

SCRUTINY INITIATION DOCUMENT (SID)

Title of review: : Community Centres in Islington

Scrutiny Committee: Homes and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Director leading the review: Raj Chand – Corporate Director of Community Wellbeing and Engagement

Lead officers: Lorna Hughes, AD Community Wellbeing and Engagement

Overall aim of the review:

The review is to comprehensively evaluate the effectiveness, management, and resource utilisation of community centres in Islington to ensure they are meeting the needs of the community efficiently and equitably. This includes assessing operational practices, funding adequacy, service accessibility, and understanding the management of asset leases.

The review seeks to identify strengths, challenges, and areas for improvement, ultimately providing actionable recommendations that enhance service delivery and foster community well-being, engagement, and satisfaction.

Objectives of the review:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of LBIs 3 directly managed community centres in fulfilling community needs.
- Assess the cost, funding and resources allocated to these centres.
- Examine the accessibility and inclusivity of services.
- Understanding the Community Asset Review and purpose
- Identify potential areas for improvement or innovation in the directly managed centres

How does this review contribute to the Council's priorities?

- Support Mission within Islington Together 2030 Plan.
- To ensure that community centres and spaces are put to use in ways that best serve the needs of all its residents

Scope of the review and evidence to be received:

The review will focus on...

- Understanding the Community Asset Review
- Current operations, management practices, and services offered and agreements directly managed centres.
- Resident Voice in operation of our community centres Resident participation

The Committee will receive the following evidence:

- Presentation from Islington Officers
- Community centre management and staff.
- Council officials and executives
- Residents and community centre users.

- Partner organisations.
- Community organisations and other relevant partners.
- Site Visit
- Questionnaires to residents

Review timetable (list specific meeting dates if possible)

1. SID to be agreed:
2. Witness evidence to be received:
3. Draft recommendations to be considered:
4. Report to be approved:
5. Report to be submitted to Executive:
6. Provisional date for Executive response:
7. Provisional date for 12 month update report back to the Committee:

Additional information:

In carrying out the review the committee will consider equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses. The Executive is required to have due regard to these, and any other relevant implications, when responding to the review recommendations.

Note: Please refer to the Council's Strategic Plan ['Islington Together 2030'](#) and the Council's five missions:

- Child-friendly Islington;
- Fairer Together;
- A safe place to call home;
- Community Wealth Building;
- Greener, healthier Islington.

Please also consider the Islington Promise to:

- **relentlessly tackle inequality** by enshrining this value in everything we do – from waste collection to social work to community events;
- **always be on your side** by putting our residents first, listening and working together to make a tangible difference to lives and livelihoods in Islington;
- **be bolder and more innovative** by testing new service models that help to break down barriers and create new opportunities beyond what has always been done;
- **provide accessible help and support** which works for all – and where it doesn't, we will make changes so that no one ever faces barriers in accessing what they need;
- **invest in the local economy** by supporting local businesses to flourish and brokering jobs and opportunities for the good of local people.