ABSTRACT: This report sets out a proposal for developing a community owned and managed service centre in Brechin.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 The Committee is asked to:

   (i) Note the proposal to investigate the potential to development of a service centre owned, managed and operated by a community organisation in Brechin.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At a recent Brechin Local Community Planning event, it was suggested that Brechin would benefit from the development of an integrated community operated service centre which might provide a range of integrated services.

2.2 Some of the services which such a centre might operate include:

   – Voluntary and Volunteering Services;
   – Community Social Facilities, cafe, meeting rooms etc.;
   – Housing Services;
   – Police Services;
   – Fire Safety;
   – NHS Services;
   – Ambulance Services.

2.3 Clearly for such an ambition to become a reality, a range of further initial work needs to be undertaken as follows:

   2.3.1. Seek the views of the various potential services to ascertain whether they might be interested in participating in investigations;

   2.3.2. Identify a group of interested local people who might be interested in forming a local trust to take the investigation of the proposal further;

   2.3.3. Investigate the different models of local community development trusts suitable for this type of development;

   2.3.4. Carry out initial investigation of potential sites.

2.4 Should the above work prove to be fruitful in terms of assessing initial viability then further work would be required, thereafter, in terms of:

   2.4.1. Detailed project specification;

   2.4.2. Site identification/appraisal;
2.4.3. Identification of potential external funding possibilities;

2.4.4. Community Development Trust establishment; and

2.4.5. Initial Business Plan development.

2.5 Core to the development of this proposal is the development of a Community Development Trust and the transfer of assets to it. This would allow the Trust to access external funding resources.

2.6 Members will note from the above that the idea is at a very initial stage of its development, but Officers believe that it merits further investigation as set out above.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no human rights implications arising within this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The issues dealt within this report have been subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance and Head of Law & Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

RON ASHTON
DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

NOTE: - No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act (1973) (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

LCP/NS/RA/BDS