

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

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| Reference Number: | 3809 |
| Author: | vaughen crompton |
| Department: | Commercial and Operations |
| Contact: | vaughen crompton (Job Title: Housing Project Manager, Email: vaughen.crompton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 0115 8764755) |
| Subject: | Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Funding - Innovate and Enforce |
| Total Value: | £101,210 (Type: Revenue) |
| Decision Being Taken: | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To accept and use funds from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in relation to the delivery of the Innovate & Enforce project, as set out in the attached Appendices.2. To dispense with Contract Procedure Rules 5.1.1, in accordance with Financial Regulations (3.28), to award a contract directly to 'Marks Out of Tenancy', to deliver and populate a 'rate your landlord' app.3. To dispense with Contract Procedure Rules 5.1.1, in accordance with Financial Regulations (3.28), to award a contract directly to Bond Solon, to deliver enforcement training to officers. |
| Reasons for the Decision(s) | The funds from the MHCLG are in relation to the delivery of two projects: one to conduct research of care leavers living in the private rented sector and understand their experiences and the risks of their either becoming homeless or falling into the criminal justice system, and the other to provide a suite of tools for tenants and landlords. The project aims to offer a range of tools make both their lives easier and to improve the safety and quality of housing. Spending is to be in line with the terms and conditions of the grant. 'Marks Out of Tenancy' is the only provider of the 'rate your landlord' service for the private rented sector and they supported the bidding process to receive the funds. Bond solon is a training provider of the BTEC Level 7 in Advanced Investigative Practice to develop the skills of the Environmental Officers, and to award the contract to them as the only the cheapest of only 2 providers, in line with procurement advice. |
| Briefing notes documents: | Nottingham City Council - Funding Letter.pdf, MHCLG Funding table (1).docx, PRS Innovate Enforce NOTTINGHAM Research Proposal NOV 2019.docx, PRS Innovate Enforce NOTTINGHAM Suite Proposal NOV 2019.docx |

Other Options Considered: Do nothing and not deliver the project keep business as usual. This would have a negative impact on us meeting our strategic objectives of making housing in the private rented sector better for citizens. For this reason, this option was rejected.

Background Papers: None.

Published Works: None.

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None.

Dispensation from Financial Regulations: Yes

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: Project 1 will have a direct impact on the shaping of a deliverable strategy for the Local Authority and the work needed to support care leavers who are living in the private rented sector, and supports the Authority with increasing living standards to prevent the most vulnerable from falling in to homelessness or the criminal justice service. Project 2 will support the Local Authority increase housing standards across the private rented sector via a housing rating system for tenants and a series of how to videos, it will also deliver a series of training for both landlords and Internal colleagues to support the increase of housing standards across the City.

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: The decision does not represent a change to policy, functions or services.

Social Value Considerations: Not applicable.

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 09/03/2020

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

This report seeks approval to accept grant funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The City Council must ensure it complies with the grant conditions and should apply the same conditions to any contract it awards using the grant monies. In particular, it should include appropriate clawback and reporting conditions. The contract with Marks Out of Tenancy to develop the app should oblige Marks out of Teannacy to make the app available to end users at no cost.

Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 28/01/2020.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval to incur expenditure totalling £101,000 in respect of Housing projects. This cost will be fully funded from ring-fenced grant approved by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The grant award letter outlines grant conditions the Council must adhere to. As a result, the project manager will need to put in place measures to ensure compliance to the grant condition in order to avoid an overspend position. The project manager has advised that the expenditure will be incurred in accordance to the Council's financial regulations to ensure best value.

Advice provided by Maria Balchin (Finance Analyst) on 13/01/2020.

Procurement Advice:

This decision relates to the acceptance and use of Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government funding for the delivery of the Innovate and Enforce Project, as detailed. All expenditure should be compliant with the conditions of the grant funding and all allocations of funding to external agencies should be in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Contracts Procedure Rules and managed through contractual arrangements. In relation to the proposed contract awards, it is understood that 'Marks Out of Tenancy' is the only provider of a landlord rating App for the private rented sector and was involved in the preparation of the funding bid. An informal quotation process has been undertaken for a provider of Environmental Health Officer training and the award is proposed to be made to the bidder offering the best value in terms of quality and price. Therefore, dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.1 in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.28) is supported from a procurement perspective.

Advice provided by Jo Pettifor (Procurement Team Manager) on 06/02/2020.

Signatures

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (PH Housing, Planning and Heritage)

SIGNED and Dated: 13/02/2020

Andy Vaughan (Corporate Director Commercial and Operations)

SIGNED and Dated: 13/02/2020

Laura Pattman (Strategic Director of Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations

SIGNED and Dated: 02/03/2020

Chief Finance Officer's Comments: