



Subject:	Community Centre Research
Date:	7 March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart (Community Development Manager)

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the research undertaken to begin to map and analyse community centre provision within neighbourhoods and across the city.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the content of the report and agree a series of Party Group Briefings to be held at a future date.
3.0	Main Issues
3.1	The Council recognised that due to the age of some of its assets, as well as the shifts in community development practice and collaborative area working, it was timely to initiate a discussion internally and with its partners, on the function, spread and investment in community-based assets in the city. An initial piece of work was completed by Deloitte and presented to Committee last year.
3.2	Further to that presentation Committee agreed, in the first instance, an initial phase of research would focus on Council-owned community centre provision and those third sector

organisations currently receiving funding support via the Community Buildings Revenue Grant and the Capacity Building Grants. This was up to potentially 145 Community Facilities across the city.

3.3 The baseline data presents initial information on Community Centre provision in the city. However, it is important to note that this is only a partial picture given the multiplicity of providers. To address this limitation, further research will be required with other key stakeholders and providers.

3.4 While this is a segment of provision throughout the city, the emerging picture begins to raise interesting questions for us to consider:

- What about the other community centres in the city? What do we see as their role?
- What about integrated provision e.g. at Olympia and Girdwood?
- What is the sustainability state of revenue funding?
- How can we work better with our health and education partners?
- Does this tie our community development work to assets/physical locations rather than neighbourhoods where there is need?

3.5 Importantly, this all needs to be contextualised in supporting the delivery of Belfast Agenda outcomes. In addition, as Council develops its area working model, the ability to baseline the type and level of community centre provision by all providers in a locality will be critical and will inform front line service provision and ongoing investment decisions.

3.6 The next key stages are suggested as:

- Further discussion on Council's ambition for neighbourhood assets and resources
- Further research and wider engagement with other providers to enable Council to make informed investment decisions
- Collaborative Working with key partners e.g. health and education on investments
- Development of work on Community Asset Transfer
- Clarity on funding environment
- Benchmarking with other cities.

3.7 It is proposed that, in the first instance, discussions are initiated to determine the political ambition for neighbourhood assets and resources. This will further shape the next stages, and help inform a programme of engagement and work thereafter with city partners.

	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.8	<u>Financial:</u> There are no financial or resource implications to report.
3.9	<u>Human Resources</u> There are no HR implications to report.
3.10	<u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations implications to report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None