



To: **North Area Committee - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

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Communities, Arts & Recreation Service

Wards affected: Arbury, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, West Chesterton

## STRATEGIC REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PROVISION

### Not a key decision

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#### 1. Executive summary

- 1.1 To provide an update on the work of the review to date and outline proposals for the next steps of the information gathering exercise.
- 1.2 To provide initial findings from the audit of city-wide community facilities.

#### 2. Recommendations

The North Area Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the work of the review and initial findings of the city-wide community facilities audit.
- 2.2 Promote the 'call for evidence' stage of the review and encourage stakeholders to feed in their experience and evidence as detailed in sections 5 and 6 of this report.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 In October 2015 the Community Services Committee considered a report on the strategic review of community provision and the Executive Councillor for Communities agreed **the approach** to the review to include:
  - An evidenced-based, strategic assessment of community provision to achieve agreed outcomes detailed in 3.2.

- The scope of the work to include City Council run centres, community development resource and support for communities, other community facilities, major growth sites, County Council libraries and the Council's Digital Transformation and Customer Access strategies
- **A work programme** considering current provision, need, opportunity, and future focus containing the following components:
  - An audit of facility provision which will also support the requirements for the interim arrangements for s106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) requirements
  - An analysis with partners of community and population requirements
  - Anti-poverty and Digital Transformation Strategy support requirements
  - Opportunity for collaboration with Property Services and other stakeholders such as the Library Service

### 3.2 **The outcomes** for this review are:

- Stronger communities (e.g. inclusive, connected, resilient, vibrant, good places to live)
- Council resources which are targeted to known need
- Savings – with a focus on reducing net cost by opportunity for further efficiency and generating increased income with the possibility of redirecting resources

## 4. Community Facility Audit 2015

- 4.1 In October 2015 we launched a survey to identify community facilities across the city available for use by local people. For the purpose of this review we used the following to define a 'community facility':

**Community facilities are buildings that are available for use by the wider community and/or for hire by local groups for a range of community/social activities and meetings, for at least some of their opening hours each week.**

- 4.2 These buildings could include schools, churches and libraries etc. whose primary function may not be a community facility but offered some use/space for wider community use for some of the time. The facilities had to be accessible to everyone in the community regardless of race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation and age.
- 4.3 The purpose of the audit was to understand the range of community facility provision across the city and where there is capacity or unmet

demand, to help inform future decision making, particularly in respect of planning and investment.

- 4.4 To maximise the use of the information the survey was divided into three sections to cover current use, current capacity and future development. Survey Monkey was used to enable efficient reporting.
- 4.5 A list of facilities was compiled using data from existing databases, planning and other research material. 161 venues were invited to complete the survey if they had facilities available for wider community use.
- 4.6 The survey was launched on 29.10.15 with a closing date of 26.11.15. (30.11.15 for schools). **75 facilities** responded to the survey which is a response rate of **46.58%**. Those that did not respond may not have community use at their facilities.
- 4.7 **Initial survey findings are attached as Appendix 1.**

## 5. Next Steps

- 5.1 To continue to build the evidence base to identify need across the city the next stage of the process will be to:
  - Map the community provision in Cambridge and the areas they service to see their locality and reach.
  - Use the survey and mapping information to launch a call for evidence asking a broad range of stakeholders to comment, sharing their experience of need, gaps, excess etc. of the current provision. Stakeholders would include elected members, residents, communities of interest and geography, professionals, equalities groups, statutory agencies, voluntary organisations, community groups, etc.
  - Prepare maps to overlay key data such as the indices of multiple deprivation (IMD), free internet access points, and the Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs).
  - Data collection and analysis of City Council run centres
  - Collect expressions of interest in the wider review to help inform the ongoing consultation and engagement process, and to be able to keep people informed.

## 6. Call for Evidence

- 6.1 Between March and May 2016 we will collect feedback from a broad range of stakeholders regarding the survey findings. We are attending

this cycle of area committees and will launch a survey and hold focus groups to gather evidence in answer to:

- a.) Are there any other community facilities meeting our definition that we have not identified?
- b.) Are there any particular needs or gaps in the provision of community facilities across the city?
- c.) Is there any excess or surplus in the provision of community facilities across the city?

## **7. Expressions of Interest**

- 7.1 We will also be collecting expressions of interest in the wider review outcomes to help inform the consultation and engagement process and to be able to keep people informed.

## **8. Timetable**

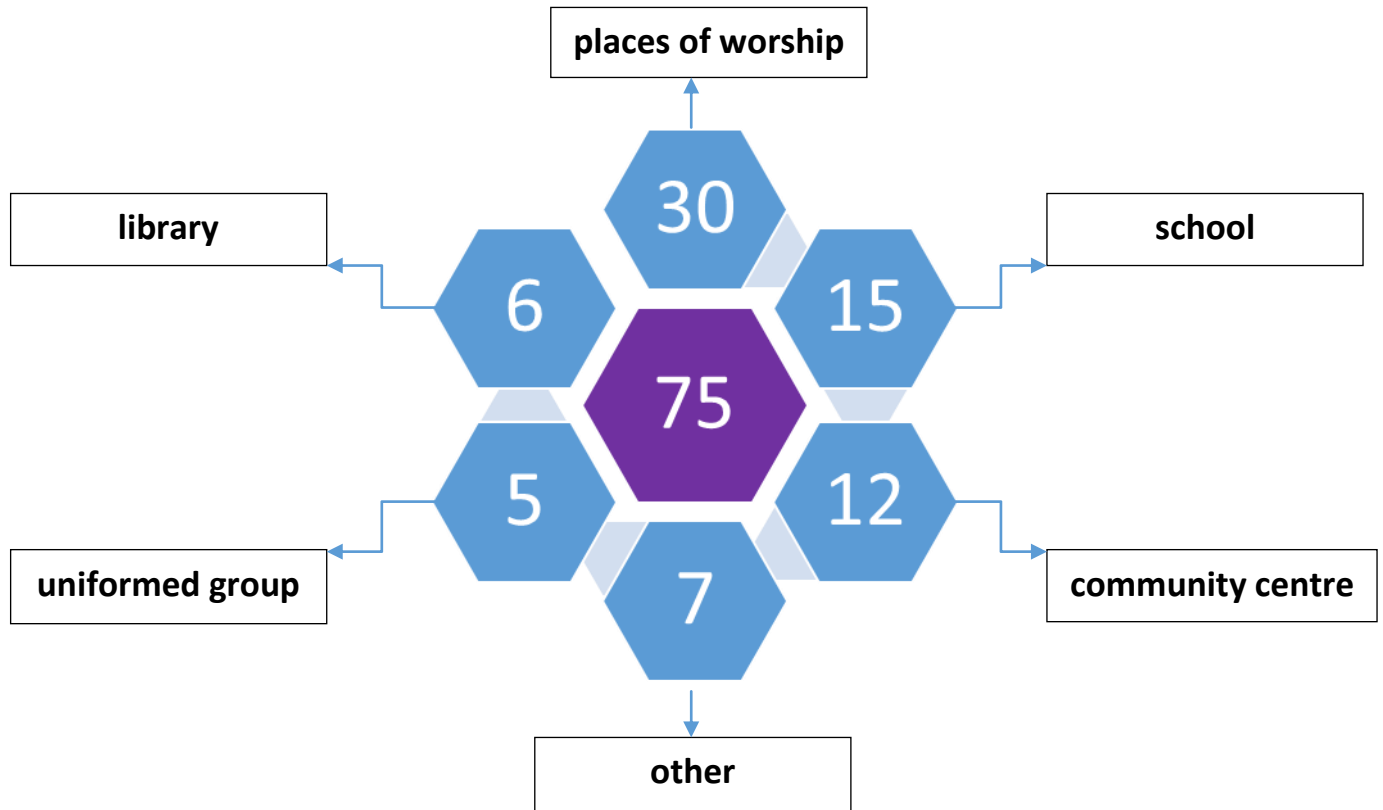
Mapping data	March – May 2016
Call for evidence	March – May 2016
Expressions of interest	March – May 2016
CS Scrutiny Committee – Need & Options	June 2016

## Community Facilities Audit 2015-16 - Initial Survey Findings

**75 surveys were completed**

(note: not all respondents completed every question)

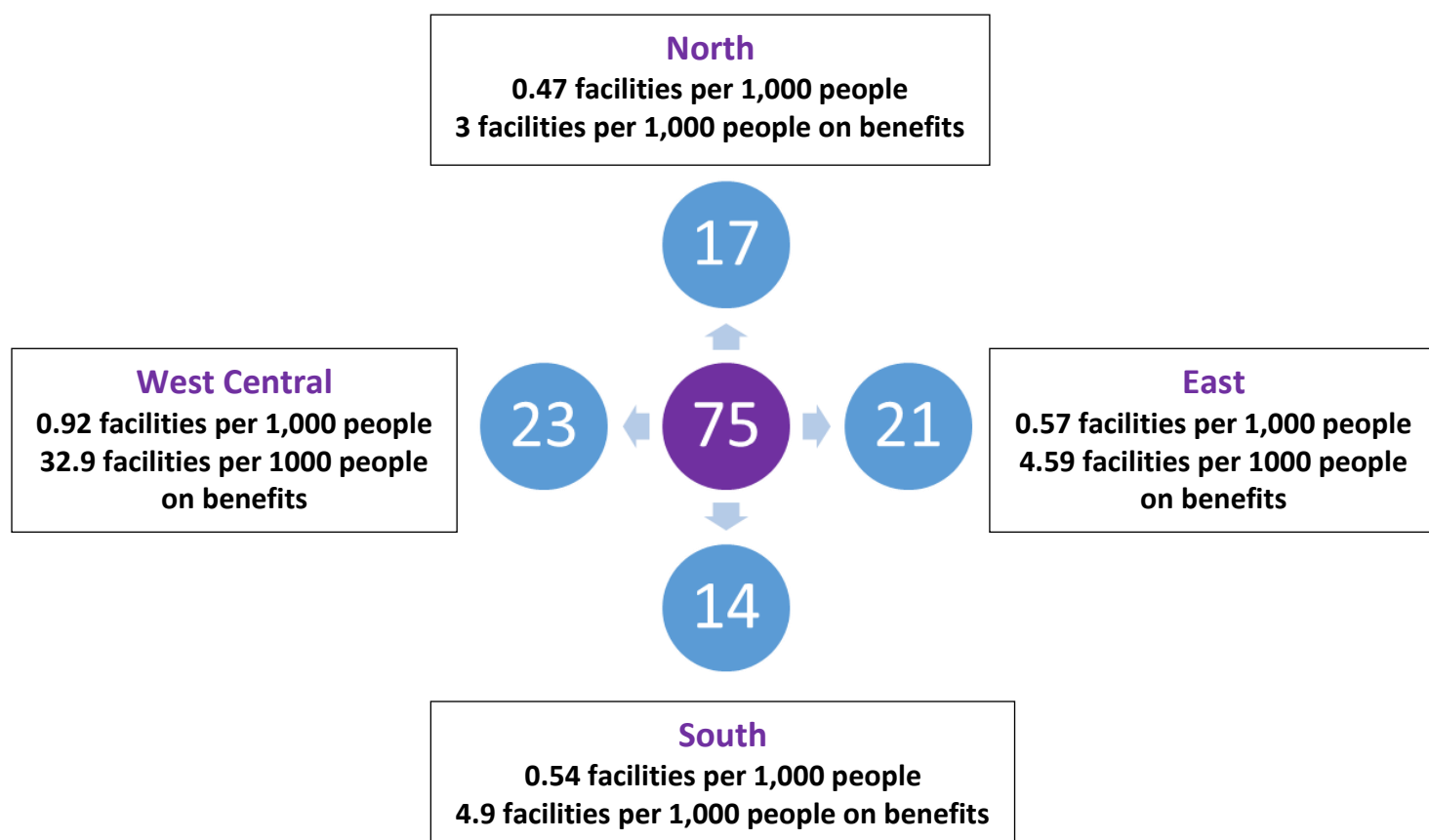
**Type of facility**



**General information**

- ◆ only 25 of the facilities were not run by voluntary or charitable organisations
- ◆ 36 of the facilities are available for community use for over 80% of the time their building is open  
only 11 are available for community use for less than 40% of the time their building is open
- ◆ only 8 do not have to turn down bookings
  - 15 have to turn down bookings at least once a week
  - 39 have to turn down bookings on at least a monthly basis
  - 34 say this is because the space required is already booked
  - Most try to signpost another facility
- ◆ 55 have community hire charge rates
  - 48 have business/commercial hire charge rates
  - 30 offer free or reduced price activities for people on low income or in receipt of benefits

## Location



## Facilities available

- ◆ 45 have car parking
- ◆ 40 have disabled parking
- ◆ 52 have cycle racks
- ◆ 65 are accessible by bus routes
- ◆ 18 have outdoor areas
- ◆ 62 have disabled access
- ◆ 59 have disabled toilets
- ◆ 8 have 'changing places' toilets
- ◆ 42 have baby changing facilities
- ◆ 39 have hearing loops
- ◆ 13 have cafes
- ◆ 57 have kitchens
- ◆ 38 have free Wi-Fi
- ◆ 11 have free computer access

## Activities taking place at the facilities

- ◆ 10 digital inclusion
- ◆ 11 computer skills
- ◆ 2 CAB advice
- ◆ 5 debt advice
- ◆ 11 foodbank
- ◆ 6 credit union
- ◆ 8 employment support
- ◆ 7 cooking classes
- ◆ 17 counselling
- ◆ 9 addiction support
- ◆ 27 language sessions
- ◆ 42 family and preschool
- ◆ 35 older people
- ◆ 41 youth
- ◆ 28 arts & crafts
- ◆ 43 general sport & physical activity