

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

**Reference Number:**

2091

**Author:**

Deborah Millar

**Department:**

Children and Families

**Contact:**

Deborah Millar

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**Subject:**

Integrated School and Children's Centre Partnership Cantrell School and Bulwell Forest Children's Centre

**Total Value:**

Savings of approx. £39,442 (Type: Revenue)

**Decision Being Taken:**

To grant authority to the Director of Strategic Asset and Property Management, and the Head of Property Investment to agree to the individual terms of any agreement that is entered in to, and to agree to any amendments or variations of said terms.

To enter into an agreement with Cantrell Primary School for them to take over Bulwell Forest Children's Centre Building for additional classroom space whilst continuing to deliver the Children's Centre Services offer.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

We need to be able to use our resources more flexibly to effectively target families and provide services that can meet the changing needs of the community; 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. All services currently being delivered from the centre will not be affected under this proposal.

There are no proposed redundancies as a result of this proposal. Family support staff will be relocated to the nearby Bulwell 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.

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.

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 5s 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.

**Briefing notes documents:**

IntegratedChildrensCentreSummary\_summaryreport\_jun4 for report 040615.pdf

**Other Options Considered:**

The only other option considered was reduction of opening hours at the centre from the current 5 days to 2 days. This was rejected in favour of the proposal as it would not make a significant saving, would result in the building being under used and not address the school's need for additional space.

**Background Papers:**

**Published Works:**

**Affected Wards:**

Bulwell Forest

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:**

**Consultations:**

Date: 04/05/2015  
 Other: Citywide consultation with Citizens

543 Integrated School Partnership Consultations were completed citywide. This was lower than we had required but we can evidence different approaches to try to engage citizens face to face and through social media.

These consultations evidence that collectively 52% agree with the proposal to Integrate with Schools and a further 19% neither agree nor disagree. The majority of those families consulted stated that the changes would not impact on them accessing services.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:**

There are no Crime and Disorder Implications expected, no services will change as a result of this proposal and delivery from the centre will continue.

**Equality:**

EIA not required. Reasons: There will be no change to the delivery of services as result of this proposal. All services currently delivered from the centre will continue.

**Decision Type:**

Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:**

Yes

**Call In Expiry date:**

31/07/2015

**Advice Sought:**

Legal, Finance, Other: John West(john.west@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

**Legal Advice:**

As this is an internal agreement between two service sections there are no legal implications.

Rebecca Beecroft

Team Leader, Conveyancing

10 July 2015 Advice provided by Rebecca Beecroft (Solicitor) on 10/07/2015.

**Finance Advice:**

**It is proposed to enter into an agreement with Cantrell Primary School, which will enable the school to use Bulwell Forest 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, Cantrell Primary School 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**

**Steve Lynk - Finance Analyst  
0115 8763726  
steve.lynk@nottinghamcity.gov.uk**

**22nd June 2015**

**Advice provided by Stephen Lynk (Finance Analyst) on 22/06/2015.**

**Other Advice:**

**As the school is run by Nottingham City Council, there will be no need for a formal lease agreement to be put in place, and there are no property issues relating to the decision taken.**

**The matter is essentially a passing of responsibilities and budgets between service departments, and an informal document may be preferred to ensure both departments understand their new roles, and can continue to provide the appropriate level of service from the property as required. Advice provided by John West (Estates Surveyor) on 26/06/2015.**

**Signatures**

<b>David Mellen (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 23/07/2015</b>
<b>Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 22/07/2015</b>