

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham  
City Council

Reference Number:

2087

Author:

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Department:

Children and Families

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Subject:

To create dedicated classroom space in St Anns South Children's Centre for Huntingdon Academy

Total Value:

Saving of £39,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To enter into a lease agreement with Huntingdon Academy to enable them to use the St Anns South Children's Centre to create additional school places, within the existing centre space to improve child and family health and life chances, noting that Family Support and Health services will continue to be delivered from other community buildings such as libraries and Community Centres including some from the Academy, so maintaining the current Children's Centre service provision.

To delegate authority to the Director of Strategic Property to finalise the precise details of the heads of terms for the lease.

Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>More classroom space is urgently needed to teach local children in St Anns to meet community need. From September 2015 thirty additional school places will be created. This proposal will make more effective use of the building whilst making savings for the City Council.</p> <p>The Academy will enter into a lease agreement and be responsible for the running costs of the building resulting in a saving for the City Council of approximately £39,000.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>St Anns South is one of the less well used centres and it is envisaged that working in partnership with the school to engage parents and delivering from more accessible venues will increase the number of people accessing services. Consultation of the parents in this area indicates that they would prefer delivery from the St. Anns Valley Centre; some sessions have already moved to this venue and these are attracting greater numbers.</p> <p>There are no proposed redundancies as a result of this proposal. Family support staff will be relocated to Sneinton Children's Centre as their base. Caretakers and Cleaners are not affected by the changes proposed for this site. Business support staff will be relocated to provide support at our other sites.</p> <p>Consultation was undertaken with partners, including health, police, community groups and board members. A citywide consultation was undertaken during April and May with citizens using a variety of methods to engage including a web based consultation, face to face in the Children's Centres and through social media. The results are attached to the decision.</p> <p>The Department for Education has been contacted and advice sought regarding to the proposed changes. Their advice states that as long as the buildings continue to be used for the benefit of children under 5 there will be no 'claw back' of grant funding. The claw back period covers the life of the building which is considered by the Department of Education to be 25 years, this will be considered when drawing up the lease agreement.</p>
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Briefing notes documents:	<a href="#">IntegratedChildrensCentreSummary_summaryreport_jun4 for report 040615.pdf</a>
Other Options Considered:	The two main drivers for this proposal are the need to make savings from the Vulnerable Children and Families budget and to provide school places at Huntingdon Academy. The only other option considered was the part time closure of St Anns South 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 school places.
Background Papers:	None
Published Works:	None

Affected Wards:	St Ann's
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	N/A
Consultations:	<p>Date: 04/05/2015</p> <p>Other: Citywide Public consultation took place during April closing on 4th May</p> <p>543 Integrated School Partnership Consultations were completed citywide. This was lower than we had anticipated but we can evidence different approaches to try to engage citizens face to face, social media and incentive of prize draw.</p>
	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	No implications expected. St Anns South Children's centre will continue to offer full core offer of services. More outreach in the area for Children's activities and family support and adult learning will be provided
Equality:	Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Equality Impact AssessmentSt anns south.doc
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	31/07/2015
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Equality and Diversity, Other: John West (john.west@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)
Legal Advice:	<p>The proposal set out in the report relates to a lease to Huntingdon Academy. The precise details of the heads of terms for the lease should be finalised by the Director of Strategic Property to ensure that they are on terms reasonably acceptable to the Council. Once this happens the formal lease agreement can be drawn up by legal services (or external solicitors appointed by the Head of Legal Services).</p> <p>Advice provided by Malcolm Townroe (Legal Services Manager) on 15/06/2015.</p>

**Finance Advice:**

It is proposed to enter into an agreement with Huntingdon Academy, which will enable the academy to use St.Anns South Children's Centre to create additional school places, whilst Family Support and Health services continue to be delivered from the premises. It is estimated the transfer will take effect from 1st September 2015.

Under the agreement, Huntingdon Academy will be responsible for the running costs of the property, which will generate estimated savings of £23k for the City Council in 2015/16 and £39k in a full year.

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

Advice provided by Stephen Lynk (Finance Analyst) on 09/06/2015.

**Equality and Diversity  
Advice:**

The proposal will need to ensure that wherever individuals are disadvantaged that work is done to maintain and encourage usage through formats that go beyond sending information as it is likely that those who need the service most may not have English as a first language and may not be literate. A strong relationship and knowledge of the locality will be absolutely vital if the proposal is to maximise its benefits. Whilst some services have been relocated careful monitoring will need to be in place to ensure capture of intelligence data so that where necessary remedial work can be undertaken. Geographical difficulties will also need careful managing.

Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 09/07/2015.

**Other Advice:**

There are no objections to the principle of entering in to a lease arrangement to cover this uses, but careful consideration will need to be given to the precise terms that are agreed, specifically to ensure that the Council are protected against future liabilities on repairs or running costs, and to ensure flexibility to adapt to future requirements.

The Property section will undertake these negotiations and once agreed and approved, draft the instruction to Legal Services.

Advice provided by John West (Estates Surveyor) on 18/06/2015.

**Signatures**

David Mellen (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)

SIGNED and Dated: 23/07/2015

Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)

SIGNED and Dated: 22/07/2015