

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

**Reference Number:**

**3892**

**Author:**

**Robert Dixon**

**Department:**

**Development and Growth**

**Contact:**

**Robert Dixon**

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**Subject:**

**Opening High Street Fund**

**Total Value:**

**£294,000 (Type: Revenue)**

**Decision Being Taken:**

**To accept ERDF (EU) funding via MHCLG of £294,000 to support opening the high street, with plans, communciation, support to businesses and appropriate public realm. To delegate to the Director of Economic Development the budget and to make any contracts to deliver the objectives of the fund, in consultation with Portfolio Holder for City Centre. Work plan to cover City Centre and niehgbourhoods.**

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

**Government has allocated funding via ERDF (EU) to all Local Authorities to support opening of the High Street. Nottingham's allocation is £294,000. The money is to support develop an action plan for how the Nottingham will begin to safely reopen their local economies, inline with latest Government guidance. Key will be delivery of an action plan, with three key deliverables:**

- 1. Communications and public information activity to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely**
- 2. Business-facing awareness raising activities to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely.**
- 3. Temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely.**

**A full action plan will be brought forward looking at short and longer term activities with the objective of bringing the City Centre and other key retail centres back to life safely in a way consistent with Government guidance on exit from lockdown.**

**The project will require a cross functional team from the council to manage the project from Commercial and Operations and Development and Growth, as well as central communications and marketing.**

**The team will report to the Portfolio Holder for City Centre and the Portfolio Holder for Communities, as the funding will deliver support in the City Centre, and neighbourhoods, including key arterial retail areas.**

**Due to the urgency, as spend is required from 1 June opening from 15th June, a fast decision is required.**

**Other Options Considered:** Decline funding. Rejected, as the funding will help Nottingham re-open post Covid 19. Without it, we would need to spend the money form internal NCC funds.

**Background Papers:** none

**Published Works:** none

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** none

**Consultations:**  
Date: 26/05/2020  
Ward Councillors: Sam Webster  
Approved outline plan, at the sub programme board

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:** The funding will help retail areas bounce back after Covid 19

**Equality:** Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Opening High Street EIA 270520.docx

**Relates to staffing:** Yes

**Decision Type:** Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:** No  
The call-in procedure does not apply to the proposed decision because the delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or Vice-Chair) in his/her absence has been consulted and agreed both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency.

Person Consulted: Councillor Ann Peach  
Consultation Date: 04/06/2020

Urgency is required, as the funding is to support opening the city centre and neighbourhoods, as retail re-opens from 15th June. The funding will help citizens and businesses with clear information and messages. Funding was only released by government on 24th of May, and can be spent from 1 June 2020. Contracts and services will need to be procured now in order to have advertising, materials and programmes in place ready for a gradual re-opening of the city post covid 19.

**Advice Sought:**

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Equality and Diversity

**Legal Advice:**

This report seeks authority to accept funding from MCHLG and to award grants to businesses. The City Council must ensure it complies with the terms of the grant funding conditions including providing financial reports to MCHLG. The City Council should put a grant agreement in place with the recipients of any grant the city Council pays to ensure it is able to obtain any information required to report to MCHLG and to clawback any funding if the recipient does not comply with the terms of the grant provided to it. The City Council can rely on the UK Government Umbrella approval to ensure any payments made to businesses are not unlawful state aid. This will require the recipient business to sign a declaration. Legal Services will assist the Development team to prepare any necessary documentation. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 03/06/2020.

**Finance Advice:**

This decision seeks approval to receive and spend £0.294m of ERDF grant funding. The grant will be payable in arrears for qualifying expenditure, upon submission of a grant claim(s) to the awarding body (MCHLG).

Staff time spent on the project can be claimed back from the fund. There are not any requirements for NCC match funding, therefore there is little financial risk to the authority.

Advice provided by Chanelle Poyser (Commercial Business Partner) on 02/06/2020.

**Equality and Diversity Advice:**

Comments have been provided on EIA as attached. Advice provided by Nasreen Miah (Equality & employability consultant) on 01/06/2020.

Advice documents: [Opening High Street EIA 270520.docx](#)

**Procurement Advice:**

Procurement colleagues will support any quotation/tendering exercises that may arise from acceptance of the funding to ensure compliance with ERDF funding policies and value for money.

Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Lead Procurement Officer) on 29/05/2020.

**HR Advice:**

**Management propose to seek redeployees from across the council to support the delivery of the grant/service. Where this cannot be achieved Management have been advised to consider engagement of casual workers from the council's casual pool.**

**Shilpa Arya, HR Consultant D&G Advice provided by Shilpa Arya (HR Consultant) on 29/05/2020.**

**Signatures**

**Sam Webster (PH Finance, Growth and City Centre)**

**SIGNED and Dated: 05/06/2020**

**Chris Henning (Corporate Director for Development and Growth)**

**SIGNED and Dated: 04/06/2020**