

Gorebridge Leisure Centre and Library

Report by Hillary Kelly, Head of Customer Services

1 Purpose of Report

To highlight issues in relation to the above petition and to seek the Committee's instructions.

2 Petition

- 2.1** The attached petition (**Appendix 1**) has been received from Ellen Scott, 45 New Hunterfield, Gorebridge, concerning possible closure of Gorebridge Leisure Centre and Library and the future maintenance and upkeep of these facilities in the event that the Council decides, following the consultation process on the new Newbattle High School, that these facilities should remain open.

3 Petitions – Rules and Procedures

- 3.1** In accordance with the decision of the Council on 25 September 2012 when the Petitions Committee was established, it was agreed that:-

- (a) the Head of Customer Services would have responsibility for validating petitions; and
- (b) that the Petitions Committee would have the final decision on those which were deemed by the Head of Customer Services to be invalid, etc.

- 3.2** The procedures for the Midlothian Council Petitions Committee are modelled on those in use at Renfrewshire Council. The adopted Midlothian procedures identify 11 categories for which petitions cannot be made. This includes:-

- Subject matters which have been considered by the Council in the preceding 12 months.

- 3.3** The Petition is in the following terms, viz:-

“The purpose of this petition is to make Midlothian Council aware that the residents of Gorebridge and the surrounding District Communities object to their proposals to close our Leisure Centre and Library.

We hope that Midlothian Council will listen to the residents, realise how important the facilities are to our Community and promise not to target these 2 facilities for closure again, unless it is to rebuild these facilities within the central Gorebridge Community. We would also like the Council to clear any maintenance backlog the facilities may have and we would like Midlothian Council continue to maintain them.”

- 3.4** Within the parameters laid down by the Council for me to validate petitions, I have concluded that although part of the subject of the petition could be deemed the same or similar to a petition already considered by the Committee, i.e. the possible closure of facilities closure of there are other parts to and aspects of this petition which have not been considered. The petition does not fail any of the other criteria tests and is therefore deemed to be valid for that reason. The petition contains 4327 signatures.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report. In the event that the Committee agree to support the petition, the revenue implications of that decision would require to be quantified to allow the recommendation to be considered.

4.2 Risk

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☒ None of the above

4.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable.

4.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable.

4.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The availability of a Petitions Committee allows stakeholders to raise issues for consideration by the Council.

4.7 Ensuring Equalities

Not applicable.

4.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.

4.9 IT Issues

Not applicable.

5 Recommendation

The Committee is invited to consider the petition submitted in respect of Gorebridge Leisure Centre and Library.

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