

EX105. Update on the West and Central Advice Hubs

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services and the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided an update on the Advice Hub project for the West and Central areas.

A detailed design had been produced for the West Locality Hub at Carronbank House and the Service anticipated that the Hub would be operational from August 2018.

A review of town centre properties had been carried out to identify possible locations for the Central Hub. Two sites were identified but after further investigations neither were deemed suitable as they were leased properties and had disadvantages regarding lay out which would compromised the delivery of services. An additional feasibility study was undertaken with Falkirk Community Trust to assess the suitability of the library in Hope Street for a co-location of the library and the Hub. The advantages of this proposal related to footfall and Council ownership of the building. There was further potential for other services and partners to relocate into this building if the design and costs permitted.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the progress with the creation of the West Advice Hub at Carronbank House;**
- (2) noted the progress of the feasibilities for the Central Hub;**
- (3) agreed that the preferred solution for the Central Hub was to progress a joint model for repurposing the Falkirk Library building at Hope Street with a joint operational model finalised to allow delivery to the timescales outlined in paragraph 4.7 of the report, and**
- (4) requested that the Falkirk Community Trust Board consider the repurposing of Hope Street to allow a community hub to be delivered alongside a complementary library service.**