

Proposed Closure of Community Learning and Development Establishments

City of Edinburgh Council

11 March 2010

Purpose of Report

- 1 To refer to the City of Edinburgh Council a motion approved by the South West Neighbourhood Partnership on the proposed closure of Community Learning and Development establishments in Edinburgh and the South West Neighbourhood Partnership area in particular.

Main Report

- 2 On 23 February 2010, South West Neighbourhood Partnership considered a joint motion by Keith Bell and Councillor Burns on the proposed closure of Community Learning and Development establishments in Edinburgh and the South West Neighbourhood Partnership area in particular.

- 3 The Partnership agreed:-

“South West Neighbourhood Partnership notes that the Lib-Dem/SNP Council Coalition, as part of its budget for 2010/11 recently set on 11 February, has agreed to close the following six Community Centres at the beginning of this coming April:-

1. Gorgie War Memorial Hall
2. Colinton Mains Community Centre
3. Longstone Community Centre
4. Sighthill Community Centre
5. Platform Adult Learning Centre
6. The Number Shop

South West Neighbourhood Partnership further notes that the first five of these Centres are in the South West and West areas of the city.

South West Neighbourhood Partnership is not aware of any public consultation on these proposals prior to the decision being made on 11 February 2010 and is neither aware of any consultation with the Neighbourhood Partnership members of the respective areas.

South West Neighbourhood Partnership therefore requests that these imminent closures are halted to allow time for:-

- (a) a Partnership-specific report to be produced, looking at the effect of the closures including, but not limited to, the alternatives to the closed centres, the transport links for the affected areas to access these alternatives, in particular those with limited mobility and wheelchair users, access to the alternative centres for people with special needs and whether the alternative centres will offer all the services currently offered by the affected centres;
- (b) the provision of proper consultation with the community to see what their opinions are as opposed to the normal 'consultations' that are carried out by Children & Families department;
- (c) Councillors elected to represent Wards 7 & 9 to be encouraged to support their constituents in securing the best Community Learning facilities that they can; and
- (d) this motion to be referred to the meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council on 11 March 2010."

Recommendation

- 4 The Council is invited to consider the Neighbourhood Partnership's recommendations.



Alastair Maclean
Head of Legal and Administrative Services

Appendices	None
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Wards affected	7 – Sighthill Gorgie; 9 – Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart
Background Papers	None