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| Committee: Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee | Dated: 26/05/2022 |
| Subject: Community Centres Policy Review | Public |
| Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly? | 4, 12 |
| Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending? | N |
| If so, how much? | £ |
| What is the source of Funding? | |
| Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department? | Y/N |
| Report of: Executive Director of Community and Children's Services | For Decision |
| Report author: Liam Gillespie, Head of Housing Management | |

Summary

The Community Centres Policy was first approved in 2019 and has been reviewed. The policy now reflects the recent addition of the Portsoken Community Centre to the facilities managed by the Housing Division. There are no changes to the substance of the policy.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Endorse the revised Community Centres Policy for use by the Housing Division, with a standard three-year review period

Main Report

Background

1. The Housing Division manages eight community spaces, seven of which are located on City Corporation housing estates. The facilities range in size from small, single-room facilities to larger, multi-space buildings with staff.
2. The Housing Division has also recently taken on the management of a new stand-alone community centre at Portsoken. This centre, and the Golden Lane Estate Community Centre, are managed by a Community Centres Manager and their assistant.

3. The Community Centres Policy was originally introduced in 2019 and outlines in general terms how we approach the management of community spaces. The aim of the policy is to ensure that the centres are properly and consistently operated.
4. The management of individual bookings is explained in detailed Terms and Conditions of Hire, which are issued to any user making a booking in one of these spaces.
5. Income from the centres goes into the Housing Revenue Account, except for the Portsoken Community Centre, which sits outside the HRA.

Current Position

6. The Community Centres Policy has been revised to reflect the addition of the Portsoken Community Centre to the portfolio of facilities under our management.
7. A section has also been added about the Advisory Boards which exist at Golden Lane and Portsoken Community Centres. These Boards are made up of representatives from key stakeholders in the centres, including local residents, officers and Members.
8. No substantial changes have been made to the policy, which continues to reflect our approach to managing community spaces.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

9. The Community Centres Policy supports the following strategic aims contained in the Corporate Plan 2018-23:
 - Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need
 - Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained

Conclusion

10. Members are asked to endorse the revised Community Centres Policy, which has been updated to reflect the new Portsoken Community Centre coming under the Housing Division's management.
11. The policy will be reviewed again in mid-2025.

Appendix - Draft Community Centres Policy (version two, May 2022)

Liam Gillespie

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