



Item

**Storey's Field Centre Contract
for Services Extension**

To:

Cllr. Anna Smith, Executive Cllr for Environment and Communities
Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee 25 March 2021

Report by:

Sally Roden, Neighbourhood Community Development Manager
Tel: 01223 457861 Email: sally.roden@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:

Newnham, Castle

Non-Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Storey's Field Centre, on the Eddington Development in the North West of the City, opened to the public in February 2018 and has been managed under a contract for services with the Storey's Field Centre Trust (SFCT) by the City Council since July 2016 when the Centre manager was appointed .
- 1.2 The initial contract was for a 5-year period which comes to an end on 30 June 2021. The SFCT has recommended an 18-month extension to the existing contract whilst it considers recommendations made during a recent review of the Centre and its operations.
- 1.3 The City Council has considered this option and recommends approval of this extension to ensure continuity for the Centre and staff during this

period whilst changes are considered. It is the officers' view that an 18-month extension is an appropriate length of time for the Trust to make any necessary decisions.

- 1.4 The previous contract was approved by Committee in 2015 and any further decisions after the 5-year period of the contract (which expires on 30 June 2021) requires approval by the Executive Councillor.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

2.1 Approve the extension to the existing contract for services for the Storey's Field Centre for a further 18 months from 1st July 2021 – 31 December 2022.

2.2 Delegate any further decisions in respect of the Council's commitments to the implementation of the contract until 31 December 2022 to the Director of Communities.

3. Background

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3.1 The Storey's Field Centre is located on the new district of Eddington in North West Cambridge and serves the new and existing communities in Newnham and Castle wards plus areas in South Cambs District Council as well as citywide audiences for some of its programme. The Centre is overseen by a joint venture between the University and the City Council known as the Storey's Field Centre Trust. The University and City Council both have a 50% stake in the company and nominate 3 representatives each to sit on the Trust. Under the section 106 agreement for the site the University is responsible for the full cost of the Joint Venture operations for the first 12 years, after which the City Council will be responsible for 50% of the costs. The 12-year period has only just commenced following the signing of the lease for the Centre and the land surrounding the Centre.

3.2 Prior to the Centre opening the Trust appointed the City Council to manage the staff and oversee the day to day running of the Centre on its behalf. This was agreed by the Executive Cllr for Communities in October 2015. The existing contract for services began in July 2016 when the Centre manager was appointed. The Centre did not open until February 2018 due to delays on site. The current contract ends on June 30, 2021. All staffing and management costs are reimbursed to the Council as part of the contract. There are separate contracts with the Trust for cleaning and maintenance

services. Any income raised through hire charges goes directly to the Storey's Field Centre Trust.

3.3 Since opening, the Centre has developed a programme of activity in line with the Centre business plan which includes community activity, arts and cultural events promoted by different organisations and commercial activity including weddings and conferences. In the second year of operation the Centre attracted 40,000 visits and generated over £106,000 in income from hire charges.

3.4 The 3rd year of operation (20-21) has been significantly impacted due to the COVID 19 pandemic when the Centre has been closed for significant periods in line with government guidance.

3.5 In the meantime the Trust has reviewed various aspects of the Centre's operations and the Trust's legal framework with consultants to determine the most effective structure and management arrangements going forward. This work will continue over the next year and councillors and officers will be working with Trustees and the University on these plans.

3.6 Whilst the Trust undertakes the work outlined in 3.5 it has formally requested an extension to the current contract for services for an 18-month period. The officers consider this timeframe a suitable period to enable the Trust to carry out the review process and put in place any new arrangements for the management of the Centre going forward. It will also ensure continuity for the Centre, the community and staff during the ongoing pandemic and associated restrictions.

3.7 The contract for services will include:
Full cost recovery for the Council. A contractual relationship between the Trust and the Council. The contract will be subject to VAT. The Council will continue to employ and manage all staff under the contract and be responsible for staffing matters, but not have any responsibility for any deficit during the first 12 years as outlined in the S106 agreement.

4. Implications

a) Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the Council as all staff and management costs are paid by the Trust to the Council as part of the Contract for services. See section 3.7

b) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications as all current staff will continue in post.

c) Equality and Poverty Implications

N/A no change to current contract.

d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications.

e) Procurement Implications

There are no procurement implications

f) Community Safety Implications

There are no community safety implications

5. Consultation and communication considerations

The recommendations in this report have been made following discussions with Trustees who include University and Council representatives.

6. Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

[Agenda for Community Services Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 8th October, 2015, 2.30 pm - Cambridge Council](#)

7. Appendices

N/A

8. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Sally Roden , Neighbourhood Community Development Manager , tel:01223 457861 , email: sally.rodan@cambridge.gov.uk .