

Finance and Resources Committee

10am, Thursday, 17 March 2016

Extension of contract with Pilton Retreat

Item number	7.22
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive Summary

This report is to request approval for a 12 month extension to the contract with Pilton Retreat. This extension will allow Pilton Retreat to continue providing services and to develop a fundraising strategy with a view to securing its longer term future for the community of North Edinburgh.

Links

Coalition pledges	P1
Council priorities	CO1-CO6
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2, SO3

Finance and Resources Committee

Extension of contract with Pilton Retreat

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Finance and Resource Committee approve the extension of the contract with Pilton Retreat for the 12 month period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

2. Background

- 2.1 Pilton Retreat delivers services to young people, schools and vulnerable families in North Edinburgh. It offers a safe and supportive rural residential venue for groups and individuals that is highly valued by the communities that use it.
- 2.2 Pilton Retreat provides opportunities for children and young people who may not otherwise have access to holidays or other leisure activities as a result of family circumstances. For many, this is an opportunity to experience a different environment and spend time in semi-rural settings. It provides a safe environment for play outside and to mix with peers in a non-formal setting.

3. Main report

- 3.1 Communities and Families has initiated a review of youth work contracts with the aim of developing a focus on universal, open-access youth work provision. Extensions to a number of organisations funded through youth work contracts were approved by Finance and Resources Committee on 29 October 2015. Although in receipt of one of these contracts until March 2016, this report did not include Pilton Retreat because it did not meet the revised specification for youth work. It is, however, a locally-valued service that provides opportunities for children and young people from the Pilton area, and is well used by local nursery and primary schools as well as other organisations. The organisation was therefore referred to the Children and Families Revenue Grants Programme.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 11 February 2016, the Education, Children and Families Committee approved the recommendation in the [Children and Families Revenue Grants to Third Parties 2016/19](#) report that a request be made to Finance and Resources Committee for a one year contract extension for Pilton Retreat. The value of this will be £52,979, which is 95% of the 2015/16 contract value.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Continuity of services by Pilton Retreat to schools, children and families in North Edinburgh.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The full value of the waiver from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 is £52,979. This will be funded from the Communities and Families Youth Work Contracts budget.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 In relation to procurement risk, the value of the extension is above the current threshold for regulated procurement; however, as a 'social care' type service there is some discretion which permits the Council to decide how transparency is addressed. The risk of challenge to the 12 month extension is considered to be low.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 People on low incomes are supported to take part in activities that would be otherwise unaffordable.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There are no adverse environmental outcomes arising from this report

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 There was widespread consultation and engagement around the revenue grants programme and youth work services redesign. The Education, Children and Families Committee meeting on 11 February received a deputation from the North Edinburgh Young People's Forum.

10. Background reading/external references

Alistair Gaw

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Links

Coalition pledges	P1 – Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care
Council priorities	CO1 – Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed CO2 – Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities CO3 – Our children and young people in need, or with a disability, have improved life chances CO4 – Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy CO5 – Our children and young people are safe from harm or fear of harm, and do not harm others within their communities CO6 – Our children and young people's outcomes are not undermined by poverty and inequality
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3 – Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
Appendices	