



# REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

## PORTFOLIO AREA: HEALTH & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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Date of Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2005

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Public

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Key Decision: Yes/No

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

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Inside Policy Framework

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Title: GREYSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
Report of: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
Report reference: ECD.21/05

### Summary:

### Recommendations:

Members are recommended to consider and approve Greystone Community Centre's proposal to develop the Centre and to confirm a grant of £25,000, subject to other contributory funding being secured and that such grant be released when the Portfolio Holder for Community Activities and the Director of Community Services is satisfied that a viable scheme has been prepared

Contact Officer: R Burns

Ext: 7352

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

## **1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 1.1 Following the disposal of the Community Garden site in Fusehill Street in September 2004, Council agreed that the local community should be the main beneficiaries from the sale or lease of the site and that consultations should be undertaken to establish what facilities could be provided in the area.
- 1.2 It was further agreed by the Executive (min EX205/04) that they would look very favourably on providing funding for schemes developed in consultation with the local community and any projects that the Greystone Community Association might put forward.
- 1.3 As a result, a major consultation with all the residents of the St Aidans Ward was prepared, with major input from Greystone Community Centre and Cumberland News Research Ltd.
- 1.4 Unfortunately, the consultation survey was due to be launched on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2005 and for obvious reasons, was put on hold.
- 1.5 It was not until September when it was felt that there were sufficient numbers of people back in residence in the area to make a survey viable, that the consultation was revived.
- 1.6 A copy of the survey form is available from the Community Support office or Greystone Community Centre.

## **2.0 SURVEY**

- 2.1 2,500 copies of the survey were distributed or left at the Community Centre and 329 responses were received, giving a 95% confidence factor that the results would be representative of community opinion.
- 2.2 The survey gave a breakdown of what was already available or soon to become available in the area, including upgraded playground in Fusehill Street; all weather play area in Melbourne Park, St Martins College Sports Hall, Community Centre etc.
- 2.3 The questions in the survey were devised to ascertain what the main gaps in community provision were according to local people and what their preferences and priorities would be to address those gaps.

- 2.4 The results highlighted facilities and activities for young people and children; health and fitness activity and informal learning and training opportunities as being most important.
- 2.5 Based on this information, the Community Centre, who have been taking the lead in this exercise, supported by the City Council, prepared 3 draft proposals to extend and improve their facility, ranging in cost from £90,000 to £550,000. (attached as Appendix A)
- 2.6 Their Management Committee has indicated that ideally they would like to pursue option 3 (attached as Appendix B) but accept that they may have to develop option 1 first and reach option 3 in phases.
- 2.7 The Committee also feels that before they do much more work on developing any of the proposals, it would be helpful to know how much the City Council would be prepared to contribute as clearly, they will need to prepare options to present to other funding bodies also.
- 2.8 The immediate progression of any new development will depend to a great extent on the amount the Council feels able to contribute, but at a minimum, the Centre is committed to pursuing option 1 as soon as possible, but will continue to seek funding from other sources to enable them ultimately to fulfil option 3.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Members are recommended to consider and approve Greystone Community Centre's proposal to develop the Centre and to confirm a grant of £25,000, subject to other contributory funding being secured and that such grant be released when the portfolio Holder for Community Activities is satisfied that a viable scheme has been prepared

### **4.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 In order that progress can be made towards the development of the proposed extension to the Community Centre.

### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- Staffing/Resources – support from officers of the Community Support and Buildings and Facilities teams
- Financial – the proposal to award a grant of £25,000 has been included in the provisional Capital Programme Report considered elsewhere in this agenda
- Legal –approval required to extend premises
- Corporate – n/a
- Risk Management – responsibility of Comm Centre Trustees
- Equality Issues – additional facilities will be DDA compliant
- Environmental – planning permission sought
- Crime and Disorder – additional facilities particularly targeted at young people and reducing nuisance and disorder
- Impact on Customers – improved facilities will benefit all Centre users

RB/VH

25<sup>th</sup> October 2005

# Greystone

## COMMUNITY CENTRE



Close Street, Carlisle, CA1 2HA Tel: 01228 625360

*This centre is owned by Carlisle City Council, managed in partnership with the local community  
Registered Charity No. 701878*

For the Attention of Ray Knapton  
Portfolio Holder  
Carlisle City Council  
Civic Centre  
Carlisle

Dear Mr Knapton

Further to our discussion over the past few months I am writing on behalf of the Management Committee regarding a contribution by the City Council to Greystone Community Centre for improvements to the Centre and therefore enhanced facilities for the community.

We are currently investigating a number of proposals:

### **Option 1 – Alterations to existing building – 90K estimated**

Alterations to internal layout and general refurbishment of fixtures and fittings in order to:

- Provide a children's play area
- Improve kitchen facilities
- Relocate coffee bar and existing office space
- Install internal sliding doors to improve use of halls

This option will improve facilities for children, provide extra meeting rooms, enhance the general look and feel of the building but not necessarily provide any more income

### **Option 2 – Option 1 plus Single Extension to East Side of building – £465K estimated**

This will provide:

- All of the above in Option 1
- Newly furnished kitchen/coffee bar situated in the new wing
- Youth facilities in new wing and a wider hall space

This option will improve facilities for youth, as provision will be provided separate to the rest of the Centre, giving them more freedom. Revenue will be increased from coffee bar taking, as well as income from services provided for young people.

**Option 3 – Two new wings to the front of the building - £550K estimated**

This will provide:

- Newly refurbished kitchen/coffee bar situated in east wing
- Youth facilities in new wing and a wider hall space
- Existing kitchen converted into extra meeting room
- Additional room in west wing to provide enhanced nursery provision and a small area of the main hall will be converted into a sleeping area for children
- The kitchen would also allow for the provision of hot meals which would be necessary in order to provide wraparound care

This will allow for a wider range of services to Centre users of all ages from young children (wrap around care), young people (youth wing) and our older residents (provision of services such as chiropodist and other health issues). We also have plans to consult with local ethnic groups and employers of foreign workers, as we would like to provide services such as a bi-lingual advice point with information on local services and provide English classes.

This option will greatly increase revenue and is the preferred option for the long-term sustainability of the Centre.

We enclose initial outline plans and costing and would be grateful if we could have an early indication of any sum we can expect from City Council so that we can prepare funding applications to other funders.

We thank you once again for your consideration of this matter, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

J E Ackerley  
Centre Manager  
For and on behalf of  
Greystone Community Association Management Committee

cc. Rob Burns – Community Support Manager







# Greystone

## COMMUNITY CENTRE



Close Street, Carlisle, CA1 2HA Tel: 01228 625360

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22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005

For the Attention of Councillor R Knapton  
Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder  
Carlisle City Council  
Civic Centre  
Carlisle

Dear Mr Knapton

Development of Greystone Community Centre

With reference to the above, I write to confirm that Greystone in partnership with Carlisle City Council have undertaken a consultation exercise with the local community.

A summary of the information returned by the residents who were consulted is as follows:

- 24% of residents living near Greystone Community Centre use the Centre at least once a month
- The most popular activities attended at the Centre are ante-natal/child related
- Overall the most important issue is more facilities and activities for young people aged 12 years – 19 years
- Of the 58 that have young people in the 12 – 19 age range, just over half (52%) say they will use the Centre if it develops its facilities for them
- Three quarters of the residents showed an interest in the courses that the Centre may put on, especially with regard to computers and yoga

Based on the above information and our commitment to providing enhanced facilities for our Community, our preferred option is option 3 – Two new wings to the front of the building. This will provide:

- Newly furnished kitchen/coffee bar situated in east wing
- Youth facilities in new wing and a wider hall space
- Existing kitchen converted into extra meeting room

- Additional room in west wing to provide enhanced nursery provision and a small area of the main hall will be converted into a sleeping area for children
- The kitchen would also allow for the provision of hot meals which would be necessary in order to provide wraparound care

This will allow for a wider range of services to Centre users of all ages from young children (wrap around care), young people (youth wing) and our older residents (provision of services such as chiropodist and other health issues). We also have plans to consult with local ethnic groups and employers of foreign workers, as we would like to provide services such as a bi-lingual advice point with information on local services and provide English classes.

This option will greatly increase revenue and is preferred for the long-term sustainability of the Centre.

We hope that you will look upon us favourably when you decide how to invest the income generated from the lease of the Fusehill Street site, and as stated in your letter to Greystone dated 7<sup>th</sup> April, we share your concerns that this issue seems to have dragged on rather longer than everyone thought at the start.

Yours sincerely



Joyce Ackerley  
Centre Manager  
For and on behalf of  
Greystone Community Association



Cc Rob Burns – Community Support Manager ✓