

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY A CABINET MEMBER

Delegated Authority Reference No: CYP 7 10/11

Name of the Matter: Nomony Children's Centre, 27 St John's Road, Cattedown, Plymouth PL4 0PA

Cabinet Member Exercising Delegated Authority

Cllr Mrs Watkins, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

Decision

To transfer the freehold for Nomony Children's Centre from Action for Children to Plymouth City Council for the nominal fee of £1

Reasons for Decision

The Childcare Act 2006 (effective date 1 April 2006) made all English local authorities the Accountable Body for the government's Sure Start programme. From 1 April 2006 all funding was sent direct to local authorities for them to commission these services.

Prior to 1 April 2006 a number of organisations were able to hold Accountable Body status, and Action for Children (as National Children's Home) drew the capital grant funding for the purchase of the Nomony site and the construction of the Children's Centre. The total grant claimed was £1,132,500.

The Childcare Act 2006 created an anomaly in respect to Nomony Children's Centre. The freehold is registered to Action for Children, however Plymouth City Council is the Accountable Body for the grant funding used for the project. Action for Children therefore considers the freehold to be held on trust for Plymouth City Council.

Since 2006, Action for Children has been Plymouth City Council's service delivery provider for Nomony Children's Centre so the need to resolve this anomaly has not presented itself. The contract for delivering this service is now being tendered for April 2011 onwards. The successful tender bidder needs to be granted a lease of the building for the same terms as the service contract.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected (if not applicable, please provide explanation)

Option 2: Action for Children continues to hold the freehold for this building with the option to lease the building to the new provider, (if they are not awarded a contract for April 2011 onwards).

This has been rejected for the following reason:

As the Accountable Body for the capital funding invested into Nomony Children's Centre, Plymouth City Council has indemnified Action for Children for the grants claimed. Any claw back liability that could apply is already held with Plymouth City Council.

Financial Implications

Action for Children has agreed they will transfer the property for the nominal fee of £1.

In Consultation with:

- .. Other Cabinet Member: Cllr Ian Bowyer, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property, People and Governance
- .. Corporate Management Team Member (mandatory): Bronwen Lacey, Director of Services for Children and Young People

and

	(Officer's initials or N/A)
• Democratic Support (mandatory)	DSO461011
• Finance (mandatory)	AM
• Legal Services (mandatory)	JTR
• Human Resources	N/A
• Corporate Property	CJT/056/131010
• IT	N/A
• Strategic Procurement	N/A

(N.B. Sign-off by Democratic Support, Finance and Legal is mandatory. Sign off by HR, CP, IT and SP need only be sought in those cases where there are implications for the particular service. If not appropriate, please enter 'N/A').

Is the Decision

- A key decision (in the Forward Plan)* No
- Within the policy and budget framework?* Yes
- In accordance with Equalities Assessment? Yes
- A case of special urgency agreed by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board*? No

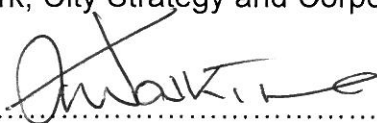
List of Background Papers

Children Centre - Maintenance Cost. Summary Paper

Cabinet Member –

I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, City Strategy and Corporate Plan (Medium Term Financial Plan).

Signature



Date

01.12.10

V5: 2.9.09

Children's Centres - Maintenance Costs

In 2009 the Early Years team within Services for Children and Young People commissioned a condition survey for all Children's Centre buildings. This survey included:

- predicted maintenance costs
- any actions needed to ensure they are compliant with Health and Safety regulations.
- any actions needed to ensure they are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act

As a result of this survey, significant work (where practicable) is now included in a capital works action plan for Children's Centres. Funding has been set aside to meet these costs and work will be prioritised in relation to risk and urgency.

Day to day maintenance costs are expected to be met within the revenue budget for the service.

Nomony Children's Centre has been included in this survey and action plan. Plymouth City Council has therefore already set aside funding for the maintenance costs of this building. No additional funding needs to be identified as a result of the transfer of ownership.