

LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

26 JUNE 2018

HAWTONVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide Members with an update report in respect of Hawtonville Community Centre and the progress being made following the transfer of the management of the Centre to Reach (a Local Charity supporting vulnerable adults in Newark and Sherwood) through the granting of a 3 year tenancy agreement.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Leisure and Environment Committee agreed at its meeting on 15 February 2018 that:-

- the principle of Reach being granted a short term tenancy/agreement for the Centre, not exceeding three years, on the condition that community use as outlined in the report is protected;
- that the Director – Safety be given delegated authority in consultation with the Leisure & Environment Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and opposition spokesperson to progress negotiations with Reach and agree the terms of the tenancy or other agreement for its occupation of the Centre, including rental levels etc. and
- Officers work with Reach to develop a detailed business case and operating proposal for the Centre to demonstrate greater utilisation of the community resource which can then be presented to Members at a future meeting for further consideration, including how this might impact upon the overall management of the Centre by Newark and Sherwood Homes.

3.0 The Current Overview

3.1 Following this decision negotiations were progressed rapidly and Reach relocated its operation to the centre on 1st April 2018 and following a short transition period the service is now fully operational.

3.2 The ground floor of the centre is now occupied by Reach Monday to Friday typically from 8.30am to 4.30pm and community access is available from 5.00pm to 10.00pm during the week and at weekends. Following the successful transition a number of community groups have been retained as users of the centre, including the Dance School, Yoga and HYPE Youth Club. The latter is a voluntary session, established in partnership with Newark Christchurch, which provides an opportunity for young people from the community to access a safe and supportive place on a weekly basis free of charge which is run by volunteers recruited from the community.

3.3 An integral part of the lease/tenancy agreement requires Reach to manage the community use of the centre in addition to its own use and the presence of Reach staff on site on a daily basis and new signage promoting wider community use of the centre has already

started to generate occasional bookings for Children's parties and it is anticipated that this will increase over time as the community becomes aware of the centre's availability for hire.

- 3.4 Reach, as a charity, has also made applications to local grant making trusts and organisations for improvements to the centre and its programme and has already been successful in securing modest but useful grants which will enable upgrades refurbishment at the centre to improve the general ambience and functional offer that building provides users.
- 3.5 Through partnership working with Reach and other community groups and organisations it is anticipated that community use of the centre will be further developed to contribute to the achievement of the priorities and objectives outlined in the Hawtonville Neighbourhood Study and to demonstrate that this valuable community resource is well utilised by the community it serves.

4.0 Proposal

- 4.1 That Leisure and Environment Committee receive an update report at 6 monthly intervals on the activities and services delivered to the community through the Hawtonville Community Centre. The report will include information from Reach to provide insight in respect of its operation and contribution to the delivery of the priorities and objectives of the Hawtonville Neighbourhood Study.

5.0 Equalities Implications

- 5.1 The Devon Ward and Hawtonville area profile shows a relatively homogenous community (94% of residents were born in the UK) albeit with a significant distribution of ages, from a mean of 46 in the Bellmont Road/Bailey Close area compared to a mean age of 29 in the Staunton Road/Montgomery Road area.
- 5.2 Reach is an organisation that delivers services to a category of persons with protected characteristics and therefore an agreement to allow them to occupy the Centre would facilitate services being delivered to them.

6.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

- 6.1 Day to day operational costs including NNDR, utilities, administration and cleaning staff, minor repairs and statutory health and safety management costs are now the responsibility of Reach and this is offset by Reach retaining income from user groups subject to an agreed equitable share of any surplus income over expenditure as recommended by Members and as defined within the lease agreement.
- 6.2 Major repairs and renewals associated with the centre remain with the District Council as landlord and such costs will be managed appropriately and contained within the existing budget provision for the Council's neighbourhood centres.

7.0 Comments of Business Manager – Financial Services

7.1 The agreement passports all day to day running costs of the Centre on to Reach, but also allows them to generate the income made by the centre. The impact of this on the budget is zero in terms of the forfeited income against the reduced expenditure. The Council retains liability for the major repairs and renewals for which it currently has budget provision for 2018/19.

There is, within the agreement, a clause relating to a split of the profits made within the facility. Any income from community use made in excess of all expenditure incurred in running the facility will be split equally between the Council and Reach.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION:

That Leisure and Environment Committee receive an update report at 6 monthly intervals on the activities and services delivered to the community through the Hawtonville Community Centre in respect of its contribution to the delivery of the priorities and objectives of the Hawtonville Neighbourhood Study.

Reason for Recommendations

To monitor and review the operational management and sustainability of the Hawtonville Community Centre by Reach.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Andy Hardy, Community Projects Manager, on 01636 655708.

Karen White
Director – Safety