



<b>Subject:</b>	Community and Play Centres: Seasonal Closures
<b>Date:</b>	5 November 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City & Neighbourhood Service Department
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<i>After Committee Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>After Council Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Some time in the future</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Never</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek permission to extend the current seasonal closure arrangements for BCC Community and Play Centres for the Christmas 2019 and Easter 2020 periods.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Consider a request to extend the current seasonal arrangements for BCC Community and Play Centres to be closed to the public for a defined period at Christmas 2019 and Easter 2020, subject to staff taking annual leave for any days that are not statutory holidays.</li></ul>

ii. Note that any staff wanting to work over these periods on the non-statutory holidays will be facilitated.

**3.0 Main report**

Key Issues

3.1 Community Services have 26 Directly Managed Community Centres, 24 of which open on Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and then again from 6pm to 10pm. The remaining 2 centres (Cregagh and Tullycarnett) operate on a 7 day a week basis. We also deliver play programmes from a range of council and community owned facilities across the city.

3.2 To open a BCC Community Centre, a Community Centre Supervisor must be present. While the staff teams show great dedication to their work and to enabling the Community Centres to open as required, there are times when closure of some or all of these centres are sought.

3.3 Traditionally BCC community centres have been available to accept bookings over the wider Christmas and Easter periods not excluding statutory holidays, however, the majority of our user groups take a break from their programmes and meetings during this time. Also, officer delivered BCC community and play development programmes are delivered in the weeks before the traditional holidays and as such our usage during these seasonal periods is extremely low. As such many centre staff request to take annual leave for the period between the Christmas and New Year Bank Holidays which would usually result in up to three extra days closure of the community centre. At Easter there can be similar requests for annual leave for Easter week.

3.4 Given the low centre footfall at these periods, and therefore limited impact on our community customers, Committee is asked to consider if it would be permissible to extend the current seasonal closure arrangements from the Christmas break to one week. Committee may also wish to adopt this approach for the Easter week.

3.5 The revised opening times for Christmas 2019 would be:

Christmas Eve	Tuesday 24th Dec 9-5pm 6-10pm	Open Closed	Annual Leave
Christmas Day	Wednesday 25th Dec	Closed	Statutory Holiday
Boxing Day	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Closed	Statutory Holiday
	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> & Monday 30th Dec	Closed	Annual Leave (2)

	New Year's Eve	Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Closed	Extra Statutory Holiday
	New Year's Day	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Closed	Statutory Holiday
3.6	This closure period is in line with other council areas and many public buildings and will allow council to accommodate officer requests for annual leave at a time when this will present least impact on our centre programmes.			
3.7	Staff who do not wish to take annual leave can be facilitated, however, the intention is that all BCC Community and Play Centres would be advertised as closed to the public at these times. Any pre-existing booking, or new request to book a centre during the noted period, will be accommodated.			
3.8	All centres would reopen as normal in the week following any Seasonal Closure.			
3.9	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> There are no financial or resource issues associated with this report.			
3.10	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Good Relations or Rural Needs Assessment implications			
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>			
	None			