

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Community Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>11 October 2011</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Stonehouse and Fernhill Community Facilities</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Provide details on the new community facilities at Stonehouse and Fernhill, Rutherglen.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the update on the new facilities at Stonehouse and Fernhill, Rutherglen be noted.

## 3. Background

3.1 Community Resources capital programme includes two new build projects for the Stonehouse and Fernhill areas. The new builds were designed to replace a number of existing buildings that were identified as being no longer economical to maintain. A summary of the upgraded facilities is outlined below:-

### Stonehouse ICF

- ◆ a new community hall with state of the art sound and lighting systems
- ◆ specialist facilities for adult day care users which include group rooms, cinema room, arts and crafts room, multi sensory room, quiet room, etc and these will be available for community use outwith office hours
- ◆ a state of the art library including an Active IT area with 6 PC stations
- ◆ a community café area with meals and snacks on offer
- ◆ the hall is sub-dividable to allow flexible use for smaller group activities and is supported by dedicated kitchen and bar facilities
- ◆ a range of visiting services /meeting rooms where local groups can meet or where the Council or its partners can deliver services e.g. housing surgeries, benefits enquiries or health activities
- ◆ the facility also features a landscaped garden area at the back of the building

## Fernhill

- ◆ Lesser Hall/Dance Studio
- ◆ a 7 a side (also converting to three 5 a sides) floodlit 3<sup>rd</sup> generation synthetic football pitch
- ◆ 3 multi purpose committee rooms
- ◆ an inviting entrance/seating area
- ◆ a multi purpose main hall with dedicated kitchen and bar area serving the main hall
- ◆ a youth area
- ◆ changing facilities and toilets

3.2 During the construction of the Stonehouse building, a proposal was suggested by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture to relocate the library from the existing location at The Cross, Stonehouse. After consultation with the local residents through the Community Council, the internal layout has now been realigned to allow the library to move into the new building.

3.3 During discussions with Housing and Technical Resources regarding the overall master plan for the Fernhill area, it was agreed that the Community Centre project should include the construction of a road, car parking and delivery access to the proposed shopping development which is adjacent to the new facility.

3.4 The contractors submitted the following programmes for the projects:

Site	Contractor	On Site	Completion	Opening
Stonehouse	Gilbert Ash Ltd	June 2010	December 2011	January 2012
Fernhill	Barr Holdings Ltd	October 2010	October 2011	January 2012

3.5 Due to risks identified with the ground conditions at Fernhill it was agreed that the opening of the facility would be publicised as January 2012, rather than the normal opening of November

## 4. Opening

4.1. The projects have progressed well and new completion dates have been agreed with both contractors. Allowing for the 4 week commissioning period required for new facilities, the revised opening dates are as follows:

Site	Completion	Opening
Stonehouse	October 2011	7 November 2011
Fernhill	October 2011	19 November 2011

4.2. South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, who will operate the facilities for the Council, has commenced discussions with existing user groups at the facilities due to close and have issued contact details for other parties interested in booking the new facilities (priority will be given to existing lets before any further bookings are agreed).

## 5. Closures

5.1 With regard to the facilities due to close, the following dates are proposed:

Site	Closing
Fernhill Pavilion	2 November 2011
Stonehouse Institute	6 November 2011
Stonehouse Public Hall	already closed
Larkhall Resource Centre	already closed

- 5.2 Due to the timescales for the continued development of new housing within the Fernhill area, the existing pavilion requires to close in advance of the new facility opening. It is estimated that there will be a period of just over a fortnight where there will be no local provision. South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture has identified alternative accommodation that will be offered to existing groups for the period 3 to 20 November.
- 5.3 Stonehouse Institute will remain open until all lets have been relocated to the new facility.
- 5.4 Although the building known as The Cross, Stonehouse was not part of the original evaluation for the new facility, the relocation of the library from this building means that a review of the long term future of this building is required.

## **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 There has been significant consultation during the design and construction phases of these projects with the following undertaken:
- ◆ consultation events (wider community and specific groups)
  - ◆ newsletters
  - ◆ SLC Web Site updates
  - ◆ press releases
  - ◆ school visits
  - ◆ presentations to groups
  - ◆ plans placed in local venues with comment cards
- 6.2 South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture has already commenced discussions with existing / previous users and are preparing publicity material for the new buildings.
- 6.3 Further publicity is planned in the run up to the opening with taster days and walk rounds with specific groups being programmed.

## **7. Property Names**

- 7.1 The new Stonehouse building will continue the naming convention created previously for all Community / Social Work properties and will be named South Lanarkshire Lifestyles – Stonehouse.
- 7.2 The new Fernhill building will be named Fernhill Community Centre.

## **8. Employee Implications**

- 8.1. There are no employee issues for South Lanarkshire Council. All additional staff will be recruited and employed by South Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture and will be subject to their Board approval.

## **9. Financial Implications**

- 9.1. The total capital budget for these projects is £12.123m and both are currently on budget.
- 9.2 Revised revenue budgets have been agreed with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture for the operation of these buildings. The total additional requirement, offsetting any existing budgets for properties to close, is £0.538m.

## **10. Other Implications**

10.1. There are no significant risks associated with this proposal and there is no sustainability implications associated with this proposal.

## **11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

11.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

11.2. Appropriate consultation has taken place as detailed at paragraph 6 of the report.

**Norrie Anderson**  
**Executive Director (Community Resources)**

29 August 2011

### **Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values/Improvement Themes**

- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity
- ◆ Improve the quality of the physical environment
- ◆ Partnership working, community leadership and engagement
- ◆ Efficient and Effective use of Resources

### **Previous References**

- ◆ None

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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