

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Audit of Community Centres and Halls

12th May 2015

For Decision

Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Transition and Transformation Prosperity Health & Wellbeing Cohesive Community
Lead Officer	Richard Baker - Director of Leisure & Development Louise Scullion – Community Services Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

The purpose of this report is to propose a workshop for Councillors to review the Audit of Community Centres and Halls.

Background

In January 2015, the 4 legacy Councils took forward an Audit of existing Community Centres and Halls in the new Council area in order to map out the current provision of Council owned Community Centres as well as the levels of support for voluntary run Community Centres and to offer key conclusions and observations which could be used to inform and shape future vision and strategy.

The agreed definition of a Community Centre is:

A multipurpose centre available for community use and or service provision by a range of user groups or for public hire. They are facilities which offer opportunities for the community to meet, stay active, learn new skills and volunteer.

Blu Zebra Consultants were commissioned to carry out the Audit which was part funded by additional DSD grant monies received through the Community Support Programme and the Community Foundation for NI. The Audit considered all Community Centres and Halls across the Causeway Coast & Glens area, whether Council owned, supported or community owned and supported. The Audit Report contains an analysis of data relating to the Community Centres including age, location, staffing, general state of repair, use of building, size and accessibility, annual running costs and number of users, as well as a range of maps showing locations and plotting location against deprivation levels etc.

In summary:

- There are 20 Council owned Community Centres / Halls.
- Of these 20 Council owned Centres, 12 (former Coleraine and Moyle Council areas) are managed directly by Council and 8 are leased to and managed by local community groups (Ballymoney and Limavady)
- There are 35 Community owned Community Centres/ Halls which have been developed through community led projects and which are now eligible to receive financial support through Causeway Coast and Glens Community Development Support Grant.

- The total spend by all four legacy Councils on Community Centres in 2014-15 was £497,163 This includes grants to other voluntary run community development facilities.

A copy of the Executive Summary of the Community Centres/ Halls Audit Report can be seen in Annex A. Given the quantity of detail and analysis in the full Audit Report, it is recommended that a workshop is held where the consultant can brief Elected Members fully on the current situation with regard to Community Centre provision and allow discussion about future levels of support and resources.

Recommendation

It is recommended that a workshop is arranged for Councillors to review the Audit of Community Centres and Halls.