

Committee	Dated:
Community and Children's Services	28.09.2020
Subject: Community Centre Governance	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter – Director, Department of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Simon Cribbens - Assistant Director, Commissioning and Partnerships	

Summary

This report seeks Members' recommendations in relation to the creation of an Advisory Board for the new Portsoken Community Centre and the governance frameworks across City of London Community Centres.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Recommend an option for the appointment to community centre Advisory Boards
- If it is recommended that the Advisory Boards includes Members, propose the number of Members that should sit on the Advisory Board and how they are appointed.

Main Report

Background

1. A new Portsoken Community Centre adjoining the Mansell Street estate is scheduled for completion in March 2021. This will replace the City Corporation's use of the existing Portsoken Health and Community Centre (the Green Box) and add to community facilities the City Corporation has within the Square Mile on the Golden Lane estate and as part of the Artizan Street Library.
2. The vision for the new community centre is to establish a thriving and financially sustainable facility serving and driven by people living and working in the community. It aims to be accessible for all sections of the community, and responsive to meeting a variety of interests, needs and wants from different sections of the community. It also aims to be accountable to the community, with residents involved in and making decisions relating to the new centre (and that this role grows over time).
3. To secure these aims it is proposed that an "Advisory Board" is established.

Current Position

4. Members of this Committee decided that the City Corporation take initial responsibility for the management of the Portsoken Community Centre to ensure the risks of the immediate period ahead are properly addressed and the provision has a good opportunity to bed in.
5. To support that operation, an Advisory Board will be established to develop operational policies and support other elements such as the recruitment and community reach.
6. The approach echoes a similar structure set up to support the newly refurbished Golden Lane Community Centre (GLCC) when it reopened.
7. Members of the Portsoken Ward have proposed that the Board be made up of residents of Mansell Street and Middlesex Street estates, officers, a local business representative and two elected Members appointed by the Alderman. Officers have also suggested a representative of the hotel that the community centre sits within.
8. A flexible approach to membership is prudent given the differing key stakeholders. A representative of the Adult Skills service sits on the GLCC Board for instance as they are an anchor occupant. Housing are also represented as that centre is also a Housing Revenue Account asset.
9. The Golden Lane Advisory Board does not include elected Members. It was considered at the time of its establishment that there may be a conflict between Member's committee role of scrutiny and decision making on future operation, with the responsibilities of the Advisory Board.
10. However, Members are asked to consider whether elected representatives should join the new Portsoken Community Centre Advisory Board, and if so, the process for appointing them.

Options

11. Options are set out below:
12. **Option 1:** The terms of reference and membership of Advisory Boards (or other related structure) are agreed on a case by case basis. Elected Members could be members if that is agreed as appropriate to that centre. This allows for local variation, but may be seen as inconsistent
13. **Option 2:** The Advisory Board (or other related structure) of all community centres should include an elected Member or Members to further represent local views and interests.

14. **Option 3:** The Advisory Boards of City Corporation community centres do not include elected Members. This would provide for consistency and clear separation between governance and delivery.
15. Where options 1 or 2 are favoured, Members are asked to consider whether the number of Members should be agreed and set consistently across such Boards, or whether it is immaterial.
16. If Members are to sit on these Boards, Members are asked to propose how they are appointed.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

17. The new Portsoken Community Centre will deliver to the aims of the Corporate Plan and the following outcomes:
- Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.
 - People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.
 - People enjoy good health and wellbeing.
 - We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration.
 - We are digitally and physically well-connected and responsive.

Conclusion

18. The establishment of an Advisory Board for the new Portsoken Community Centre will help secure its vision to be a thriving and financially sustainable facility serving and driven by people living and working in the community.

Appendices

- None

Background Papers

- Community and Children's Services 19 June 2020: New Portsoken Community Centre – Business Planning

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