

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2038

Author:

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Department:

Children and Families

Contact:

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Subject:

To create dedicated Nursery Education spaces in Wollaton Children's Centre whilst continuing a Children's Centre hub

Total Value:

45,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To enter into an agreement with Fernwood Primary School to enable them to use the building to create additional nursery education places to improve the child and family healthy life chances and supporting children in readiness for school. Health services will continue to be delivered from the Children's Centre with additional groups and services being delivered from other community buildings such as libraries and Community Centres so maintaining the current Children's Centre service provision.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

There are currently no Nursery Education funded places on Fernwood school site. A capital works project will extend the Childrens Centre offering Nursery Education places for children in the local area. This proposal will make a more effective use of the building whilst making savings for the City Council. The school and Children's Centre will work more closely together to meet the needs of local citizens.

The School and Children and Families will have a partnership agreement with the school taking on responsibility for the running costs of the building resulting in a saving of approximately £45,000 annually. We need to be able to use our resources more flexibly to effectively target families and provide services that can meet the changing needs; this proposal will enable us to make better use of our staff resource and allow us to be more visible within the community whilst continuing to address what has been identified as an area of need.

Front line services and staffing will not be affected by this decision as Family Support Worker will continue to deliver Children's Centre Services. Caretaking and Cleaning staff are employed by the City Council and they will not be adversely affected as they have been offered alternative sites to manage.

Consultation was undertaken with partners, including health, police, community groups, board members as well as with citizens during September - October 2014. See results attached.

The DfE has been written to informing them of the plans for this and other centres. From Sure Start Centres Statutory Guidance - Capital Grants we foresee no objections to the proposal as services will continue, the buildings will not close and no capital is being released.

Briefing notes documents:

Wollaton consultation for report 220415.xls

Other Options Considered:

The two main drivers for this proposal is the need to make savings from the Vulnerable Children and Families budget and to provide Nursery places at Fernwood Primary School. The only other option considered was the part time closure of Wollaton Children's Centre, this was rejected in favour of the proposal as it would not realise a significant saving and would not address the need for nursery places.

Background Papers:

None.

Published Works:

None.

Affected Wards:

Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey, Wollaton West

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Exempt Information:

Description of what is exempt:

legal advice is exempt

An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

5 - Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

In all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because the information sets out the legal risks inherent in the course of action proposed here, which the Portfolio Holder is arguably entitled to consider without Nottingham City Council's position being affected simply by the consideration of those risks.

Documents exempt from publication:

20150421DDMWollatonsChildrensCentreexemptlegalobs.pdf

Consultations:

Date: 01/09/2014

Other: Consultation with service users, partners including health, police and advisory board members and community groups.

A consultation document was circulated by social media and hard copy to all those currently using the centre and to parents in the area via school.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

No implications expected. Wollaton Children's centre will continue to deliver the full core offer of services. More outreach in the area for Children's activities, family support and adult learning will be provided

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Equality Impact Assessment wollaton.doc

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

26/06/2015

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice: This advice is exempt from publication and is contained within an exempt appendix Advice provided by Jonathan Ludford-Thomas (Senior Solicitor) on 02/03/2015.

Finance Advice: It is proposed to enter into an agreement with Fernwood Academy, which will enable the academy to use Wollaton Childrens Centre to create additional school places, whilst continuing to deliver Family Support and Health services from the premises. It is estimated the transfer will take effect from 1st September 2015.

Under the agreement, Fernwood Academy will be responsible for the running cost of the property, which will generate estimated savings of £26k for the City Council in 2015/16 and £45k in a full year.

These savings will contribute to the Strategic Choice savings relating to Childrens Centres

Steve Lynk - Finance Analyst
0115 8763726
steve.lynk@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Advice provided by Stephen Lynk (Finance Analyst) on 26/03/2015.

Procurement Advice: There are no procurement implications in relation to this proposal, which deals with the leasing of building space and realising savings. Advice provided by Jo Pettifor (Strategic Procurement Manager) on 19/02/2015.

HR Advice: HR Support this proposal. This proposal does not affect any front line staff. Should there be any jobs created as a result of this proposal, these posts will need to be recruited to following NCC procedure (Project People & People Plus) before being made available to external applicants. Advice provided by Makeshya Henningham (Service Redesign Consultant) on 10/02/2015.

Equality and Diversity Advice: It will be important that review mechanisms are kept in place to ensure that those who require and need the Sure Start provision are still using in whatever locations are subsequently identified. Locations will therefore need to be accessible and be able to meet the needs of citizens likely to want the provision.

Review should also seek to capture data re: whether people from neighbouring wards (economically disadvantaged) are able to benefit from the new locations or whether deterred for a variety of reasons (Wollaton is referred to being an affluent area). Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 23/04/2015.

Signatures

David Mellen (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)
SIGNED and Dated: 18/06/2015
Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)
SIGNED and Dated: 04/06/2015