building in line with the Council decision.

The evidence and data outlined in this EPIA has been provided through evaluation of RMWG CAT application and Business Plan. Officers are satisfied the evidence provided meets the required standard.

This building will continue to be available to the local community as a key community asset. All groups who currently use the building will have their lets honoured and none will be displaced as a result of a community asset transfer to RMWG.

Are actions being reported to Members?	Yes
If yes when and how ?	Executive on 18 / 06 / 2026

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	Yes	Keeping the facility open, means no negative impacts on groups or individuals
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	No	
Stop the proposal as it is potentially in breach of equality legislation	No	

SECTION NINE: 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
ASSESSMENT FINDINGS 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		The EPIA has clearly demonstrated the use of data, appropriate engagement, showing positive impact on protected characteristics and demonstrated evidence of due regard to confidently demonstrate compliance with the general and public sector equality duties.
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: Impacts on protected characteristics are assessed in all cases, where applicable, as positive.

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 / No	
LOW	Yes	The EPIA identifies positive impacts on protected characteristics.

SECTION TEN: CHIEF OFFICER SIGN OFF

Director / Head of Service:			
Signature:		Date:	19/05/2026

Evidence 04.06: FTCH petition, summary and analysis

Petition title: "Time Is Running Out: Protect the Whole Community – Support Falkirk Thornhill Charity" (Change.org).

Created 7 September 2026; launched publicly 8 September 2026; export taken 27 September 2026. The six signatures dated 7 September were added while the petition was being set up.

Total signatures: 631. Five names appear twice and the Chair signed twice, so the minimum number of distinct signatories is at least 625.

Method

The platform records the town each signatory entered, not a postcode. Each entry was classified by that town. Misspellings of Falkirk (for example "Falkrik") were counted as Falkirk; entries too ambiguous to place ("Fal", and "Thornhill" with no further detail) were excluded from the Falkirk Council area count, which is why the figure below is stated as a minimum. "Neighbouring towns" means towns in Forth Valley, West Lothian, west Fife and North Lanarkshire, broadly within 16 miles of Falkirk by straight line.

Area	Signatures	Share
Falkirk Council area (Falkirk, Larbert, Stenhousemuir, Grangemouth, Polmont, Bo'ness, Bonnybridge, Camelon, Denny, Redding, Westquarter, Laurieston, Carronshore, Bainsford, Airth, Hallglen)	at least 325	52%
of which Falkirk itself	more than 260	
Neighbouring towns (Stirling, Alloa, Linlithgow, Cumbernauld, Kilsyth, Dunfermline, Livingston, Bathgate, Airdrie, Coatbridge, Kincardine and others)	about 70	11%
Falkirk Council area and neighbouring towns combined	around 395	over 60%
Scotland as a whole	over 570	over 90%
Rest of the United Kingdom and overseas	about 55	under 10%

Comments: 23 comments were left by 22 signatories (one person commented twice). Twenty are from the Falkirk Council area, ten giving an FK2 postcode (the Centre's own district). Nine comments, from eight people, describe using the Centre. All 23 comments are reproduced exactly as written, with names removed, at Evidence 04.07.

The full signature list is held by FTCH and is available to the Committee in confidence. It is not reproduced here because it contains personal data.

Evidence 04.07: FTCH petition, all 23 signatory comments, unedited, names removed

Location and postcode as entered by the signatory. Comments are reproduced exactly as written.

1. Bo'ness, EH51 (2026-09-08):

Groups charities and heritage is important too all community and visitors, we need to keep Scotland and lovely place

2. Falkirk (2026-09-08):

This should be given to the proper people to support the whole community and not just one sided

3. Falkirk, FK2 (2026-09-08):

This is a community centre for everyone I don't see why this can't be a 50/50 share I don't see how 1 group should have it it should be shared . We have used this hall for nearly 49 years and totally disagree with one group no wanting to share

4. Falkirk, FK2 (2026-09-10):

This needs to be a 50/50 transfer we have used this hall for 49 years it's a community centre for the local community

5. Location not given, Fk1 5jj (2026-09-12):

This hall has been used by many generations of local families over the years. Let's make sure that continues. Sign this petition 

6. falkirk, fk2 8hs (2026-09-13):

Having used the centre myself for a few years I appreciate its value in the community. Why cant it be shared? It's a valuable asset and has been for decades.

7. Falkirk (2026-09-16):

I have personally been going to the Connect 2 bus on a Thurs night for 7 + years and it's thanks to the Thornhill community centers car park where the bus parks. It massively helps people within the Falkirk community on many different fronts and needs to stay for everybody within the area.

8. Falkirk (2026-09-16):

It's thoroughly greedy for one group to think they can have this to themselves, where is the community spirit in that? I have used the hall in the past, and planning to return to a group in the future when my personal circumstances allow. This should be a COMMUNITY space, for all to use. Why should all other groups be punished for one group unwilling to co-operate, even when given the chance!!

9. Falkirk, FK2 9GH (2026-09-16):

I go to a zumba class in the hall & have done for years. I've also been to numerous birthday parties, planned events & baby showers, my own daughters included. The hall has been part of my life since I was young & I want that to continue.

10. Airdrie, ML6 (2026-09-18):

Community centres like Thornhill are important because they give people from all backgrounds a place to come together, access support and feel part of their community. Whatever the final arrangements are, I hope the centre remains open, inclusive and accessible to everyone who relies on it, now and in the future."

11. Falkirk, Fk29yt (2026-09-18):

The community centre is for everyone not just for 1 group and if that group cannot agree to share with others that tells me they won't include the local community

12. Edinburgh, EH6 (2026-09-18):

I've attended several workshop's in this fabulous wee community center , not many left that are truly community centred - such a valuable asset to the community. And obviously cherished by the community that supports it. I do hope to attend future workshops if it is to remain 50/50. It would be so sad for the community to lose its center.

13. Location not given (2026-09-18):

Community centres are so important to their local communities, providing safe spaces, education, support and facilities for all. It will be a great loss and a real disservice to the local community if a 50/50 transfer isn't secured for the hall.

14. Falkirk (2026-09-19):

A community hall or building should be preserved for all the community off all sides of life and a place for people to support each other and use the resources for the betterment of life's within society, to share is to support and support is the spiritual growth of a society , hopefully the building is used for all causes and not a minority. [name removed]

15. Falkirk (2026-09-21):

We all need to work and live together. We cannot let one group take over

16. Falkirk, FK2 7NN (2026-09-21):

I think this community centre should be completely inclusive and should not be segregated in any way. It should and must be for use by the whole community.

17. Falkirk, FK2 (2026-09-21):

We have used the Thornhill Community Centre in the past and I personally support Falkirk Thornhill Community Hall SCIO so that the Thornhill Community Centre will remain an inclusive facility for the whole community.

18. Falkirk, FK2 (2026-09-22):

A worthwhile cause .Very inclusive community group.

19. Stenhousemuir, fk53hj (2026-09-23):

I have used this hall in the past and would like to ensure it continues to be managed in the same way - available to the whole community - as I may wish to use it again for future events.

20. Hallglen, fk12qx (2026-09-24):

Thornhill community hall is for everyone(not just one group) it brings people together. It would be a huge loss to the local community, if a 50/50 transfer is not secured, protected and developed for the whole community.

21. Falkirk, FK29AL (2026-09-25):

I would like to nominate the FH group to run the centre as I believe it would be inclusive of the community, it's important to have a group running the centre that welcomes community otherwise it becomes a one man band. It's always been inclusive and I would like it to remain that way.

22. Falkirk, Fk27lh (2026-09-25):

Local community groups are vitally important to members of the community so they can gather through various projects and classes, becoming a community that goes from strength to strength and serves local people.

23. Larbert, FK5 (2026-09-26):

Falkirk Council archives show Thornhill Community Centre was built in 1971 to serve as a social hub for the residents in the surrounding areas. Local residents lost the great community facilities at The Castings Club in 2013. FTCH bid seems to best deliver for the people living in the neighbourhood.

Evidence 04.08: Statement from Caledonia Service, Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership

Text copy of the email as held by FTCH. Personal contact details removed.

[REDACTED], [REDACTED], Caledonia Service, to FTCH, September 2026

Hi,

We have been using Thornhill Community Hall since 2021 and have always had a positive relationship with the evolving committee members over the years, helping us deliver our groups while also feeling connected to the wider community. We currently use the hall each Tuesday 1pm-3pm and the 2nd and last Friday of the month 12pm-3pm. However, we do regularly review our group planner and there is scope that we may need additional bookings in the future, this would likely involve further recurring two hours slots in the morning and afternoon depending on availability.

If the plans to renovate the building and create additional space by incorporating wellness rooms and an industrial kitchen are improved, we would be keen to base our x3 weekly Meditation Sessions and x2 weekly Cooking Groups at Thornhill. Also there is the option of us being able to possibly support some of service users to volunteer to work in a community-based café if this was something the committee were looking to implement in the future.

The ongoing uncertainty regarding the halls future due to two competing Community Asset Transfer Requests has had a detrimental impact on our use of the hall. This has been evidenced through a noticeable decline in repairs being actioned in a reasonable timescale along with requests for new hall bookings being unnecessary delayed. Moving forward we do have concerns how the hall will be used and whether existing lets will continue long term due to inconsistencies in the wording of this matter in the Rainbow Muslims Woman's Group application. The existing committee has always demonstrated that they will protect existing lets while looking to develop other community connections and providing healthy financial accounts at their AGM's over a significant time period.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Falkirk Health & Social Care Partnership | Caledonia Service

Evidence 04.09: Statement from Headway Falkirk

Text copy of the email as held by FTCH. Personal contact details removed.

██████████, Headway Falkirk, to FTCH, September 2026

My name is ██████████

I run a group called Headway Falkirk.

We help people who are living with a brain injury. We are the only group in Forth Valley who offers this service. We have been meeting at Thornhill community centre for around 3 years every Wednesday afternoon.

We have around 15-20 people who attend our group at the moment.

The people who attend Headway Falkirk are among the most vulnerable people in the area and it is important to us and future users that we can continue to do so.

Ideally it would have been best for everyone if both groups had worked together but as this has not been possible we feel that the Community hall continuing to be run by the Community is in the best interest of the whole community.

I have read the RMWG proposal and feel it is mostly centred around young Muslim girls and women. This is great but this is not very inclusive of Falkirk community as a whole.

██████████
Headway Falkirk

Evidence 04.10: Statement from the ladies' cultural heritage society

Text copy of the email as held by FTCH.

[REDACTED], on behalf of the ladies' cultural heritage society, to FTCH, September 2026

To whom it may concern

Our organisation has used Thornhill Community Centre for approximately 49 years, unfortunately we are now in a position that if the womens rainbow group are not prepared to share or run the centre as equal, then we have no choice but to seek another venue to hold our events/meetings

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Evidence 04.11: Statement from the men's cultural heritage society

Text copy of the email as held by FTCH.

On behalf of the men's cultural heritage society, to FTCH, September 2026

Our organisation has used this asset for nearly 5 decades. Why should one group have it all 50/50 is the only solution to protect the current hall let's. The rwg have said that they are un willing to share not very community minded after all this is a community centre for the local people and groups of the area

Evidence 04.12: Statement from the Sunday community bingo

Text copy of the email as held by FTCH.

Organiser, Sunday community bingo, to FTCH, September 2026

We had a community bingo .in thornhill community centre falkirk .Butnit come to an end .i am willing to come back to thornhill community centre .So all the local community can once again return on a sunday night .i personaly have done charity christmas partys .funded by the local community .and local buisnesses .also done a prize bingo so the local children could enjoy thereselves .my main concern about the community hall at the moment as nothing is advertised about past and future events .i hope you will take into concideration what our local community need .The other group is not willing to have 50/50.so i think the council should think about the future for all

Evidence 04.13: Statement from the SGI Buddhist group, Falkirk District

Text copy of the email as held by FTCH. Name withheld at the sender's request; held by FTCH.

**Women's Leader, SGI Falkirk District Buddhist Group (name withheld), to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (FTCH), September 2026**

Dear [REDACTED],

Please allow me to offer my support for Falkirk Thornhill Community Hall SCIO so they may continue to manage the centre, as they have done for many years.

I am the Womens Leader of the SGI Falkirk District Buddhist Group. Our group has successfully used the centre previously and will certainly do so again as FTCH's vision of serving the whole community is in keeping with our Buddhist philosophy.

I have a few concerns as I understand a joint governance solution was proposed and FTCH SCIO was willing to work with the RWMG through a genuinely equal 50/50 arrangement with fair representation, equal decision making, transparent governance, protection for all community users and an independent process for resolving disputes. I also understand, from watching the council meeting online, that mediation with both groups was unsuccessful which is disappointing.

When Falkirk Council's Executive agreed to allow a further three months, subject to both applicants agreeing to the extension, to explore whether a single application based on a joint governance arrangement could be developed, FTCH SCIO agreed to the extension however the RWMG did not. In my opinion the RWMG's refusal is not conducive to serving the whole community.

Another concern is about the affordability of facilities for community groups, which includes the charges being applied by RMWG for the use of the kitchen on top of the hall rental charges. This is of particular concern given that many of the groups using the Centre have very limited resources.

I look forward to Falkirk Council making the corrections decision for the whole of our community.

Kind regards,

Evidence 04.14: Statement from a New Scot, therapeutic theatre sessions

Text copy of the email as held by FTCH.

[REDACTED], Mental health support practitioner, to FTCH, 20 September 2026

Good morning 🌻

I was very upset when I found out that Thornhill Community Centre might stop being a place for the whole community.

I am a New Scots person who came to Falkirk from Ukraine because of the war. And this place helped me to connect with people, settle in and become a real resident of Falkirk.

I am also going to organise meetings for the community myself, creating a therapeutic theatre improvisation for adults.

If the community loses this place, we will take away from many residents the opportunity for warm and healing meetings.

I very much hope for wisdom and balance in our relationships. I very much hope that we can not divide ourselves, but unite, with respect for everyone.

My best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mental health support practitioner with training in Gestalt therapy and the arts

Evidence 04.15: Message from an instructor currently hiring from the RMWG (name removed)

Screenshot of the instructor's message to FTCH, September 2026, cropped to the relevant part. Name and contact details removed; held by FTCH.

for the hall. If you secure the hall I would like to continue the booking with my classes and potentially extend my current let time to allow for more levels of line dancing and the potential to hold social nights at the hall.

During all this I have had no communication from Rainbow Muslim rainbow group and I have been reading it all on your Facebook page.

I have shared the link and I will say to my class on Wednesday to sign the petition if they haven't already.

Thanks

Evidence 04.16: Message from a local resident starting a baby and toddler playgroup (name removed)

Screenshot of the resident's reply to FTCH, September 2026. Name removed; held by FTCH.

Thanks
Admin

This sounds great! If it's ok I'll come up with a little plan later this evening and send over.

Good luck in hopefully keeping the centre as it's been part of the community for so long! I actually stay across from the park so can see it every day 🤗 recently just had a baby and always thought a baby and toddler group would be great. I'll try sort this later today and send over x

Evidence 04.17: Former councillor's public Facebook comment, September 2026

Screenshot taken by FTCH of a public comment on FTCH's Facebook page.



Evidence 04.18: RMWG Facebook post inviting the Centre's groups, 26 September 2026

Screenshot taken by FTCH on 28 September 2026 of a post on the Thornhill Community Hall Facebook page (shown as posted 2 days earlier). Full post available on the page.

Reply



2d · Admin

All [Thornhill Community Hall](#) Lets.

If you have regular classes at Hall everyone is welcome to promote your classes. I will promote in the community as much as possible. We want that Hall to be used by ALL the community ie for Classes. Meetings, Chit Chat, Knitting,... [See more](#)



4



2

