

**Decision Ref No:**

EX.063/07

**Subject Matter:**

**YEWDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE POST OFFICE PROPOSAL**

Councillor Mitchelson had declared a personal interest in this item of business.

The Director of Community Services submitted Report CS.13/07 considering the feasibility and estimated costs of extending Yewdale Community Centre in order to be able to accommodate a Post Office counter service.

The Director reminded Members that the City Council on 7 November 2007 (Minute Reference C.183/06 ii) had asked the Executive ".. to explore and evaluate the option to build an extension at Yewdale Community Centre to accommodate a new Post Office, therefore retaining this valuable community service in a location close to other shops and the original office location."

The Executive on 20 November 2006 (Minute Reference EX.271/06) had considered the Council motion and had asked the Director of Community Services to explore and evaluate the option to to build an extension at Yewdale Community Centre to accommodate a new Post Office.

The Director advised that until recently the Yewdale area had been served by a Post Office based in the local Spar shop. The shop's proprietors had withdrawn their franchise and the Post Office had not been able to find any premise or person willing to take on the franchise. There was currently no space within the Yewdale Community Centre from which the service could be provided, so an extension would have to be added to the building. The Centre's Management Committee, although making no commitment to support the operation of a post office service themselves, gave approval for the Council to investigate the options and costs of adding a small extension to the building which would not hinder any future developments they would wish to carry out themselves.

The Director then outlined a draft plan for an extension, at an estimated capital cost in the region of £31,000. He asked Members to consider how they wanted to progress but asked them to carefully consider any precedent this type of approach may set.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services provided an addendum to the Report which had been circulated to Members. The addendum set out the legal comments on the proposal, outlining the leasing or sub-leasing options and the implications of these options.

The Environment and Infrastructure portfolio holder, on behalf of the Sustainable Communities portfolio holder, expressed disappointment that to date the Post Office had not clarified their position on the proposal. He suggested that their position need to be established before the matter was progressed further. Members also suggested that there should be further consultation with the Community Centre Management Committee to clarify their opinions and position on the proposal.

**Decision:**

1 That the information in the report, together with the proposed option and costs of extending Yewdale Community Centre in order to be able to accommodate a Post Office counter service be received.

2. That before progressing the matter further, the Director of Community Services should have further discussions with the Post Office and the Yewdale Community Centre Management Committee to clarify their positions on the proposal.

**Key or Non-Key Decision:**  **Key Decision Ref:**

**Portfolio:**

**Who made decision:**

**Date:**

**Reports and Background Papers considered:**

**Reasons for Decision:**

**Summary of Options rejected:**

**Interests declared**

**Date published**

**Urgent decision not subject to call in**

**Consent of Chairman/ Deputy Chairman of Council to Urgency:**

**Deadline for call-in:**

**Implementation date if not called-in:**

**Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

**Call-in notified to and date notified:**

**Approved for implementation on:**

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