



Subject:	Independently Managed Community Centres (IMCC's)
Date:	21 ST August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director, Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number ☐

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to;

	- advise committee of correspondence received from Shaftesbury Community Recreation Centre on 23 July 26 and seek their view on the request for additional funding for 26/27. - Provide an update on actions agreed at SP&R committee in March 26.																																
2.0	Recommendation																																
2.1	That the Committee consider the request for additional funding contained in the correspondence and the update on recent and planned activity in relation to IMCCs.																																
3.0	Main Report																																
	Key Issues																																
3.1	Members will recall Council has long standing arrangements in place to provide financial support to 7 Council community centres that are managed independently by the community sector.																																
3.2	In March 2026, following a written request from 4 IMCCs, SP&R agreed to double the annual award to these facilities so that they received an uplift of £74,000 each (totalling £296,000) for 25/26 financial year.																																
3.3	In July this year, Council received a further request from these 4 facilities to pay the same uplift in the 26/27 year. Members are asked to consider this and whether they wish to approve an additional payment. Detail of this request can be found in Appendix I.																																
3.4	The table below shows the individual allocations to IMCCs for 26/27. To date 50% of these awards have been issued. An annual CPI increase of 2.8 % for 26/27 will be included with the second payment which will be paid in October 2026. The 4 organisations requesting the increase are highlighted. <table><tr><th>Independently Managed Centres</th><th>Amount</th><th>CPI Increase</th><th>Total 26/27</th></tr><tr><td>Shaftesbury Recreation Centre</td><td>£74,056.80</td><td>£2,073.59</td><td>£76,130.39</td></tr><tr><td>Grosvenor Recreation Centre</td><td>£74,056.80</td><td>£2,073.59</td><td>£76,130.39</td></tr><tr><td>Denmark Street Community Centre</td><td>£25,680.28</td><td>£719.04.</td><td>£26,399.32</td></tr><tr><td>Carrick Hill Community Centre</td><td>£40,867.01</td><td>£1,144.27</td><td>£42,011.28</td></tr><tr><td>Sally Gardens</td><td>£74,056.80</td><td>£2,073.59</td><td>£76,130.39</td></tr><tr><td>Hanwood Trust</td><td>£74,056.80</td><td>£2,073.59</td><td>£76,130.39</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>£362,774.49</td><td></td><td>£372,932.15</td></tr></table>	Independently Managed Centres	Amount	CPI Increase	Total 26/27	Shaftesbury Recreation Centre	£74,056.80	£2,073.59	£76,130.39	Grosvenor Recreation Centre	£74,056.80	£2,073.59	£76,130.39	Denmark Street Community Centre	£25,680.28	£719.04.	£26,399.32	Carrick Hill Community Centre	£40,867.01	£1,144.27	£42,011.28	Sally Gardens	£74,056.80	£2,073.59	£76,130.39	Hanwood Trust	£74,056.80	£2,073.59	£76,130.39	Total	£362,774.49		£372,932.15
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3.5	In March 26, when considering the request for additional funding, SP&R agreed that a number of actions would be completed by council officers. An update on these is provided below: Agreed that a report would be brought back to the committee which would provide members with options on proceeding with standard Legal Agreements outlining Terms and Conditions for all IMCCs at a future meeting.
3.6	Officers have been working on a cross departmental basis to gather this information for all IMCCs and are working with IMCCs to gather information that will inform a consistent approach in relation to legal agreements, funding levels and capture of activity and outcomes delivered by IMCCs.
3.7	At its meeting on 11 August P&C committee agreed that an elected member workshop on Community Services would be held at 5.15pm on 26th October. An update on the outcome of the work above and options for a consistent approach to IMCC funding and legal agreements will form part of the agenda for this workshop. All elected members will be invited to attend. Agreed that a condition survey would be undertaken across all Independently Managed Community Centres.
3.8	This work is underway by Property & Projects Department and is due for completion in the Autumn.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.9	Annual awards to IMCC's including CPI increases are contained within approved budgets and factored into future budgeting/forecasting processes. There is no available departmental budget to pay the additional funding of £296,000 in the 26/27 financial year that has been requested.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.10	This will be considered throughout and any appropriate issues highlighted to Members. Any amendments to existing arrangements will be considered in the context of any Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs considerations.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Correspondence from Shaftesbury Community Recreation Centre to Belfast City Council