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(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Equality Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting: Culture and City Development Decision Meeting

Subject: Community Centres

Date of meeting: 4 October 2019

Report by: Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Wards affected: Citywide

1. **Requested by:** Stephen Baily

2. **Purpose**

2.1 To inform the Cabinet Member for Culture and City Development of the contribution to the Council's priorities made by community associations managing council owned community centres

3. **Information Requested**

3.1 The biennial survey of the city council community centres managed by charitable community associations was carried out at the end of 2018 (the five centres managed directly by Housing did not take part) The survey process does not give scientifically accurate data, rather it provides a snapshot at a point in time.

3.2 The survey comprised two parts: details of centre users obtained by questionnaires completed by individual users during a period of one month and a report prepared by each of the managing associations on the activities, attendances and room usages for the 2018 calendar year. The total number of completed survey forms received was 3,164 and the total number of visits recorded to all centres in 2018 was 561,340.

3.3 From these two sources the demographic data on users is obtained and this demonstrates how well centres are serving their local community, attracting residents of all ages, income levels and abilities. The reported activity programmes are analysed to establish the breadth and richness of their offer and the room usage report identifies any spare capacity.



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3.4 Each association receives a detailed but easily understood report of their findings and this is discussed with the managing committee of trustees. The reports contribute to the Service Level Agreement monitoring process and the subsequent action plans for development. A composite report for all centres is produced to give the summary findings below and copies of the reports for the individual centres are available on request.

4. Summary of findings

4.1 The surveys show that the community associations are making a significant contribution to meeting the council's priorities, in terms of both the users catered for and the activities on offer.

4.2 The associations promote social inclusion, making possible low cost participation in formal and informal learning and skill development for employability, sport and physical exercise, health and well-being, hobbies and interest groups, social gatherings, closed and open meetings, access to services offered by a range of agencies and volunteering opportunities.

5. Detail of findings

The centres vary in size and facilities and the number and make up of users varies accordingly. Some centres may have sports halls, IT rooms, large activity rooms and cafes while others consist of as few as two small rooms. The larger centres also tend to cater for city-wide groups including minority religious and cultural groups.

5.1 Users

Numbers - the number of users at each centre generally reflect the size of the centres, which vary from 2 to 12 rooms/spaces. However, there are variations in the percentage levels of usage and these are reported in the individual centre reports.

Satisfaction - the level of satisfaction across all centres is gratifyingly high at 97%, with only 0.5% expressing dissatisfaction

Residence - it is the council's expectation, as well as a constitutional requirement for the associations, that they should strive to serve their local communities. There are high levels of local usage at the centres and across the city only 6% of all users are not Portsmouth residents



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Gender - there is a preponderance of female users across all centres, which in part reflects the high levels of usage by older people - amongst whom women are a higher percentage - and by young families - the mother still being the majority accompanying carer.

Age - under 5s and over 60s are very highly represented amongst centre users. The proportion of 0 to 4s in the city population is 6.6% and of centre users is 18%; 60+ residents make up 20.4% of the city population and 30% of centre users

Ethnicity - black and minority ethnic residents are well represented amongst centre users at 19% compared to 16% in the city population

Disability - at 21% the proportion of centre users reporting a disability is significantly higher than the 11.6% recorded across the city

Income - this question still proves sensitive for some users, although the survey forms are completely anonymous. Responses ranged from 51% to 85% of users over 16, with an average response rate of 67%. However it is important to ensure that centres are serving all and the analysis demonstrates that the centres continue to be successful in attracting / catering for people on low incomes. 25% of responding users reported household incomes of less than £10,000, 50% incomes of under £15,000 and 65% incomes under £20,000.

5.2 Programmes

A. Formal and informal learning and skill development - 16%

B. Physical activity - 29%

C. Health promotion - 9%

D. Social and recreational activities - 17%

E. Community interaction/social inclusion - 18%

F. Arts and creative activities - 4%

G. Individual or community well-being - 2%

H. Group and organisation meetings - 3%

I. Office space - 1%

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Signed by
Stephen Baily
 Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Appendices:

Appendix A: Composite Data Survey Report

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Community centre usage reports 2018	Culture office
Demographic data	Strategy Unit