



Title of Report:	Shared Management Agreement for Stranocum Community Centre and award of Community Development Support Grant
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 June 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
For Discussion In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy, Active and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Citizens and communities are supported to develop improved approaches to health and wellbeing and lifestyle choices as they progress through the Covid 19 recovery journey
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture; Community Development Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£3,500 (already within budget)
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1059 62560
Staffing Costs	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to inform the Leisure & Development Committee of a number of issues relating to Stranocum Community Centre:

- Stranocum Community Centre Ltd (SCC Ltd) wishes to end the Shared Management Agreement which it has in place for the Council owned Stranocum Community Centre;
- Stranocum & District Development Group (S&DDG) has asked to enter into the Shared Management Agreement for the Centre;
- If Council agrees to enter into a new Shared Management Agreement with S&DDG for the running of Stranocum Community Centre, the Community Development Support Grant awarded to SCC Ltd to be transferred to S&DDG for the operating costs of the community centre.

2.0 Background

Stranocum Community Centre Ltd (SCC Ltd) has been operating the Council owned Community Centre in Stranocum on a voluntary basis since 2012. A Shared Management Agreement was put in place in December 2019 to formalise the arrangement that had been in place between the organisation and Ballymoney Borough Council.

The organisation provided a caretaking and maintenance function for all bookings within the building. In November 2022 the organisation informed Council that they no longer wished to continue with the Agreement due to a variety of reasons, including changing personal circumstances of the existing volunteers and that they wished to dissolve the organisation.

Officers met with Stranocum Community Centre Ltd and with Stranocum & District Development Group to consider the options for future operation of the centre. There was strong local feeling that the Centre should continue to be operated locally and that it would be better used by the local community if a local booking system and local caretaker continued rather than resorting back to Council operating the centre.

Stranocum & District Development Group (SDDG) indicated an interest in taking over the Shared Management Agreement from SCC Ltd and volunteers from SDDG stepped forward to assist Stranocum Community Centre Ltd to operate the centre over the past year to get a feel for the task that they would be taking on.

Stranocum & District Development Group now feels that it is ready to take over the Shared Management Agreement and wrote to Council on 4th April 2024 to request that Council transfers the Shared Management Agreement from Stranocum Community Centre Ltd to its organisation.

A Report has been submitted to the Land and Property Sub Committee recommending that Council reassign the Shared Management Agreement for Stranocum Community Centre from Stranocum Community Centre Ltd to Stranocum & District Development Group, subject to Ministerial approval.

3.0 Current Position

Stranocum & District Development Group (SDDG) is a well-established community group that runs a wide range of regular activities for the community including weekly Youth Club, Teen Hub, Bush Babies Parent and Toddler Group, monthly Friendship Group and an annual Summer Scheme as well as regular leisure classes such as yoga and pilates. There are also regular birthday party bookings in the Centre which the group will continue to provide for.

The group has a number of volunteers that are prepared to share the booking and caretaking roles. Council Officers have provided training and guidance to support the group through this process and Council's Community Facilities Development Officer will support the group to

make the necessary arrangements and continue to provide any support and training that is required.

The Community Development Support Grant of £3,500 was awarded to Stranocum Community Centre Ltd in April 2022 annually for a 3-year term. Since the organisation intends to withdraw from the Shared Management Agreement and intends to dissolve, it will not take up the grant award of £3,500 for 2024-25.

If Council approves the request from Stranocum & District Development Group to enter into the Shared Management Agreement for operation of the centre then the organisation will need support with operating costs.

The organisation meets all the criteria of the CDS Grant and it is proposed that, subject to Council approval for the Shared Management Agreement with Stranocum & District Development Group, and receipt of an application form that meets the necessary criteria, Council provides a grant award of £3,500 to SDDG for the period up to 31st March 25.

A Supplementary Agreement that will make changes to the Shared Management Agreement with regard to the liability for utility costs and level of CDS Grant is proposed to be implemented from 1st April 2025 and if agreed then the new arrangements will apply to SDDG from that date.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council makes available a Community Development Support Grant to a value of £3,500 to Stranocum & District Development Group for the period up to 31st March 2025, subject to Council approval for the Shared Management Agreement for Stranocum Community Centre and subject to receipt of an application form meeting the necessary criteria.