



Enquiries to: Information Team
Our Ref: FOI 11637821/IR

request-858372-e4cd210b@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Josie Mullen

Freedom of Information Request 11637821/Internal Review

Thank you for your request which has been actioned under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in which you requested the following information –

In FOI 8569932 / 4th August 2021 / Robert Booth, LCC stated the following:

'We do not operate or fund our own youth centres'

In the same FOI LCC made clear that it doesn't monitor in any way the opening hours of youth centres or the number or quality of activities that take place in these centres.

At one time LCC certainly did own its own youth centres.....so please supply the following information.

Since 2010 please supply the name and address of each youth centre [or whatever name LCC calls them] that has been sold off or leased.

For each youth centre please supply the following information:

[a] A link to the committee meeting when it was decided to sell/ give away/ lease each youth centre

[b] The name of the individual/company that carried out the independent valuation of each youth centre

[c] The name of the individual /company who bought or was given each youth centre / or was leased each youth centre.....[Knibb comes to mind]

[d] Please state how much each youth centre was sold/ leased for

[e] Please supply all information that explains why LCC has no interest in the quality or quantity of delivery in Liverpool's youth centres

Internal Review

The basis under which this review is undertaken is that the Council has not provided a timely response.

We agree with your assessment and therefore uphold your request for review insofar as a response has been unacceptably delayed due to the failure of service areas to

Liverpool City Council Information Team
Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1DS
E: informationrequests@liverpool.gov.uk

respond. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this. In relation to the specifics of this request, our responses are as follows –

- a) A number of buildings used for the delivery of youth services were not sold but asset transferred. Two decisions of Cabinet cover this matter.

Firstly, Cabinet on 21 March 2014 approved a report 'Asset Transfer Integrated Youth and Play Service Facilities (LEL/9)' confirming that in contribution to the Councils requirement to save £156m over the next three years, the Integrated Youth and Play Service be required to reduce the cost of the service by 50%. As a result of the budget reductions a refocus in service delivery was planned and evaluated resulting in a number of assets being surplus to operational requirements.

Secondly, Cabinet on 1 August 2014 then approved a follow up report, 'Asset Transfer Integrated Youth and Play Service Facilities (NW/1)', advising of the proposed disposal of the premises through medium term leases to third sector/voluntary groups. Whilst at peppercorn rents, the full cost of the properties would then contribute towards the service cost reduction targets. The proposal was also intended bring capital investment into the properties as the groups to which these were transferred could apply for grants from third party organisations.

In accordance with our duty to provide advice, assistance and guidance, a copy of both reports and minutes for each meeting are attached.

In relation to the list of buildings covered by this decision, in total 6 youth and community buildings were asset transferred between 2014 and 2016 to youth and community organisations. They were as follows –

- Knotty Ash Community Centre
- Epsom Street Play Centre
- Queens Road Play Centre
- Mab Lane youth centre Service
- Childwall Youth Centre
- Walton Hall Adventure Playground

All of the organisations agreed to take over the premises with no financial assistance from the Council regarding running costs. They were offered a 10 year business lease at a peppercorn rent from a date to be agreed. The lease will contain such other terms as within the Council's standard lease and will be non-negotiable.

- b) The above buildings have become surplus to requirements as ratified by Cabinet on 21 March 2014. Expressions of interests were advertised to community and voluntary organisations through Liverpool Council for Voluntary Services and interested organisations were required to complete an application form detailing the proposed use of the building and the finances available to run and maintain the building. Applicants were scored against set criteria and shortlisted applicants were invited to an interview to discuss their application in more detail.

- c) Details of the organisations these facilities were transferred to are as follows –
- Knotty Ash Community Centre – transferred to the Duke of Edinburgh organisation
 - Epsom Street Play Centre – transferred to Nugent Care
 - Queens Road Play Centre – transferred to Daisy UK
 - Mab Lane youth centre – transferred to the Young Peoples Advice Service
 - Childwall Youth Centre – transferred to Young Peoples Advice Centre
 - Walton Hall Adventure Playground – transferred to Alt Valley Community Trust
- d) Information relating to the details of any leases can be found at the land registry at HM Land Registry. In accordance with our duty to provide advice, assistance and guidance we would advise that their website is accessible via the following weblink – <https://www.gov.uk/search-property-information-land-registry>
- e) This question is largely leading statement and comment and in either case is incorrect. Whilst the Council does not operate or fund our own youth centres, we do monitor the quality of activities of the centres we fund via quarterly reporting mechanisms and regular meetings with youth club staff. We provide capacity building support to help centres apply for much needed funding to deliver activities. The Council remains committed to working with partner organisations to support youth services and activities, balanced with the need to operate within our budget and the limited resources available to the Council.

This concludes our response. The council will consider appeals relating to this response provided these are submitted in writing to Informationrequests@liverpool.gov.uk within 28 days of receiving this response.

The matter will be dealt with by an officer who was not previously involved with the response, and we will look to provide a response within 40 days. If you remain dissatisfied, you may also apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision about whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Information Commissioner's website is www.ico.gov.uk and the postal address and telephone numbers are:- Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone: 0303-123-113. Email – mail@ico.gov.uk (they advise that their email is not secure)

We trust this information satisfies your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

A Lewis

Information Team

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