

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF : FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE : 21st SEPTEMBER 2016
REPORT OF : HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
AUTHOR : ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: LEASE OF PART OF MACCLESFIELD FIRE STATION TO THE NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Member approval to the grant of a five year lease of part of Macclesfield Fire Station to the National Probation Service (NPS).

Recommended That Members:

- [1] Agree to the grant of a five year lease of part of Macclesfield Fire Station to the National Probation Service.

Background

2. The NPS approached the Service with a proposal that would enable it to operate part of its service from Macclesfield Fire Station. After initial discussions it was decided that a trial period was necessary in order to allow the Service to assess the suitability of the activities proposed by the NPS.
3. The trial was successful and the NPS has requested a more permanent arrangement. This would involve some minor changes to the Fire Station.

Information

4. The NPS has the following requirements at Macclesfield Fire Station:

Sole use of an office, store, toilet facilities, outside store room and two parking spaces.

The plan attached to this report as Appendix 1 shows the arrangement with the NPS area shaded blue. The red shading is the access corridor the NPS will utilise.

5. The NPS requires offenders under its management to attend at the Fire Station at the start of the day. The offenders are supervised and spend most of the day working in the community. They return to the Fire Station at the end of the day.

6. Whilst there are obviously some shared areas, e.g. access to and from the Fire Station, there are safeguards in place that manage the risk associated with the offenders use of the Fire Station, e.g. they are supervised at all times and are unlikely to be on site at the same time as Fire Cadets. Upon signature of a lease the Fire Station will be altered slightly to strengthen the separation of the offenders and other users.
7. A rental has been agreed with the NPS: £7895 per annum and the NPS will pay a proportion of relevant outgoings. The NPS has asked for a five year lease.
8. It is hoped that the Service staff will have opportunities to engage with the offenders and where appropriate encourage them to take part in activities such as Prince's Trust.

Legal Implications

9. The lease will contain appropriate provisions to protect the Authority's position. The arrangement will be monitored effectively by Fire Station staff.

Financial Implications

10. Any costs relating to the proposal will be met out of existing budgets. As identified in paragraph 7 the proposal will lead to additional income of £7,895 per annum.

Equality & Diversity Implications

11. There are no equality and diversity implications.

Environmental Implications

12. Any environmental implications associated with the option land will be handled appropriately on behalf of the Authority.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None