

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

LLA Community facility closures

Assessment ID	IIA-001029
Lead Author	Tim Stephen
Additional Authors	Glynis Buchan
Service Reviewers	Chris Murphy
Subject Matter Experts	Susan Forbes, Kakuen Mo, Christine McLennan
Approved By	Avril Nicol
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1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

To assess the impact of budget savings proposals to close up to 8 Community Facilities (including halls, pavilions and community centres)

During screening 4 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 3 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities

In total there are 2 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 7 negative impacts, of these negative impacts, 9 have been mitigated and 0 cannot be mitigated satisfactorily.

A detailed action plan with 3 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by avril.nicol@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe		Yes		
Healthy			Yes	
Achieving		Yes		
Nurtured		Yes		
Active			Yes	
Respected		Yes		
Responsible		Yes		
Included		Yes		

4.2. Rights Indicators

UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy	Article 31 - Leisure, play and culture
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4.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Active	<p>Closure of some pavilions may reduce access to some outdoor services for young people as useability of services would be impacted. There may be also some impact as a result of the closure of community facilities, albeit facilities are not well utilised currently.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Local Community Groups can be empowered to take on facilities through the Community empowerment Act (Community Asset Transfer), allowing groups to own facilities at below market value</p> <p>Timescale 1 year - though facilities can soetimes remain in use whilst an application is ongoing</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Active	<p>Closure of some pavilions may reduce access to some outdoor services for young people as useability of services would be impacted. There may be also some impact as a result of the closure of community facilities, albeit facilities are not well utilised currently.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation More use to be made of Council assets to deliver both displaced and NEW activities. In particular LLA will be looking to use school facilities to a greater degree than has been the case before -especially in rural areas.</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>
Healthy	<p>Closure of pavilions and community centres, albeit not currently well utilised, may reduce access to some services for young people</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation In a number of cases, alternative venues can be found to accommodate existing usage, which in turn can boost the future viability of those facilities through extra custom.</p> <p>Timescale Can be implemented immediately</p>

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Existing usage data	Covers existing usage of our community facilities and pavilions.	A number of our facilities are underutilised

4.5. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

We have considered existing usage data of the facilities in question to identify how they are currently being used by young people.

4.6. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

By ensuring that our estate stock is financially sustainable in the future, we can provide a secure range of opportunities for the development of services for young people.

4.7. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

Facilities in question do not have high (or even medium) usage rates by young people, and by releasing the assets and moving custom to other facilities - which may in turn safeguard the use of those facilities.

4.8. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

The facilities in question are already lightly utilised, and it is anticipated that the majority(if not all) usage can be accommodated at other facilities. Where there is a community resolve to retain facilities, this can potentially be achieved through the Community Asset Transfer Process.

5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)		Yes		
Age (Older)			Yes	
Disability			Yes	
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income		Yes		
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation			Yes	
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

5.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Older)	<p>Closure of some of the pavilions and community centres may have an impact on groups hosting activities for older people</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation In the vast majority of cases, alternative venues can be found for groups. In other cases groups may be able to take on a lease of a property and/or apply for ownership through the Community empowerment act.</p> <p>Timescale Immediately</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Disability	<p>Some facilities provide a service for groups that deal with adults and children with disabilities, who use facilities because they are quiet.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Where this may be the case, officers are working with groups to identify alternative premises and/or look at the possibility of groups taking on ownership of specific facilities.</p> <p>Timescale 1 year</p>
Area deprivation	<p>The closure of some facilities, especially in rural areas, may be seen to reduce service provision in some areas.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation In most cases, accommodation for users can be found in alternative premises, which may also include local schools. - where LLA is particularly keen to deliver existing and new services which may in turn extend the range of services available in key areas.</p> <p>Timescale Immediately</p>

5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Existing user data	It details the existing level of usage by specific groups.	Facilities that will be considered under this tranche of closures are currently lightly used (in many cases not used at all).

5.5. Engagement with affected groups

To date there has been informal engagement with members on an area by area basis, who are aware of the process. Where officers get to specific facilities there has been or will be engagement with existing users to identify alternative options for them going forward.

5.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

The ongoing engagement with user groups is bespoke.

5.7. Evidence of engagement

There have been briefing notes to be supplied to cllrs on an area basis. Engagement with user groups has typically been (and will be) direct with the groups either at meetings or through phone engagement.

5.8. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Officers are looking to work with all affected groups to offer them alternative accommodation, which is anticipated to be reasonably straightforward - especially where facilities evidence no existing regular usage. There is also an alternative approach whereby groups can either obtain a lease of a property or apply for a community asset transfer.

5.9. Improving Relations

Continuation of policy of engaging with ward councillors and direct with affected user groups.

5.10. Opportunities of Equality

In reducing the capital estate, this has the potential to maximise existing building efficiency, which in turn creates development opportunity and also enables appropriate investment into remaining capital assets.

6. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

6.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating		Yes		
Exercise and physical activity			Yes	
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol		Yes		
Substance use – drugs		Yes		
Mental health		Yes		

6.2. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Exercise and physical activity	<p>Existing users may elect not to use an alternative facility, which may impact on their physical health if that activity is a sport or physically demanding exercise.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Users will be offered an alternative facility, which in most cases will be suitable for requirements. In addition some groups may apply for ownership or lease of a facility.</p> <p>Timescale Before implementation of closures</p>
Exercise and physical activity	<p>Existing users may elect not to use an alternative facility, which may impact on their physical health if that activity is a sport or physically demanding exercise.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation LLA intends to make better use of other council assets (particularly but not exclusively schools) to both meet local needs and develop new services which may in themselves increase the range of activities available.</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>

6.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Internal booking data	It shows which groups use facilities and how often.	The facilities under scrutiny are lightly used
Other Evidence	Property asset records/ building surveys	It shows what investment is required to ensure facilities can reasonably accommodate the general public.	In a number of cases, facilities would require disproportionately high levels of investment to be viable in the future.

6.4. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Existing user data shows that facilities are not well utilised, with options available for alternative accommodation. In addition there are also options for groups to apply to own or lease facilities direct.

7. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details	
Continue to brief cllrs on an area committee basis on proposed closures and alternative premises for groups.	Lead Officer Repeating Activity Planned Start Planned Finish Expected Outcome Resource Implications	Tim Stephen No Monday April 03, 2023 Thursday August 31, 2023 Agreement and supprt for proposed building closures and/or community transfers. Officer time
Engage with affected user groups in identified facilities - setting out their options going forward, including the consideration of accessible and affordable venues for displaced groups.	Lead Officer Repeating Activity Planned Start Planned Finish Expected Outcome Resource Implications	Tim Stephen No Monday April 03, 2023 Friday September 22, 2023 Creation of options for every group, either in terms of alternative premises or ability to take on the ownership of the facilities in question. Officer time.
Continuation of initiatives that develop the use of other Council assets (in particular schools) to both meet any displaced need as well as deliver new services	Lead Officer Repeating Activity Planned Start Planned Finish Expected Outcome Resource Implications	Tim Stephen No Monday January 30, 2023 Friday November 28, 2025 Population gets healthier as a result of increased opportunities for positive physical and mental wellbeing through activities organised in a range of assets. project specific plus human resources