

## Venue Hire Survey Report January 2024

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### 1. Summary

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*Questionnaire format:* Web  
*Responses:* Assembly Rooms; 2  
Hasland Village Hall; 5  
*Date range:* 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### 2. Introduction

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Respondents were asked to complete a short survey regarding their views on how individuals / groups currently use the Assembly Rooms and Hasland Village Hall and how they think any price or operational changes would affect them / their group.

An invitation to participate was requested via email to the following regular venue users:

Hasland Village Hall: 12 users

Assembly Rooms: 7 users

#### The Budget Conversation

Before taking part in the survey, respondents were asked to read through the background information included in the Budget Conversation brochure.

The Budget Conversation survey asked a broad set of questions about where and how people think we could make budget savings and should focus where we spend our budgets. Within the survey there were 10 opportunities for respondents to make comment. Around 900 comments were made in total (multiple responses from the same respondents). Around 10 of the comments specifically mention the three venues and 9 comments specifically mention use of community venues. Please see the full Budget Conversation Survey report [here](#). [\(link to be added\)](#)

[Further comments and feedback](#)

Some further responses were received separately via email and in-person. These are included at the end of the report.

### 3. Questionnaire results

#### Both venues

How strongly do you agree or disagree that the council should ensure that fees and charges for discretionary services, which are services it does not have to legally provide, and which some residents may not need, should cover the cost to the Council of providing the service?

How strongly do you agree or disagree that the council should ensure that fees and charges for discretionary services, which are services it does not have to legally provide, and which some residents may not need, should cover the cost to the Council of providing the service?					
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
No.	2	2	0	0	0
%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

How strongly do you agree or disagree that venue hire fees and charges should be set at a level, for any groups or individuals using the service, that covers the cost of providing the service to help reduce the council's budget gap?

How strongly do you agree or disagree that venue hire fees and charges should be set at a level, for any groups or individuals using the service, that covers the cost of providing the service to help reduce the council's budget gap?					
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
No.	2	4	4	0	0
%	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%

#### Assembly Rooms Survey only.

Do you / your group currently pay for the hire of facilities at the Assembly Rooms?

Do you / your group currently pay for the hire of facilities at the Assembly Rooms?		
	Number	Percentage
Yes	2	100%
No	0	0%

If yes, if the rates for hiring the Assembly Rooms were significantly increased, what would be the impact on your group and / or those people who access the service you provide?

2 responses were received as follows:

Modest, but we have our limits.
If too high, might jeopardise the hire of the rooms altogether

One proposal being considered for the Assembly Rooms is to offer to let the Main Hall, the two meeting rooms, and the kitchen to one tenant for a number of years. If a suitable tenant was found, this would mean that the council wouldn't be able to hire them out any longer and therefore existing users would have to explore alternative arrangements.

If this proposal was introduced what, if any, would be the impact on you / your group?

2 replies were received, as follows:

Catastrophic
In that case, an alternative venue would have to be found.

**Hasland Village Hall survey only**

Do you / your group pay for the hire of facilities at Hasland Village Hall?

Do you / your group currently pay for the hire of facilities at Hasland Village Hall?		
	Number	Percentage
Yes	4	80.0%
No	1	20.0%

If yes, if the rates for hiring Hasland Village Hall were significantly increased, what would be the impact on your group and / or those people who access the service you provide?

4 responses were received as follows:

We would 'find' the required hire charge so that we could continue to use the facility
We already hire at a discounted rate as a volunteer-run community group. We would not be able to afford a significant increase and would more than likely have to cease offering the community support we offer through the group.
Depending on the increase we may have to look for other premises
We would have to reconsider if a long-term hire was still feasible for us depending on the level of increase.

One proposal being considered for Hasland Village Hall is to change the operating procedures for regular hirers. It is proposed that there would be no caretaker on duty at the hall. Regular hirers would be issued a key for the hall and would be given an induction on how to open and close the building. They would be provided with an emergency telephone number if they had any operational issues. The hirer would be responsible for the building during the period of hire, and for closing the building and setting the alarm if needed.

If this proposal was introduced what, if any, would be the impact on you / your group?

4 responses were received as follows:

None, we would be pleased to manage the facility in this way as long as any furniture setting out and toilet cleaning is fully discussed and agreed
That would be no problem.
I think it is a very sensible proposal and would be no problem for us
This would be fine for us!

**As part of the review, consideration may be given to a community asset transfer for the operational responsibility and use of Hasland Village Hall. If this is something that you and your group would be interested in pursuing, please provide relevant contact details below.**

Three responses were received.

**Both venues**

**If you have any other comments, please provide them below:**

2 responses were received as follows:

<u>Assembly Rooms</u>
There is no other central venue and our group would fold
<u>Hasland Village Hall</u>
We would not like to move from Hasland Village Hall and saving the caretaker's wage would be a good economic idea.

**Which of the following describes you best?**

<b>Which of the following describes you best?</b>		
	Number	Percentage
I represent a business	1	14.3%
I represent a community organisation	4	57.1%
I represent a charity	1	14.3%
Other	1	14.3%

**4. Further comments regarding Hasland Village Hall**

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Response 1:

We are an unfunded, volunteer-run, community group offering support to parents and carers with carrying babies and children in carriers. We also share our expertise in infant feeding and development. We accept referrals from midwives, health visitors, medical professionals and the community infant feeding and perinatal support teams, as well as self-referrals. In order to keep the service accessible we do not charge for session attendance or in-person support. The fees we charge for carrier fitting and rental are kept affordable and we discount in cases of hardship. We run not-for-profit.

All our volunteers work, mostly in the NHS and mostly full time. They receive no expenses or payment for volunteering at sessions. Any steep increase in venue fees would prevent us from continuing to run sessions at Hasland Village Hall. Most other venues are either unsuitable for our group or far too expensive, so it is likely we would have to close (this will be our 13<sup>th</sup> year of offering the service).

## 5. Further comments regarding the Assembly Rooms

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Response 1:

Most of my group of 30 people are 80 to 90 years old, and our weekly sessions give them an opportunity to come out of the house and do something different. ..If the rents went up they would not be able to pay. Everything is running so well at the Market Hall – it would be a tragedy if we had to leave.