

SE21. Following the Public Pound - Community Development

The committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services presenting updates on each of the external organisations funded by Children's Services which provide services in relation to community development which fall within the Following the Public Pound reporting and monitoring arrangements.

Annual reporting statements were provided for each of the 6 organisations. These were:-

- Denny Community Support Project
- Dennyloanhead Community Project
- The Powerstation
- Workers Education Association
- Dobbie Hall Trust
- CVS Falkirk & District

Prior to discussion on the Dobbie Hall Trust, Councillor Murtagh declared a non-financial interest as she regularly attended the management committee meetings, and stated that she considered that this required her to recuse herself from consideration of the item with regard to the Councillor's Code of Conduct. Councillor Murtagh left the meeting at this point.

Members discussed potential refurbishment works at the Dobbie Hall and that the terms of the lease agreement were for wind and watertight. Members asked if repairs could be carried out without additional funding. Mark Meehan stated that he felt that if in 18 months no progress on the building condition had been made he worried about the sustainability of the management committee. There would then be a possibility of the building being handed back to the Council.

The committee asked about possibilities to look at alternative options such as sharing another building as members were keen to preserve local services. Mark Meehan advised that different options had been looked at, identifying where groups could meet locally in Council facilities or other community spaces such as church halls.

Members asked about working in partnership with Falkirk Community Trust on shared use of assets. Mark Meehan stated that the Service had a good relationship with the Trust. However, he noted that the Trust had carried out an options appraisal on the sustainability of their assets. Therefore co-location was being looked at wherever possible.

Decision

The committee approved the reports and acknowledged progress by the following organisations in meeting Council priorities:-

- (1) Denny Community Support Project**
- (2) Dennyloanhead Community Project**
- (3) The Powerstation**

- (4) Workers Education Association**
- (5) Dobbie Hall Trust**
- (6) CVS Falkirk & District.**