

Equality Impact Assessment

<p>Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:</p>	<p>Future management of Haywood Road Community Centre and sale of the adjacent bowling green.</p> <p>Up until October 2016, Porchester Bowling Club used the bowling green but they have relocated to the Arboretum in Nottingham. This follows consolidation of outdoor bowling within Gedling at Arnot Hill Park and Conway Road, in accordance with the approved playing pitch strategy and in order to reduce expenditure. The community centre is owned by the Council with onsite management being undertaken by a management committee comprising of local volunteers - the Haywood Road Community Association. The Association occupy the premises under a tenancy at will which has been in place since July 1975</p> <p>The main user of the community centre is Haywood Road Pre-school which operates four days a week. It is also used by a number of groups many of which cater for the older age group. The community centre can be booked for parties and meetings and is also used by the Council during elections as a polling station. Compared to other Council owned community centre sites, Haywood Road Community Centre is underused. On an average week, it is in use approximately 25 hours, compared to an average of approximately 46 hours across the rest of the Council's portfolio of community centres.</p>
<p>The main objective of the proposal</p>	<p>To revise the current management arrangements of Haywood Road Community Centre and subject to planning permission, to sell the adjacent bowling green for residential development. Any new management arrangements will need to have consideration to the Council's Asset Transfer Policy.</p> <p>A six week Community Consultation has been undertaken in November and December 2016 on a proposal to sell the whole site, including the community centre and bowling green. The feedback from this consultation has been considered as part of this Equality Impact Assessment. There were 1456 responses to the consultation.</p>

Please use only 'Yes' where applicable		Negative	Positive	Neutral	Comments
<u>Gender</u>	External		Y		<p>No consultation responses indicated a negative impact on men if the whole site was to close. Responses indicated concerns that closure of the centre could negatively impact women, mothers and pregnant women. Closure of the centre would mean the re-location of the Haywood Road Pre - School Group to a venue outside the locality. No other viable alternative accommodation has been identified in the immediate locality, therefore presenting a potential impact on parents, particularly mothers or expectant mothers, requiring affordable day care in order to work.</p> <p>A decision to explore new management arrangements at a community centre that retains current use and has aspirations to expand</p>

					<p>the current offer could have a positive impact on women and mothers in the locality.</p> <p>The Bowling Green is no longer in use and therefore has no users who would see a negative impact of closure.</p>
	Internal			y	
<u>Gender Reassignment</u>	External			y	<p>No consultation responses indicated a negative impact on this community if the whole site was to close.</p> <p>The Bowling Green is no longer in use and therefore has no users who would see a negative impact of closure.</p>
	Internal			y	
<u>Age</u>	External		y		<p>Significant users of the community centre include older people, families and pre-school children.</p> <p>There were several responses in the consultation to indicate that closure of the centre would impact on people</p>

					<p>of different ages.</p> <p>Older people might be affected by closure of the centre because they would have to travel further for the Art Group, Scrabble Club and Circle Dance Group sessions. The consultation indicated that older people may not have the confidence to travel further to attend groups. Mobility issues of the elderly were mentioned in relation to their using the centre as a polling station, however, it was noted that no actual respondents said that this was a particular issue in relation to them.</p> <p>The anchor user group of the centre is a Pre-school which provides a service to local families who live in the locality. Re-location or closure of the Pre-school would have a negative impact on those children and parents who may struggle to access a new setting due to suitable transport options or parents working arrangements.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

					<p>If a future management arrangement for the centre can be secured that retains the Pre-school provision this would have a positive impact for local families. The Pre-school has indicated it would like to grow its provision at the centre; this would provide further benefit to pre-school children and both working and non-working parents.</p> <p>The Bowling Green is no longer in use and therefore has no users who would see a negative impact of closure. Bowling is a sport that offers social and physical activity opportunities for older people. The Council's Playing Pitch Strategy considers that Bowling provision can meet local need in the Borough through consolidation of other sites.</p>
		Internal			y

<u>Marriage and civil partnership</u>	External		y		<p>The Council is not aware of the site currently being used for marriage or civil ceremonies.</p> <p>Enhanced potential for family events and parties, including wedding receptions if new robust new management arrangements for the community centre can be established.</p>
	Internal			y	
<u>Disability</u>	External	y			<p>There were responses in the consultation to indicate that closure of the community centre would impact on disabled people. It was noted that these were general comments and that there were no specific examples of any users of the centre who responded being disabled.</p> <p>Due to the age of the building's internal layout it would not meet current disability access requirements if significant refurbishment works were proposed. However, this is not unusual for buildings of</p>
	Internal				

					this age.
	Internal			y	
<u>Race & Ethnicity</u>	External			y	<p>There were no responses in the consultation to indicate that closure of the centre would negatively impact on people due to their race or ethnicity.</p> <p>The Bowling Green is no longer in use and therefore has no users who would see a negative impact of closure.</p>
	Internal			y	
	External			Y	<p>There were no responses in the consultation to indicate that closure of the centre would negatively impact on people due to their sexual orientation.</p> <p>The Bowling Green is no longer in use and therefore has no users who would see a negative impact of closure.</p>
<u>Sexual Orientation</u>	Internal			y	
	External	y			There was one
<u>Religion or Belief (or no</u>	External				

Belief)					<p>response in the consultation to indicate that closure of the centre would impact on the Baha'i Faith. The respondent said that they had already lost Wollaton Avenue Community Centre and Haywood Road was one of the few places left where they can hire a room for meetings of the Baha'i Faith group. The Council acknowledges this response; however capacity does exist at alternative centres in the urban area of Arnold and Carlton to take bookings for groups with a designated religion or belief.</p> <p>If the community centre is retained under alternative management arrangements, opportunities for religious and faith groups to book the venue will remain in place.</p>
----------------	--	--	--	--	---

	Internal			y	
<u>Pregnancy & Maternity</u>	External		y		<p>Responses indicated concerns that closure of the centre could negatively impact on women, mothers and pregnant women. Closure of the centre would mean the re-location of the Haywood Road Pre-School Group to a venue outside the locality. No other viable alternative accommodation has been identified in the immediate locality; therefore this would impact on parents, particularly mothers or expectant mothers, requiring affordable day care in order to work.</p> <p>A decision to retain a community centre that retains current use and has aspirations to expand the current offer could have a positive impact on pregnant women and new mothers in the locality.</p>
	Internal			y	

<p>Other Groups (e.g. any other vulnerable groups, rural isolation, deprived areas, low income staff etc.)</p> <p>Please state the group/s:</p> <p>Existing user groups</p> <hr/> <hr/>	External		y		The current room hire cost at the centre is below that of most similar community halls in the wider urban area. If there are to be future alternative management arrangements, a sustainable business plan may need to consider an increase in hire charges. This could have a negative impact on low income users.
	Internal			y	
Is there is any evidence of a high disproportionate adverse or positive impact on any groups?	Yes				<p>The opportunity of a new management regime for the centre has the potential for a positive impact on groups. If the community centre is retained, any new community management arrangements must ensure it is accessible to the community, in particular for those with the protected characteristics defined by the Equality Act. This is in accordance with Principle 1 of the Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.</p> <p>A new management group may need to adopt a sustainable business plan that considers increased hire charges in future. This could have a negative impact on low income residents.</p> <p>The current building does not benefit from the level of disability access that more modern community centres may offer.</p>
Is there an opportunity to mitigate or	Yes				Any new business plan for managing the community centre should consider the current market rates of hire charges at other

alleviate any such impacts?			<p>local community facilities to alleviate a potential adverse impact on low income groups.</p> <p>If the building is retained for community use a revised assessment of disability access could be undertaken to inform future plans. Funding opportunities may exist for an adequately constituted community organisation or charity to enhance disabled access of the building. A long-term lease arrangement with the Council would be a likely eligibility criterion for such funding.</p>
Are there any gaps in information available (e.g. evidence) so that a complete assessment of different impacts is not possible?		No	
<p>In response to the information provided above please provide a set of proposed action including any consultation that is going to be carried out:</p>			
Planned Actions	Timeframe	Success Measure	Responsible Officer
If the building is retained consider a revised assessment of disability access should be undertaken to inform future plans	Feb 2018	Robust asset transfer arrangements in place	Katie Walters, Service Manager Property working with Haywood Road Community Association or alternative community organisation
If revised management arrangements for the building are to be pursued, these must be in accordance with the Council's agreed Community Asset Transfer	Feb 2018	Compliance with 'Principle 1' of the Community Asset Transfer, "Meeting Community Need"	Lance Juby, Service Manager Community Relations working with Haywood Road Community Association or alternative community organisation

Authorisation and Review

Completing Officer	Lance Juby
Authorising Director	David Wakelin
Date	20 January 2017
Review date (if applicable)	