

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4477

Author:

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Department:

Resident Services

Contact:

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Subject:

Transfer Forest Fields Community Centre

Total Value:

0 (Type: Nil)

Decision Being Taken:

Transfer the ownership and operational duties of the Forest Fields Community Centre, Sturton Street, Forest Fields from the Community Centres Team (Resident Services, Community Portfolio) to the Forest Fields Primary and Nursery School Management Team and associated Directorship.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Community Centre is currently directly managed by the Community Centres Team and has not been in voluntary management for a number of years. The site has experienced a reduction in use by the local community and it is hoped that by returning it to the school, the centre will be able to re-engage with local people and serve the local community better.

Negotiations for greater use by the school commenced prior to COVID and were then suspended, due to various Covid related issues.

The new Head of the School is eager to re-engage in the transfer, which would provide the school the additional spaces during the day and the opportunity to extend the community offer to existing users and new local groups. A Service Level Agreement for community use procedures will be agreed prior to transfer.

There will be limited financial savings because of the transfer but the community centres budget will benefit mainly from a saving on utility costs, this has already been factored into the MTP. The building and all liabilities will transfer to the Education Services.

Briefing notes documents:

Briefing FF Community Centre SLA Draft.docx, Forest Fields Briefing paper.doc

Other Options Considered:

To do nothing - the use of the building during school time is currently limited due to the location within the school and safeguarding. The Community Centres Team currently subsidises the building operational costs. This is not sustainable and therefore an alternative has been sought to ensure the facility remains accessible to the community . In addition the school needed additional classroom space during the day time. To offer the building through a tender process for Voluntary and Community Organisations to bid for.To declare the building surplus to the Services requirements and relocate the current single community organisation (Shiefton Supplementary School)

Background Papers:

Local Consultation conducted by the Neighbourhood Development Officer and the School

Unpublished background papers:

Forest Fields Community Centre Consultation Summary.docx

Published Works:

none

Affected Wards:	Berridge
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	Local Ward Councillor is a governor on the school board.
Consultations:	<p>Date: 24/06/2021</p> <p>Ward Councillors: Shuguftah Quddoos</p> <p>Ward Councillor has been part of the consultation for the duration of the proposal beginning two years ago. The recent consultation has been ongoing during the Spring and Summer of 2021.</p>
	<p>Date: 24/06/2021</p> <p>Minority Groups:Sheifton Supplementary School Management</p> <p>The group has been consulted over the proposal as they are currently users of the Community Centre for 2 regular evening sessions and 1 weekend session. The Supplementary School also hire the adjacent Multi Use Games Area outside of school term time for summer activities.</p>
	<p>Date: 24/06/2021</p> <p>Other:Parents and Governors of the Forest Fields Primary and Nursery School</p> <p>The details of the consultation are available from the Neighbourhood Development Officer and a summary has been uploaded as background papers</p>
	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	The Community Centre would transfer ownership and still be available for community use outside of the school day. Therefore there is no loss of current provision being delivered from the community centre. The centre would be available for evening and weekend use by the local community including to organisations wanting to provide diversionary and community cohesion activities.
Equality:	Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA Forest Fields - RD Commented (002) (1).docx
Relates to Council Property Assets:	Yes
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	29/12/2021

Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Equality and Diversity, Property
Legal Advice:	From the information provided in the report and the SLA and briefing paper, the proposed transaction does not appear to raise any significant issues of concern. The transaction will be subject to the usual legal due diligence, drafting, negotiation and agreement of formal legal documentation. Advice provided by Christina Price (Chartered Legal Executive) on 09/08/2021.
Finance Advice:	Advice provided by Susan Turner (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 01/12/2021.
	Advice documents: Transfer Forest Fields Community Centre to Schools - Finance Comments.docx
Equality and Diversity Advice:	This proposal could particularly benefit people from different ethnic groups, men, women, young and others. There are no impacts to any of the protected characteristics and therefore happy to sign off. Advice provided by Rosey Donovan (Equality and Employability Consultant) on 07/10/2021.
Property Advice:	The decision detailed in this report is supported by Strategic Assets & Property. The transfer of the centre will ensure its long term use supporting the school and local community. The Service Level Agreement should be reviewed by Asset Management and Legal Services to ensure all statutory responsibilities and associated costs of running and maintaining the building are covered by the user. Advice provided by Beverley Gouveia (Development & Disposals Manager) on 09/08/2021.
Signatures	Neghat Khan (PH Neighbourhoods, Safety and Inclusion)
	SIGNED and Dated: 17/12/2021
	Andrew Errington (Director of Community Protection)
	SIGNED and Dated: 16/12/2021