

11. REDEVELOPMENT OF ABILITY CENTRE, CARMONDEAN AND RELOCATION OF CARMONDEAN CONNECTED - LIVINGSTON NORTH PARTNERSHIP CENTRE

The Council Executive considered a joint report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy and Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing a update on the outcome of the community and stakeholder engagement for the redevelopment of the Ability Centre, Carmondean, Livingston to create a Livingston North Partnership Centre.

The report recalled that the Council Executive, at its meeting on 26 March 2019, approved proposals for redevelopment of the Ability Centre, Carmondean, Livingston to create a new partnership facility. This would enable the co-location of services such as the library, customer information, Ability Centre Services and McMillan Cancer Support within a single facility thereby creating a Livingston North Partnership Centre.

As with previous similar partnership centre developments the council was committed to engaging with communities and stakeholders to ensure that proposals were comprehensive.

A comprehensive engagement exercise was undertaken and involved local community organisations, users and customers of both Connected and the Ability Centre, staff from both current buildings, partners, Scottish Library Information Council (SLIC) and other stakeholders. The report outlined the range of engagement methods that were used.

In summary the proposals were considered to be positive by the majority of those engaged including SLIC with the co-location of the library, customer information services and Ability Centre being identified as positive. Further details of the feedback from the engagement exercise were outlined in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

The purpose of the engagement exercise was to identify any new matters that in terms of design or service delivery that required to be altered to ensure that the proposals were as comprehensive as possible. Stakeholder engagement would continue as the project progressed with regular user meetings and information briefings.

Details of the final design along with project timescales, project delivery and monitoring were summarised in the report and in Appendix 2 attached to the report.

The project had been identified as delivering a number of benefits for all services and communities and an integrated relevance assessment had been undertaken to consider equality, human rights and socioeconomic disadvantage implications. Further details were attached to the report at Appendix 3.

Upon completion of the project the existing Carmondean Connected property would no longer be required for the delivery of services and therefore would be surplus to requirements. At that time the property

would be subject to the approved surplus property procedures.

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

1. Notes the outcome of the stakeholder and community engagement on the proposed layout design and service provision at the new partnership centre facility;
2. Notes the progress to date and the proposed finalised project delivery timescales;
3. Agrees the existing Carmondean Connected would no longer be required for service delivery and upon completion of the project and at that time would be subject to the council's surplus property procedures; and
4. Agrees that officers should continue to engage with stakeholders on the delivery of the project and provide regular updates to Council Executive as part of the established monitoring and reporting of the General Services Capital Programme.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report