

# Agenda Item 3



**Subject:** Review of Community Centre Grant Funding

**Status:** For publication

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

**Cabinet Member:** Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community

**Report of:** Director of Neighbourhoods

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**Comments from Statutory Officers:**

Monitoring Officer: Yes  
Section 151 Officer: Yes

## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 Members note the outcome of the consultation undertaken during Phase 1 of the savings proposals which discussed the proposed impact assessment criteria to be applied to each Community Centre.
- 1.2 Members note the criteria, which was previously approved at Cabinet on 21 November 2016 which are detailed in Paragraphs 2.6 to 2.7 of this report.
- 1.3 As a consequence of the approval of the above mentioned criteria, Members are asked to approve the specific grant reductions as detailed in the table in Paragraph 2.11 of this report, following the application of the criteria, as a basis for consultation.
- 1.4 Members note the proposal will mean the removal of all Council funding from two centres that have the least impact based on the criteria – Wardleworth Community Centre and Castlemere Community Centre. These centres delivered least value for money for the Council.

### Reason for recommendation

- 1.5 In order to contribute to the Council's savings requirement it has been necessary to examine all areas of non-statutory service provision.
- 1.6 Phase 1 savings proposal (report reference - NH-2017-311) has reported following consultation, a proposed criteria for an impact assessment of each of the grant-funded community centres. The proposed criteria was the subject of formal consultation during Phase 1 of the savings proposals and approved by Cabinet on 21 November 2016.

## 2 Background

- 1.1 There is no statutory duty to fund Community Centres. However, Community Centres provide a valuable service to the communities they serve. They

should meet the needs of their individual communities and have a significant impact upon the health and wellbeing of individuals and the quality of life of people in the community.

- 1.2 Currently 16 Community Centres have received annual grants from the Council to enable them to deliver community activity.
- 1.3 The review conducted as part of Phase 1 savings proposal (Report reference - NH-2017-311) examined the level of activity and the positive impact that each Centre has on the local community.
- 1.4 The level of saving attached to this proposal was initially £75,000. However, it was stated that the level of saving may increase/reduce depending on the outcome of the review.
- 1.5 During the Phase 1 consultation exercise a proposed criteria was discussed with stakeholders.
- 1.6 The application of the impact assessment criteria shows the impact each community centre has on the community it serves. Contributory factors included in the criteria are;
  - Usage of centre (visitor count (excluding nurseries, private functions and elections) and weekly sessions);
  - Number of people living nearby;
  - Proximity to other Centres
- 2.7 Each element was weighted in importance as follows;
  - Usage (80%) – Usage consists of footfall (excluding nurseries and private functions) and numbers of high impacts on the community (IT Training, jobs, advice, language and health/wellbeing.
  - Location (20%) – Location consists of number of other community centres nearby and number of people living near the Centre.
- 2.8 The application of the impact assessment criteria concluded that the two centres with least impact upon the community are Wardleworth Community Centre and Castlemere Community Centre. It is proposed that the Council grant is removed from each of these two centres. This amounts to a £59,800 saving to the Council.
- 2.9 In summary, Wardleworth Community Centre is rated as the least effective centre as it has comparatively low usage and is located near three other grant funded community centres which could be used by current Wardleworth Community Centres users if delivery models were altered. The centre is also nearby other community venues with high quality provision, including Rochdale Central Library – although this was not part of the assessment criteria.
- 2.10 In summary, Castlemere Community Centre is rated as next least effective as it has lowest number of visits (excluding nurseries, elections and private functions), and it is located near another grant-funded community centre. It is also located near other community venues such as the Freehold Community Project and Rochdale Central Library, although these were not part of the assessment criteria.

2.11 Table 1 - financial impact on the Grant-funded Centres following the application of the criteria;

<b>Community Centres</b>	<b>2016-17 funding</b>	<b>Proposed reduction</b>	<b>2017-18 proposed funding</b>
Wardleworth	£46,700	£46,700	£0
Castlemere	£13,100	£13,100	£0
Other 14 community centres grant funding	£404,000	£0	£404,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£463,800</b>	<b>£59,800</b>	<b>£404,000</b>

The following 14 Community Centre organisations will continue to receive their current level of funding:

- Back O Th Moss
- BACP
- Burnside
- Crimblecroft
- Deeplish
- Demesne
- KYP
- Meadowfields
- Rochdale Women's Welfare
- Sparth
- Spotland and Falinge
- Syke
- Turf Hill
- Wardleworth

The following centres are managed by the Council, and do not receive grants. These were not considered by this review.

- Castleton Community Centre
- Heady Hill Community Centre
- Junction Community Centre
- Smallbridge and Wardle Community Centre
- Stannycliffe Community Centre

### **3 Financial Implications**

3.1 The saving proposal is 13% of the total budget for grant-funded community centres.

3.2 There will not be a full year saving in 2017/18. If this report is approved, a 45 days consultation will begin. Cabinet will then consider responses received during consultation. If approved, the Borough of Rochdale Compact dictates that funders "Give a minimum of three months' notice in writing when changing or ending a funding relationship or other support, and provide a clear rationale for why the decision has been taken". Therefore savings will not be achieved until 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2017-18.

	Savings 2017/18 £k		Savings 2018/19 £k		Total savings £k	
	On-going	One off	On-going	One off	On-going	One off
Employees						
Other Costs	45		15		60	
Income lost						
<b>Net savings</b>	<b>45</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>60</b>	
Additional income generated						
<b>Total savings</b>	<b>45</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>60</b>	
Implementation costs						
<b>Total savings less implementation costs</b>						

#### 4 Asset implications

- 4.1 Both organisations directly affected by this proposal offer their services from buildings owned by the Council and leased to the Centre. If services do cease to be delivered from either building, the building could be released for disposal. This would achieve a capital receipt for the property in addition to the revenue savings.

#### 5 Voluntary Sector impact

- 5.1 Both the Council and service users are reliant upon the services and support provided through our partnership working with the voluntary sector. The Council has a commitment through the Borough of Rochdale Compact to continue to support local services and to involve them in the development and provision of services. The Council will continue to work with both of the organisations affected to ensure that any detrimental impact upon service users is minimised and to provide support in the future development of each of the services. We will work with Rochdale CVS to support the organisations with developing a sustainable operational model, which could involve closer relationships with neighbouring community centres.

- 5.2 Wardleworth Community Centre's current weekly timetable is as follows;

- four advice drop-in sessions;
- five language sessions;
- a computer class and;
- seven varied sessions for older people.
- There are weekend sessions for young people, including a boys and a girls youth club, and an indoor/outdoor sports club.
- The centre also offers two play schemes, a work club and KS2 – GCSE learning tuition.
- In addition there are monthly luncheon clubs for men and for women, and the centre takes bookings for one-off events such as meetings, conferences, training, birthday parties, mendhi parties and weddings.

- 5.3 Castlemere Community Centre's weekly timetable is as follows;

- five children's classes per evening Monday – Friday,
- four job search sessions, eleven language sessions and seven youth sessions;

- In addition the timetable shows a total of 14 advice sessions, and 14 health related sessions which include holistic therapy, health screening and homeopathy.
- The centre has regular bookings for private social events such as weddings and mendhi's, parties, funerals and khatams, parties and festival celebrations.

## **6 Consultation**

- 6.1 A Service Delivery consultation plan is attached at Appendix 2.
- 6.2 The Council must ensure that it remains open-minded throughout the next consultation period to all alternative proposals and expressions of interest.
- 6.3 The Council will ask each centre to explain what impact the proposed reductions in grant funding will have on the activities detailed in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 above. If some sessions are at risk of stopping, the Council will initiate discussions as to whether any sessions can be run at nearby centres or whether closer relationships can be forged with nearby centres.

## **7 Alternatives considered**

- 7.1 Members could decide not to implement this proposal and provide alternative options.
- 7.2 Members could decide to achieve the funding through reducing the grant for each centre by 13%. However, this option would reduce funding from those centres that have a significantly greater impact upon their communities, and that offer value for money for the Council.

## **8 Risk Assessment Implications**

The following risks arise from the issues raised in this report as set out below:

- 8.1 There is a risk that one or both of the community centres affected will struggle to be viable as a result of these funding reductions. In recent years, every community centre has been encouraged to be less reliant upon Council funding.
- 8.2 Wardleworth Community Centre organisation, which faces by far the largest reduction in funding will be encouraged to work with nearby organisations – for example Bangladeshi Association Community Project to ensure services continue, consolidating services in one venue. We will work with Rochdale CVS and the organisation to try and ensure services continue.

## **9 Legal Implications**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications.

## **10 Personnel Implications**

- 10.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **11 Equalities Impacts**

### **Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment**

11.1 There are no significant workforce equality implications.

## **12 Equality/Community Impact Assessments**

12.1 There are equality/community issues arising from this report. An Equality Impact Assessment is attached and will be further developed for each affected centre, as part of the consultation.

Directorate	Neighbourhoods
Service Name	Neighbourhood Services
Area of Service	Community Centres

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR SAVINGS PROPOSALS

1. Please state the name of the officers leading the EIA
M Dalzell
2. Who has been involved in undertaking this assessment?
M Dalzell
3. What is the scope of this assessment?
To assess whether this proposal disproportionately impacts upon any of the protected equality groups
4
a). What does the function currently do? b). Describe the needs which this service meets?
There is no statutory function for the Council to fund community centres.  16 Community Centres have received annual grants from the Council to enable them to deliver community activity.
5. What proposed changes do you wish to make?
The proposal is to remove funding from the two centres that have least impact – Wardleworth Community Centre and Castlemere Community Centre.
6. Who are the key stakeholders who may be affected by the proposed changes?
Current users of Wardleworth Community Centre Current users of Castlemere Community Centre
7. What impact will this proposal have on all the protected groups?
Service levels will be affected at Wardleworth Community Centre and possibly Castlemere Community Centre
<b>Race Equality</b>

In relation to Rochdale Borough, the 2011 Census confirms the following data on ethnicity. The overall population of Rochdale Borough is 211, 699. Of these, 166, 481 are classified as white British (79%); and 45,218 (21%) as BME. BME groups now account for a greater proportion of the population than was the case in 2001. Pakistani is the largest population among the BME groups and now accounts for 10.5% (22,265) of the total population in 2011, having grown by over 40% over the past decade.

There is no data relating to demographics of the current users of the Centres.

There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres, which can accommodate additional sessions.

#### **Disabled People**

The 2011 Census confirms that 21% of the Borough consider themselves to be disabled or their activities are limited due to a health-related issue. This is an increase of 4.8% from 2001. Rochdale Borough has higher rates of residents noting a long-term health problem or disability when compared to Greater Manchester or England and Wales. In general terms, therefore, the levels of disability and associated health issues are acknowledged to be of relevance to this Borough.

There is no data relating to current users of the Centres.

There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres.

#### **Carers**

There is no data to suggest that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal.

There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres.

#### **Gender**

The 2011 Census provides the following breakdown of figures for the Borough:

- there are 103,642 males (an increase of 3.9% from 2001, when there were 99,705); and
- there are 108,057 females (an increase of 2.3% from 2001, when there were 105,652).

This seems to indicate a relatively even split between male and female residents of the Borough

There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres.

#### **Age**

The Census 2011 gives the following breakdown of the Borough's population by age:

<b>Age group</b>	<b>No in 2011</b>	<b>%age in 2011</b>	<b>Proportional change from 2001</b>
0 – 14	41,827	19.7	-1.7%
15 – 29	42,541	20.1	+1.5%
30 – 44	42,914	20.3	-1.8%
45 – 64	53,601	25.4	+1.8%
65+	30,816	14.6	+0.3%

Totals	211,619		
<p>There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres.</p>			
<b>Armed Forces and Ex-Armed Forces Personnel</b>			
<p>There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres.</p>			
<b>Religion or Belief</b>			
<p>The 2011 Census confirms the following religious groups in the Borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christian (128,186, or 60.6%, a decrease of 11.5% since 2001)</li> <li>• No religion (40,014 or 18.9%, an increase of 8.1% from 2001)</li> <li>• Muslim (29,426 or 13.9%, an increase of 4.5% from 2001)</li> </ul> <p>Rochdale's proportion of Muslim residents exceeds the comparative figure for Greater Manchester (8.7%) and also England and Wales (4.8%).</p> <p>There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres.</p>			
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
<p>The 2011 Census does not record this data directly.</p> <p>There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres.</p>			
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>			
<p>The 2011 Census does not record this data directly.</p> <p>There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres.</p>			
<b>Pregnant Women or Those on Maternity Leave or Those who have given Birth in the Previous 26 weeks</b>			
<p>The 2011 Census does not record this data directly.</p> <p>There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres.</p>			
<b>Marriage or Civil Partnership</b>			
<p>The 2011 Census shows that there are now fewer people in the Borough living as a married couple. In 2001, 40.3% of the population were not living as a couple and that figure has risen to 44.4% in 2011. The prime reason for this is that a higher percentage of people are now living as single, the number of people living as single has risen by 23.8% over the past decade and increased by 3.9% proportionally.</p> <p>There are now 5,625 fewer people in the Borough living as a couple in a married or civil partnership than in 2001; this equates to a drop of 7.4%. This is a proportionally greater decrease than across Greater Manchester (3.1%) and England and Wales (1%).</p> <p>There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this</p>			

proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres.

**8. Conclusions and Recommendations**

**What are the main conclusions and recommendations from this analysis?**

There is no reason to believe that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal, as the two centres affected by this proposal are located nearby other community centres.

**9. In the box below please provide details of who you will consult with on the proposals, when you consult, and the methods which you will use to consult. In the box below**

***The Consultation and Inclusion Methodology Used***

- Public consultation through the Council’s web site
- Meeting with the Wardleworth Community Centre organisation
- Meeting with the Castlemere Community Centre organisation
- Meeting with Rochdale CVS to support both the affected organisations

**10. Produce an action plan detailing the mitigation measures that you propose to put in place to address any adverse impacts.**

Mitigation Measure	Action	Responsible Officer	Implementation Date	Review Date	Evaluation Measure
If Wardleworth Community Centre is not able to continue delivering services, work with nearby community centre organisations to ensure services are delivered at nearby centres	Work with Wardleworth Community Centre to assess whether they are a viable organisation. If not, work with nearby organisations, for example Bangladeshi Association and Community Project.	Philip Cooke	March 2017	April 2017	Relocated services, if Wardleworth Community Centre is not viable.

Directorate	Neighbourhoods
Service Name	Neighbourhood Services
Area of Service	Community Centres

### **Consultation Action Plan**

**Proposal Title:** Review of Community Centre grant funding

**Type of Consultation:** Service Delivery

<b>Group affected</b>	<b>Method of consultation</b>	<b>Date (s) consultation activity to be delivered</b>	<b>Resource required</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Targeted survey questions</b>
Rochdale Borough Citizens	Proposal will be on the Council's web site	Ongoing	Web pages	Website	
Community Centre organisations	Letters to be sent to each of the 16 grant funded community centre organisations	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Meeting at Wardleworth Community Centre with the organisation		TBC	TBC	TBC	
Meeting at Castlemere Community Centre with the organisation		TBC	TBC	TBC	