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| <b>Ballymoney Social Centre</b>                                     | <b>8 August 2017</b> |
| <b>To: The Leisure &amp; Development Committee<br/>For Decision</b> |                      |

| <b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b> |   |
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| <b>Strategic Theme</b>                       | Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities  |
| <b>Outcome</b>                               | Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>                          | Director of Leisure and Development   |
| <b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>                 | N/A   |

**The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to clarify the timescale for Council maintaining operating arrangements for Ballymoney Social Centre.**

### **Background**

Following a Call In of the decision of the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017 Council meeting that '*subject to the removal of all restrictive covenants, take legal ownership of the asset and fully refurbish the facility*', the decision was re-taken by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and Council agreed not to support the acquisition and refurbishment of Ballymoney Social Centre.

The Leisure & Development Committee at its 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 meeting had previously recommended that '*operational support to Edward Street Social Centre be extended until the legal opinion has been obtained and furnished to Elected Members; followed by a period of grace thereafter*'.

Now that a decision has been taken, Officers wish to request clarification from Council in relation to the '*period of grace*'. Council may wish to consider operating the Centre for an agreed period of time, after which the centre would return to The Evergreen Club. During this time The Evergreen Club will be supported by Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action to decide on their best course of action in relation to the centre. Officers will also provide support to other current user groups of the centre to identify alternative facilities and manage the transition process.

### **Recommendation**

That Council agree a defined period of time to continue to operate Ballymoney Social Centre, in order to allow time to support The Evergreen Club in identifying their best course of action in relation to the future of the centre, and to support other current user groups through the transition to using other facilities in Ballymoney. As a starting point for Members consideration, a period of 3 months from the decision of Council is considered reasonable.