

East Herts Council – Non-Key Decision Record

Record of executive decision made by an individual under Regulation 13 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Reference Number: NKD24/08

Taken by: Councillor Carl Brittain – Executive Member for Financial Sustainability

Decision

That:

- (A) The freehold title to the strip of land outlined in red on the plan in Appendix A, be transferred to Hertfordshire County Council for the sum of £1 plus this Council's reasonable costs; and**
- (B) The transfer will contain a covenant that the existing woodland will remain as woodland and to be used for educational purposes.**

Date of Decision

1 August 2024

Reason(s) for decision

- (A) The strip of land is of little value to the Council and future maintenance would be difficult and costly.**
- (B) The woodland/ditch section is believed to be ancient woodland and therefore HCC have agreed to a covenant that this part of the land will remain as woodland, for educational purposes.**
- (C) Transfer of the freehold of the short footpath section to HCC at the same time would be sensible as the remaining slither of sub-soil is of no real value to the Council.**
- (D) If a transfer of title is not approved, the Council could negotiate terms for a new lease to the new Academy Trust,**

however this is of little benefit to the Council and would create a delay in the transfer of the school site to the Trust. It would also create a future liability for the Council if the Trust did not wish to take a lease now or in the future.

Details of alternative options considered and rejected

- (A) Agree to the transfer of the freehold title of the whole of the unregistered strip with no restrictions as to future use.
- (B) Refuse the transfer and consider a lease of the woodland strip to the new Academy Trust.

Does the decision or report contain exempt information?

No

State nature of any declaration of conflict of interest made by any Executive Member who is consulted by the Member taking the decision

None

State, in respect of any declared conflict of interest, whether any dispensation has been granted

N/A

Contact Officer

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