

04 March 2020

Dear Committee Members

In relation to Item 7.1 Community Centres – Condition Review and Corstorphine Community Centre

EVOC would like to note its interest and commitment to the discussions going forward in relation to the city's community centres.

In response to this paper we would like the committee to note our recommendations and concerns:

1. That the Community Centre Change Group (or other specially formed group) seeks to undertake a full and thorough impact assessment on the 12 community centres identified as being in most need of investment and therefore most at risk from closure.
2. That such a group considers and cross references the need to provide community space for early intervention and prevention work, the reduction of social isolation, addressing the inequalities in community in the community plan and addressing the first findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.
3. That where possible, decisions on the future of these assets are not solely fiscally driven.
4. To note our concern that item 3.5 is a simplification of operations in community centres themselves. The phrase 'unregulated occupation' raises concerns about community access to the centres. We would like this explored and clarified as part of any exercise in assess the risks.
5. To note that EVOC has held the first of four locality based events for Community Centre Management Committees, this took place for the North West on the 18th of February. The North East locality has 5 of the 12 community centres listed as in need of investment and as such EVOC will prioritise this area for our next event.

Yours sincerely



Ella Simpson
Chief Executive