

Report to Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance

Subject: Community Asset Transfer of Wollaton Avenue Community Centre to Gedling Play Forum – proposal to publish a formal 6 week period of consultation on the proposal.

Date: 18th November 2022

Author: Community Partnerships Manager

Wards Affected: Phoenix Ward

Purpose: To request approval for the publication of a formal consultation period of 6 weeks in respect of a formal submission received by the Council from Gedling Play Forum to enter into Community Asset Transfer of Wollaton Avenue Community Centre.

Key Decision: This is not a key decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- 1) The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance approves the publication of a formal 6 week consultation period on the proposal, in accordance with the Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.

1 Background

1.1 Cabinet adopted a Community Asset Transfer Policy in October 2015. The aims of the policy are:

- To identify the process and tools that will enable the successful delivery of a future asset transfer programme.
- To recognise the capacity needs of local groups wishing to take on

local
authority assets.

- To ensure a thorough risk assessment of asset transfer is undertaken.
- To define the legal form a transfer agreement would take.

- 1.2 In accordance with the Asset Transfer Policy, organisations wishing to take on more responsibility for a community facility must engage in consultation with relevant stakeholders, ensure that the required statutory policies and public liability insurances are in place and demonstrate a robust business plan for ongoing management of the facility. These details need to be submitted to the Council by way of a formal submission.

A submission was received from the Gedling Play Forum on 29th March 2022. Following a period of abeyance due to consideration of the proposal's relationship to the pending Strategic Facilities Review, the Council is now in a position to activate the formal consultation and assessment of this proposal.

- 1.3 In accordance with the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy, a minimum consultation period of 6 weeks must be published, following which the proposal is assessed by a cross departmental team including Finance, Legal, Properties and Communities Team officers, and all responses to the consultation are taken into account in that process.
- 1.4 Following the assessment, if the proposal is deemed to meet the criteria for Community Asset Transfer as set out in the Council's CAT Policy, a period of negotiation will take place to establish the terms of any future lease. Once negotiations are completed, the proposal then is referred to Cabinet for a decision.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 That the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance approves the publication of a formal 6 week period of consultation on this proposal.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Not to publish notice of formal consultation.

In accordance with the Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy, when a submission for Asset Transfer is received a minimum formal public consultation period of 6 weeks must be undertaken prior to assessment of

the proposal.

The outcomes of the consultation are taken into account as part of that assessment, following which the proposal is referred to Cabinet for a decision.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 A nominal fee of under £50 is payable to the County Council for publication of a formal notice of consultation in the Nottingham Evening post.
- 4.2 Public notices posted in and around the Wollaton Avenue area will be produced and posted in –house, again at nominal cost.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Following the consultation period, an assessment of the proposal and consultation feedback is made by officers from the Council's Legal, Property, Communities and Finance Teams.
- 5.2 If the proposal meets the criteria for Community Asset Transfer as set out in the Council's Asset Transfer Policy, a process of lease negotiation and development is triggered, with a 99 year lease at peppercorn rent with full maintenance responsibility being the model set out in the Asset Transfer Policy. Other models may also be considered.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 This proposal offers all members of the public, including those identified as having protected characteristics as set out in the Equalities Act 2011, the opportunity to comment on the proposal.
- 6.2 The Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy was developed in consultation with representatives of diverse voluntary and community groups and includes community friendly, accessible processes for entering into Community Asset Transfer.
- 6.3 A key criteria of the CAT assessment is an Equality Impact Assessment, and the requirement of the organisation to have consulted with existing and future user groups, local people and partners in setting out proposals for future services operating in the proposed CAT facility.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no negative environmental impacts to this proposal.

8 Appendices

8.1 None

9 Background Papers

9.1 None

10 Reasons for Recommendations

10.1 To initiate the process of consultation and assessment of the Community Asset Transfer submission received from Gedling Play Forum in respect of Wollaton Avenue Community Centre.

10.2

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer