

OFFICIAL

SECTION C: YOUR PROPOSAL		
<b>Name of building / venue / facility</b>		
Tollcross Community Centre		
<b>Name of your organisation</b>		
Easterhill Community Church Ltd.		
<b>Please provide details of the legal status of your organisation</b>		
Charity (please provide Charity No if applicable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SC040719
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Company Ltd by Guarantee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SC362728
Community Club/ Sports Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please specify)		
<b>Do you have a formal constitution/ governance documents?</b> (please provide a copy)		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tell us about your proposal for the building/ venue/ facility and how you see this operating. Provide some detail as to why your organisation is well placed to deliver the benefits that will flow from the proposal.</b>		
<p>Our proposal is concerned with the establishment of Easterhill Community Centre, a communal facility that will be available for hire by any group or individual from the Tollcross region of Glasgow that will be operated by the people of Easterhill Community Church (ECC).</p> <p>If ECC is chosen to take over the running of TCC, we intend to raise sufficient funds to enable a significant refurbishment of the building. Once this work has been completed, the renovated building will be made available to any interested community group or individual for hire.</p> <p>As a significant user of the refurbished Community Centre, Easterhill Community Church will contribute a substantial proportion of the money required to cover the ongoing maintenance and upkeep costs of the Community Centre.</p> <p>Easterhill Community Church (ECC) is a community-orientated Church located in the Tollcross area of Glasgow, that currently meets for public worship in Tollcross Leisure Centre on Sunday mornings at 11 am.</p>		

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For the benefit of the public, the objectives of ECC are the advancement of the Christian faith primarily in Tollcross, Glasgow and also throughout Scotland and the rest of the world by all means consistent with the teachings of the Christian Bible including worship, ministry, prayer, witness, education, counselling and support, community service and the support of agencies and individuals and other charitable organisations involved in Christian missionary work and the relief of poverty or other social needs.

Easterhill Community Church has a strong reputation within the Tollcross area for helping the Community. For example, during the Covid lockdown period, ECC provided food for 70 families in the Tollcross area through Wellshot Primary school. Previously, we held a coffee morning in Tollcross Community Centre to raise funds for Wellshot Primary, following which we were able to give the school £600 to spend as they saw best. In 2019 and 2021, we partnered with other Churches in the local area and Glasgow City Council to provide dinners for those from the local area who did not have a hot meal over the summer and Christmas holidays. We also have a couple of plots at the Shettleston Growing Project, which gives those people from the community who are interested an opportunity for gardening.

Easterhill Community Church has an established youth programme with up to 20 children and teenagers participating in activities on a weekly basis. One of the ECC members (Rev. George Murray) has been Chaplain to Wellshot Primary for 25 years. ECC also provides pastoral care to the people of Tollcross, with a particular responsibility for supporting bereaved families through performing funerals as well as caring for people from addiction backgrounds.

Through leasing Tollcross Community Centre, it will be possible for ECC to increase the range of activities that the Church carries out to include, for example, youth clubs, a Mothers and Toddlers group, counselling including helping people who are in debt as well as running marriage classes/helping people build stronger family relationships. These activities will be open to all members of the community.

If ECC is given permission from the Council to establish Easterhill Community Centre, the Church would be delighted to hire out the building to any other community group or individual to allow them to carry out their own activities.

**Tell us about the benefits that you expect to generate from this proposal and how these might meet an existing need. Will your proposal benefit the local community, a community of interest or both?**

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This proposal will benefit both the local community (the people of Tollcross) directly through the re-opening of a vital local facility as well as indirectly through providing a host venue for the activities of a particular community of interest (Easterhill Community Church). Benefits will include:

- the re-opening and refurbishment of Tollcross Community Centre
- competitive room hire rates for both local organisations and individuals
- new activities run by ECC to improve the quality of life (physical, mental, spiritual) of the people of Tollcross

### **What are your plans to generate sufficient income/ grants to be able to sustain the ongoing operating costs of the building/ venue/ facility?**

Easterhill Community Church has a current annual income between £40-45k, and as a significant user of Easterhill Community Centre will be expected to make a substantial contribution to its running costs. This money will be supplemented by income generated through room hire at the Community Centre. Room hire will be charged at one of two rates. To keep hire costs as low as possible, those groups who are prepared to open-up, clean and close down the Community Centre themselves will be charged a reduced rate. Those groups and/or individuals who would like to have the centre opened-up for them will have to pay a higher rental rate to cover the extra cost of having a janitor present.

Grants will be applied for to cover the cost of refurbishing the building. ECC has a track record of obtaining grant funding, having recently helped one of its members obtain £42,000 (sourced from five different charities) towards the costs of their ministry training.

### **Tell us about any experience you have in managing a building/ venue/ facility.**

Currently, ECC carries out its activities in Tollcross Leisure Centre and The (New) Charter, based on Tollcross Road, hiring rooms as we need them. Therefore, we do not currently have any responsibility for maintaining a building.

However, ECC is a Church plant from St Margarets Tollcross Park Church of Scotland, where several of our members gained extensive experience of building upkeep (including structural and boiler repairs).

Currently, ECC has a comprehensive insurance package that covers not only our equipment but public indemnity liability too. We intend using the same broker to provide a bespoke insurance package for the needs of Easterhill Community Centre. ECC also has a payroll account with Stewardship and an account with the

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Pension Regulator, through which pension contributions for employees are made monthly. We intend to use these specialist financial organisations to pay any staff employed by Easterhill Community Centre.

Last, ECC has established and routinely updates its own website. We will use these skills and knowledge to develop an equivalent website for Easterhill Community Centre through which room bookings will be accepted.

**What help and support from the council family would you require for this proposal?**

We believe that the key to establishing Easterhill Community Centre will be a good working relationship between ECC and Glasgow City Council (GCC), and with a little creativity on both sides we are convinced it will be possible to find a way forward that is mutually agreeable to both ECC and GCC that will allow the Community Centre to be swiftly restored to the people of Tollcross.

**Please provide us with any other information that you feel is relevant to your proposal.**

The people of ECC come from a diverse range of backgrounds which means that our membership is comprised of people who have very different skillsets, all of which will be used to successfully establish and run Easterhill Community Centre. Our members include several project managers, an University Lecturer (with a track record in obtaining research funding), successful business owners (who understand the need to have a business income > expenditure), tradesmen, an architect, teachers and youth workers (who know how to successfully engage with young people), a counsellor, trained pastors (who have extensive experience of caring for individuals in the community as well as carrying out weddings and funerals) and a website designer. Furthermore, a couple of ECC members are recovered addicts themselves, and have a heart for those who are currently struggling with addiction.

Other Charitable Organisations that we will seek to partner with include Christians Against Poverty (CAP) (debt-relief, budget planning), Hope for Glasgow (help for recovering addicts) and Care for the Family (building stronger families).

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