

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

2266

Author:

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Department:

Development

Contact:

Sharon Mullen

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Subject:

Re: Skills Funding Agency - Community Learning Grant 2015/16

Total Value:

£301,056 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To enter into a funding agreement with the Skills Funding Agency for Community Learning (Family Learning) and access the £301,056 budget over the academic year (August - July) 2015/16
- 2) To delegate the authority to administer the funds, in accordance with the Skills Funding Agency agreement to the Director of Economic Development. Use this funding to extend the contract of the existing sub-contractors by 1 year. This is permitted within the current procurement framework.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

Nottingham City Council is responsible for the delivery of Community Learning provision using the SFA Community Learning grant. The service has now received a contract from the SFA for 2015/16. In order to draw down the funding for the academic year 2015/16 we need to enter into an agreement with the SFA. This requires a delegated decision.

Nottingham City Council was subject to an Ofsted inspection in February 2015 and the service was awarded grade 2 for Leadership and Management and quality of Teaching Learning and Assessment so in terms of the quality assurance all provision is considered good by Ofsted.

This outcome coupled with ongoing performance monitoring means that we are confident to extend existing sub-contractors as follows:

New College Nottingham (£120k), Central College Nottingham (£49k), Groundwork Greater Nottingham (£20k), Life Education Centre (£44k), Futures Nottingham (£15k) Nottinghamshire County Council (£9.5k). 20% of the total budget will support staffing infrastructure, tutor CPD and systems and procedures.

During 2014/15 a total of 985 learners were engaged in Family Learning programmes. In addition 218 learners participated on City DEAL programmes, giving a combined total of 1,203 learners. A 150 courses were delivered during the last academic year with learning taking place in over 60 venues across the City. The majority of which took place in Primary Schools but also included 3 Children Centres, 2 secondary schools, Nottingham Ice Arena, Pupil Referral Unit and HMP Nottingham.

A total of 301 learners achieved national recognised qualifications including Functional Skills in English and Maths at level 1 & 2.

**Other Options Considered:**

Not entering into this agreement with the Skills Funding Agency (SFA). This would be a loss of £301,054 grant funding for the City to upskill Nottingham City Families.

Not providing this service would impact on approx 1,000 families, resulting in parents not being up skilled in supporting their childrens learning and development as well as their own subject knowledge in English, Maths, ICT and emotional literacy.

**Background Papers:**

**Published Works:**

<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/53664>

**Affected Wards:**

Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:**

**Consultations:**

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:**

Family learning provision actively encourages families and the community to be responsible within their community. One programme offer is called Law and Order/Community Safety. This programme encourages families to be active & responsible citizens within their local community.

**Equality:**

EIA not required. Reasons: This is not a new or changing policy.

**Decision Type:**

Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:**

Yes

**Call In Expiry date:**

11/12/2015

**Advice Sought:**

Legal, Finance, Procurement

**Legal Advice:**

There are no legal issues arising from the decisions set out in this report. Legal advice should be sought as required in respect of any obligations set out in the funding agreement.  
  
Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 08/09/2015.

**Finance Advice:**

This decision seeks approval to enter into a funding agreement with the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) in respect of funding of £301,056, and to incur expenditure to this value.  
  
There has been an announcement by the SFA to continue providing this funding to Local Authorities, however the Council is waiting for formal notification of the grant award and conditions. Therefore it is advisable to wait for notification of the grant award before entering any contracts and incurring expenditure.  
  
In order to ensure value for money a procurement exercise was undertaken in 2014 in accordance with financial regulations to determine the organisations to deliver the family learning.  
  
The Employment & Skills team will continue to monitor of the activities and contracts in order to ensure compliance to the Skills Funding Agency's grant conditions.  
  
Advice provided by Maria Balchin (Finance Analyst) on 03/08/2015.

**Procurement Advice:**

**There are no procurement concerns with this decision.**

**The current framework for provision of Family Learning (our reference CPU1294) was tendered in 2014 in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules and includes the option to extend the agreement for a further year as set out in this report.**

**Advice provided by Dawn Cafferty (Procurement Category Manager) on 15/07/2015.**

**Signatures**

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| <b>Nick McDonald (Portfolio Holder for Jobs, Growth and Transport)</b> |
| <b>SIGNED and Dated: 23/11/2015</b>                                    |
| <b>David Bishop (Deputy CE, CD for Development and Growth)</b>         |
| <b>SIGNED and Dated: 04/12/2015</b>                                    |