

ECCT Facilities Principles Checklist: 2. Community Need

Facility Lifecycle Stage:
Concept & Plan

Objective: To ensure **the facility is needed by the community**. Facility development should usually only occur when there is an identified community need, especially where community funding is sought. Demonstration of community need is important so facilities are not developed that are underused and inadequate for their community (which then results in unaffordability and other issues).

Principle	Considerations
Demand/Need	<p>Does the facility meet the needs of the community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current and future needs of target users or the community has been identified (existing and potential users) There is demonstrated need or demand for the facility. (e.g. demand has been investigated and quantified) The facility is filling a gap in provision in the community or complements and aligns with other community facilities/ providers Shared use has been investigated
Usage	<p>Will the facility be well-used by the community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group can quantify predicted facility use and can provide a clear picture of potential users (who, when, what for, how often, etc.) For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> types of use(s) numbers of individuals, groups, services, or codes usage rates (peak, off-peak, seasonal variations) actual and potential use Usage rates and/or community benefit are high enough to justify the capital expense
Impact on wider community	<p>Will the facility be an asset to the wider sector or local neighbourhood?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of the facility on the wider community has been considered (e.g. the positive and negative impacts of the facility on social values, cultural values, participation, access to services, other organisations, existing infrastructure, similar facilities, etc.) There is strong sector or community support for the facility
Options	<p>Have various options been considered and the best option chosen?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group has demonstrated they have considered options to <i>reform, better use</i> and <i>improve existing</i> and only consider <i>build new</i> once other options have been explored and exhausted Various ideas, project scales or scopes, and/or design options have been considered and assessed for fit with the group and/or community needs

Process Considerations:

In the EOI phase, the focus may be more on the demand for the facility and providing clear, demonstrated evidence or data that supports the need for the project. This is because finalised usage rates may not be able to be forecast until the design has been confirmed. If this is the case, usage rates will need to be provided with the capital works application. For options consideration, evidence will need to be provided of how “Reform”, “Better Use” and “Improve Existing” options have been explored, with the “Build New” option only being considered if the other options have been fully explored and exhausted. The ECCT Community Assets & Facilities Fund is largely for “Build New” projects. “Improve Existing” projects will be considered if significant capital work is required (e.g. >\$100K total cost). Funding for smaller repairs and maintenance projects should be via the Grassroots Fund. Education and central and local government groups will not be considered if their project involves deferred maintenance. Connection and community development projects will require target users and/or the local community to be actively involved in developing the concept, and in ongoing operations (see Partnerships checklist #3).