

Briefing notes on DDM to Transfer Education Assets

The Nottingham Narrowboat Project has been a part of the City since the early 1970s. For the last 10 years, the Adventure Service within Education have attempted to bring this well-known and valued provision to a more commercial and sustainable proposition. Whilst there has been significant developments, heavily dependent on volunteers and including a national reputation for residential experiences on the Nottingham waterways through DofE Gold Award, the current arrangement does not yet cover its costs.

A public consultation was undertaken in June 2017 which resulted in a response of 91% support for the transfer of the boats to a registered charity in order for development to continue.

The current regular volunteers on the Narrowboat provision have come together to create a registered charity and limited company

The mission statement of the Nottingham Narrowboat Project states:

To provide a physically accessible and socially inclusive, education resource, teaching lifelong skills to young people of Nottingham and the East Midlands. A unique practical hands-on exciting and fun experience of waterway heritage, natural habitat and social diversity, delivered by community volunteers using specially adapted narrowboats.

The narrowboats have been valued for insurance purposes at £35,000, but there would be problems to realising this value, beyond scrap value. They are limited through The Canal & River Trust licensing to Community use only and therefore cannot be sold privately for conversion.

The Nottingham Community Wardrobe was created in 1990 to support schools and colleges across the County, in providing costume for curricular and extra-curricular activities. Since then it has grown through makes, donations and purchases to a resource valued by its customer base, still servicing schools and colleges, but also amateur, professional and community groups, across S.Yorkshire, East and West Midlands.

Each year the Wardrobe has worked to full cost recovery as far as possible for the past five years. At times it has required a small subsidy from the other income sources to break even, in other years generating a small surplus. However, the service can now no longer take the risk of even a small annual deficit.

City Schools have been consulted on this transfer and there have been a number of supportive responses to the transfer of this resource to a Community Interest Company to use in their stated purposes.

The wardrobe has something in the region of 40,000 units, creating a valuation would cost more than the actual value. The collection has value to those that hire it, but would have no more than rag value if sold.

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