

Greysteel Community Centre	8 August 2017
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Community Development Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

The purpose of this report is provide an update to Members on the Outline Business Case for Greysteel Community Centre and seek further deferral until the October Committee meeting.

Background

The Council owned community centre in Greysteel was erected in 1993 on land acquired from the Housing Executive and has been operated since then by Greysteel Community Association.

The legacy Limavady Borough Council had committed to building a new centre, however due to the cost associated with a new build, this was referred to Council's Capital Schedule and subject to Council's approved 4 stage procedure for capital projects.

As part of this agreed process, an Outline Business Case was brought to the Leisure & Development Committee on 13th June in order to enable Council to make a decision about the future of Greysteel Community Centre.

The recommendation within the report was based on the findings of the Outline Business Case, which was that Council proceeds with the preferred option,

Option 6 – 'Do not replace the Community Centre and support user groups through the transition to using the Vale Centre or other community facilities that may be available.'

The decision was taken to defer consideration until the August committee meeting in order to allow further consideration of the options in the Outline Business Case.

A subsequent meeting took place on 11th July between officers and representatives from Greysteel Community Association, which operates the Council owned centre. A number of concerns were expressed by the representatives of the group relating to the 'preferred option' indicated in the Outline Business Case, specifically the practical out workings of such and the impact on the sustainability of Greysteel Community Association who both organise activities themselves, and draw an income from third party hires.

It is the opinion therefore of officers that further engagement and consultation should be facilitated in order to further explore the group's concerns and consider these in the context of Council's agreed business planning process. This would take the form of:

- i. An open workshop with individual users of the community centre as well as representatives from groups which hire the hall for their activities;
- ii. Facilitated discussions with Greysteel Community Association and representatives of the other identified facilities in the area including The Vale Centre.
- iii. Consideration of such and subsequent report to the Leisure and Development Committee with the findings.

In order to allow time for this additional consultation process to take place, it is proposed that the item is deferred until the October committee meeting.

Recommendation

Defer consideration of the Greysteel Community Centre Outline Business Case until the October Committee meeting, and carry out further local engagement in relation to concerns raised by Greysteel Community Association.