



Rent increase to 10% of commercial rate

- Risks to ASCs

The Clubs would put up their fees to incorporate this without it making too much of an impact on families. All clubs feel that they could absorb the increase with efficiencies and partnership working. This should not have a significant detrimental effect on their families.

- Risks to Midlothian Council and Communities

Parents will be forced to pay more for childcare, on top of annual inflationary costs.

Rent increase to 15% of commercial rate

- Risks to ASCs

The Clubs would have to raise fees more significantly, leading to potential loss of customers. Combined with other inflationary cost increases, this could lead to significant challenges for long-term sustainability. 4 clubs in the targeted areas of Midlothian, including Gorebridge, Danderhall, Mayfield and Dalkeith, feel they would not be able to absorb the increase and would be at a seriously high risk of closing.

- Risks to Midlothian Council and Communities

Job losses, loss of childcare services, potential of increased financial hardship for families, loss of rental income for Midlothian Council.

Rent increase to 20% of commercial rate

- Risks to ASCs

Much higher fee increases. 5 clubs, including Gorebridge, Danderhall, Mayfield, Dalkeith and Newtongrange, would be at much seriously high risk of closure.

- Risks to Midlothian Council and Communities

Job losses, loss of childcare services, potential of increased financial hardship for families, loss of rental income for Midlothian Council.

Other key considerations:

- Most of the After School Clubs are currently operating on very narrow margins, and in a very cost effective way with low overheads and administrative costs. We have few options to reduce expenditure without jeopardizing the quality of our services and the wellbeing of our staff.
- The smaller clubs in the least affluent areas are those most vulnerable to increases. However, we consider that there are not significant savings to be made by amalgamation or mergers between clubs, as this may simply serve to increase the administrative burden and operational overheads.
- Through the After School Club Network, we will continue to explore other avenues for cost savings, including partnership working to provide childcare during the school holidays, when uptake is lower.

Irene Hogg MBE

Chairperson

On behalf of Midlothian After School Clubs Network