

Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00462 (Version 1)

SECTION ONE: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Service & Division:	Transformation, Communities & Corporate Services Housing & Communities	Lead Officer Name:	Crawford Bell
		Team:	Communities
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Proposal:	Carronshore Community Hall - SPR	Reference No:	462

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

SECTION TWO: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

SECTION THREE: EVIDENCE	Please include any evidence or relevant information that has influenced the decisions contained in this EPIA. (This could include demographic profiles; audits; research; health needs assessments; national guidance or legislative requirements and how this relates to the protected characteristic groups.)
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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.
<p>Monthly usage sample - 2080 users in 4 week sample.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Community led - Mother & toddlers, playgroup, dickie tickers badminton, Finding your feet, Friday night club, gala day committee, Carronshore Heritage ForumPrivate business- Taekwondo, Elite Beat Dance & CheerPublic sector Health care staff trainingWeekend events -Children’s birthday parties, Christmas Fayre <p>Of 21 survey respondents, none expressed they have a protected Characteristic that disadvantaged them, but many were parents commenting on the impact closure would have on young people and local children. One parent noted their child was disabled.</p> <p>The hall is busy and has a regular weekly set of customers and is booked all weekends in the sample for children's parties. There are many community led activities that suggest children and older persons specific activities for health and wellbeing.</p>	

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	
<p>Child has a disability.</p> <p>Many groups are starting to fold due to economic issues which is devastating as they are critical for well being of all and especially children with additional support needs.</p> <p>This space is used by my kids clubs which help keep them active and social without this is will be negatively impacting their weekly lives to socialise and keep active.</p> <p>Worried about my where any kids in area go for groups etc.</p>	

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.	20 Respondents in relation to Carronshore 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	20 responses specific to this building.
Display / Exhibitions	No	
User Panels	No	
Public Event	Yes	Stenhousemuir Public Meeting - Library 20th January 2023, 12:00-14:00pm.
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			✓	Comments and activity descriptions suggest an impact on children and older persons.
Disability			✓	1 comment relating to disabled child noting lots of things closing due but not describing impact.
Sex				
Ethnicity				
Religion / Belief / non-Belief				
Sexual Orientation				
Transgender				
Pregnancy / Maternity				
Marriage / Civil Partnership				
Poverty				2 respondents noted they were unemployed but looking for work. Did not comment on impact.
Care Experienced				
Other, health, community justice, carers etc.				
Risk (Identify other risks associated with this change)				

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

	Evidence of Due Regard
Eliminate Unlawful Discrimination (harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct):	Inclusive consultation and engagement to include protected characteristics groups and individuals
Advance Equality of Opportunity:	Inclusive consultation and engagement to include protected characteristics groups and individuals
Foster Good Relations (promoting understanding and reducing prejudice):	Inclusive consultation and engagement to understand the impact of the withdrawal of this facility

SECTION SIX: PARTNERS / OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Which sectors are likely to have an interest in or be affected by the proposal / policy / project?		Describe the interest / affect.
Business	Yes	Two private fitness activities operate from the building.
Councils	No	
Education Sector	No	
Fire	No	
NHS	No	
Integration Joint Board	Yes	Care staff training operates from the building.
Police	No	
Third Sector	Yes	May have Positive impact - Alternative delivery model would create a third sector social enterprise business model for this building with the potential to grow the third sector in many ways, employment, size, income, social benefits, community leadership role.
Other(s): please list and describe the nature of the relationship / impact.		

SECTION SEVEN: ACTION PLANNING

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

Identified Impact	To Who	Action(s)	Lead Officer	Evaluation and Review Date	Strategic Reference to Corporate Plan / Service Plan / Quality Outcomes
Closure would have an impact on Age and Disability	Children and a disabled child Older People	Prioritise these groups for alternative locations in the event of closure. Alternative Service Delivery model - CAT.	Place Services	01/04/2024	Council Plan: - Supporting stronger and healthier communities - Supporting a thriving economy and green transition Falkirk Plan: - Theme 1: Working in Partnership with Communities

No Mitigating Actions

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

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Are actions being reported to Members?	Yes
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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.
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SECTION EIGHT: ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

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

No major change required	No	
The proposal has to be adjusted to reduce impact on protected characteristic groups	No	
Continue with the proposal but it is not possible to remove all the risk to protected characteristic groups	Yes	Mitigations identified.
Stop the proposal as it is potentially in breach of equality legislation	No	

SECTION NINE: LEAD OFFICER SIGN OFF

Lead Officer:

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

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	Engagement with the community has indicated that there is a negative impact on younger people, older people and on people with a disability.	
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 ongoing support to explore a Community Asset Transfer throughout 2023 and 2024 will enable progression to an alternate model of delivery as a mitigation to closure. Other mitigatory actions would be to prioritise groups access to alternate venues. The ongoing impact of either solution should be monitored to ensure that impacts are monitored.

LEVEL OF IMPACT: The EPIA Task Group has agreed the following level of impact on the protected characteristic groups highlighted within the EPIA		
LEVEL		COMMENTS
HIGH	Yes / No	
MEDIUM	Yes	
LOW	Yes / No	

SECTION ELEVEN: CHIEF OFFICER SIGN OFF

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