

Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00461 (Version 1)

SECTION ONE: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Service & Division:	Corporate & Housing Services Housing & Communities	Lead Officer Name:	Crawford Bell
		Team:	Communities
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Proposal:	California Community Hall- SPR	Reference No:	461

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.
18/01/2024	Management Committee held dissolution meeting and returned keys. Building now closed.

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.)

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.

Monthly usage sample - 520 users in 4 week sample.

Community Activity- Café, Toddlers Group, Councillor Surgery.

Private Business - Dog Training, Tae Kwon Do, Circuit Training.

Church.

All activities in the usage sample are regular and weekly occurring.

Of 64 survey respondents, 14 expressed they have a protected Characteristic that disadvantaged them.

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

The children of the village would lose an activity that they come to religiously every week and meet friends !

California Community Hub (Community Hall) is the backbone of an isolated and growing community of California.

California is a very small village where there is nothing available for the residents/young people, all the village has is a local convince store which is very limited as it is. Since the community hall has opened back up everyone has been in high spirits, the village has come together, people have a lovely environment to interact with neighbours and have some companionship, it gives the young people somewhere safe to be rather than hanging around the streets of the village vulnerable!, it would be a very sad thing to lose for everyone of the village. If any resident would like to participate in any of the social activities currently provided by California community hall they will have to commute and not everyone in the village has the ability to commute to other villages in the braes area. The laddies that are running the community hall are doing a fantastic job, very welcoming and are constantly promoting and encouraging people to be involved which is a great thing to see for this village as it is something that has been missing for a number of years!

We also rely on the hub as a way of staying warm with rising fuel costs and no mains gas in California (which makes heating extortionate).

I do not drive and have mental health issues that make it difficult to travel far to enjoy facilities currently provided at the hub therefore this isolates me further.

This community hub has so much to offer people like me in this village who can't drive and it's great to have something so close I can take me and the little one

Worried about my where any kids in area go for groups etc.

I use the hub weekly and volunteer in the hub cafe 2 mornings a week, this provides a place for pensioners to come for there breakfast and to catch up with others, without this facility they will have no where to go to socialise and many will be left house bound as they can't get to other areas for this as public transport is not regular in the village and many can't walk to the bus stop or afford taxis. The kids also have a youth club run out of here one night a week there is nothing in the village for kids to do apart from this. The hub offers many other class and it would be a shame for them to go.

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.	64 Respondents in relation to California 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	
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	64 respondents.
Display / Exhibitions	No	
User Panels	No	
Public Event	Yes	Braes High School Public Event- 10 January 2023 .
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			✓	Concern at the wellbeing and community cohesion impacts of not having social activities for all residents (all ages) but specifically commented on both young people and older persons being affected the more.
Disability	✓			Unknown - further engagement required 1 comment on negative impact on mental health in the event of closure.
Sex				
Ethnicity				Unknown. No impact information received from respondents.
Religion / Belief / non-Belief				Unknown. No impact information received from respondents.
Sexual Orientation				
Transgender				
Pregnancy / Maternity				Unknown. No impact information received from respondents.
Marriage / Civil Partnership				Unknown. No impact information received from respondents.
Poverty			✓	Comments reflected the cost of travelling to other venues and the limits of public transport.
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):	Closure of this facility will reduce the opportunities that people in the community will have to come together and participate in a range of activities.

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	Would lose a small business that respondent worked hard to build up.
Councils	No	
Education Sector	No	
Fire	No	
NHS	No	
Integration Joint Board	No	
Police	No	
Third Sector	Yes	There is potential for 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.	Community Cohesion - this centre was closed for a long time and recently re-opened being run by a management committee of local residents. Many of the comments note it's the only resource in this community after the local shop and school. People would have no where to meet, especially those that don't drive.	

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 affect those of all ages and with disability	Age, general population, children and older persons Persons affected by mental health issues.	Prioritise those most disadvantaged in the event of closure and relocation of activities. 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
Closure would affect low income households, particularly those that do not drive	Poverty	Consider affordable transport to 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.

Are actions being reported to Members?

Yes

If yes when and how ?

Strategic Property Review reported to Members in March 2023, and an updated report to Members in 2024.

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
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ASSESSMENT FINDINGS	The EPIA shows that there will be a negative impact on older and on younger people who use this community hall. There was also a statement that suggested those with a disability might be impacted negatively by this closure.	
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		

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 proposed that an alternate delivery model to the facility be developed . The impact on older and younger people and any other impacts should continue to be monitored as this proposal is developed to ensure mitigations are robust.
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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	The closure of this community hall would impact greatly on the isolated rural community, as a means of providing activities for individual health and wellbeing, including those with underlying disabilities, age range and in poverty.
LOW	Yes / No	

SECTION ELEVEN: CHIEF OFFICER SIGN OFF

Director / Head of Service:			
Signature:	<i>Karen Algie</i>	Date:	24/01/2024