

Record of Decisions

Future of Chestnut Children's Centre Nursery

Decision Taker

Mayor on 06 February 2013

Decision

That Chestnut Nursery be closed with effect from the 31 August 2013 subject to the decision being reconsidered should a viable alternative become available by no later than 15 May 2013.

Reason for the Decision

There is no evidence to demonstrate that an alternative viable option is available. If a viable alternative option does become available by 15 May 2013, the option is considered at this time.

The consultation process highlighted public support for the nursery, but did not identify substantial alternative options. The most credible alternative to closure would be to outsource the nursery to an outside provider and the decision provides for this to be explored with an extended period up to 15 May 2013.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 19 February 2013 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Torbay Council established, delivered and financially subsidised the running of Chestnut Children's Centre Nursery through funding to deliver statutory Children's Centres. In 2010 the statutory duty to provide childcare from 8 am to 6 pm was removed and the amount of funding provided to the Council was reduced. The Council recognises its duties to provide childcare is best achieved through working with partners. Procurement exercises were carried out in 2009 and 2011 to offer Chestnut Nursery to an alternative provider and on both occasions little interest was expressed in the nursery.

The demand for nursery placements at Chestnut Nursery has declined. As a result the Council consulted on the future of the nursery to inform the decision regarding its viability. Without Chestnut Nursery there remains a sufficient number of alternative childcare placements to accommodate children.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The consultation carried out by Children's Services explored three alternative options, the results of which are set out in the report. Amendments were also proposed and considered during the Council meeting – please refer to the Council minutes for 6 February 2013 for further details.

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I011201

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

Councillor Stocks declared a non pecuniary interest as she is a trustee of Play Torbay.

Published

February 2013

Signed: _____
Mayor of Torbay

Date: 11 February 2013