



Vibrant Safe and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel 5 February 2015

Report title	Blakenhall Community and Healthy Living Centre update	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Elias Mattu Community	
Wards affected	Blakenhall	
Accountable director	Anthony Ivko, Older People	
Originating service	Community Recreation	
Accountable employee(s)	Robert Johnson	Acting Head of Libraries and Community Recreation
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Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Endorse the progress which has been made regarding the reduction in subsidy from Blakenhall Community & Health Living Centre.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 That members of the Panel are kept up to date on the progress which has been made regarding the reduction in subsidy from Blakenhall Community & Health Living Centre.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In October 2014, cabinet agreed the proposal to reduce the budget subsidy at Blakenhall Community and Healthy Living Centre by working with the community to develop an alternative model.
- 2.2 Unsuccessful attempts have been made to identify suitable organisations to take over the building; therefore an alternative way of meeting the savings target without destabilising the centre to the point of closure has now been developed.

3.0 Savings Proposal

- 3.1 The new proposal will see a reduction in the public opening hours and a reduction in the staffing levels at the centre, while retaining sufficient support to ensure that these services are managed and maintained.
- 3.2 The centre is currently open for 75 hours per week; under the new proposal the centre will be open for 58 hours per week – a reduction of 22%. The revised opening hours will be structured around peak usage times and to allow regular groups to continue to meet in order to maximise the centre income. In order to try and mitigate against this reduction, work will be undertaken to investigate the feasibility of using alternative access arrangements for gym users, which may eventually result in an increase in gym opening hours.
- 3.3 Centre users will be consulted on their preferred staffed opening hours via a customer survey and the equal opportunities monitoring form associated with this will be used to make a revised judgement on the impact this proposal will have on all nine protected equalities characteristics. Dates of this consultation will be published in due course and the Blakenhall Community and Healthy Living Centres Advisory Group notified accordingly.
- 3.4 The staffing establishment of the centre will change to reflect both this reduction in opening hours but also to reflect changes in the way the centre is now being used and possible future use.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The net controllable budget for Blakenhall Community and Healthy Living Centre for 2014/15 is £108,000. The planned saving for this service is £100,000.
- 4.2 The delivery proposals set out above, are expected to meet the planned savings, as approved within the Medium Term Financial Strategy item 'Blakenhall Healthy Living Centre (Reduce Subsidy)'. [AB/23012015/D]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
[TS/20012015/I]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 An initial (stage 1) Equality Impact assessment has been undertaken which shows that a full analysis is required which is currently being complied. The equal opportunities monitoring form associated with the staffed opening hour's survey will be used to make a revised judgement on the impact this proposal will have on all nine protected equalities characteristics and this data will be included in this full report.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 The staffing establishment of the centre will change to reflect both the reduction in opening hours but also to reflect changes in the way the centre is now being used and possible future use.
- 8.2 Ten part time posts will be deleted (6 of these post are currently vacant), three new part time posts will be created and 1 post will have a reduction in hours from 37 to 25 per week. Some of the hours from the deleted receptionist posts will be used to create two information assistants to help with the delivery of the information requirements within the Care Act.
- 8.3 Formal consultation with affected staff and trade unions has begun in accordance with established Council guidance and Human Resources procedures, providing for redeployment and voluntary redundancy opportunities as appropriate.
- 8.4 An implementation plan will be established and discussed and agreed with staff and the trade union that will take into consideration the sequence of appointments to new posts and relocation of staff.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

"2015 / 16 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy" - Report to Cabinet on 22 October 2014.