

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

3893

Author:

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Department:

Development and Growth

Contact:

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Subject:

Covid 19 Support for Homelessness and Rough Sleepers

Total Value:

£777,146 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To approve spend up to £777,146 as outlined in the attached appendix to ensure sufficient provision exists to manage the spread of Coronavirus specifically for those Rough Sleeping or Homeless.

To approve the claim to MHCLG to seek to reclaim this funding in line with the Rough Sleeping contingency fund letter attached

To accept the initial £22,500 outlined in the Rough Sleeping contingency fund letter and to request further funding to cover the remaining £754,646

To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Development and Growth to adjust the spend in line with need

To seek dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Emergency Action) due to the direct award of the contracts to the suppliers listed in the appendix.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

In light of the Covid 19 pandemic an emergency response is required to re-accommodate rough sleepers that would have been previously accommodated in the Safe Space to Stay Hub (8 units) and Emmanuel House night shelter (20-25 units) This is in line with Government guidance as directed by Public health England that accommodation whereby rough sleepers do not have access to self-contained units such as bathrooms pose further risk of spreading the virus. Rough sleepers are a cohort most at risk as they are more likely to have pre-existing co-morbidities in comparison to the rest of the population. Additional support is required in order to distinguish those symptomatic and require self isolation and those asymptomatic.

Homelessness remains a national issue which has continued to increase and funding is required for additional costs Local Authorities are experiencing in supporting those within the most clinically high risk cohort and who have no reliable social network. Nottingham City Council has found it self in a never before experienced position where in order to avoid a public health crisis, those who are homeless, at risk of homeless and rough sleepers need to be re-accommodated in any remaining hotel accommodation or temporary accommodation that has not closed in response to the pandemic. Nottingham City Council have submitted comprehensive workplans to deliver interventions as outlined in the Flexible Homeless Support Grant and Homelessness Reduction Grant 2020-21 and Rough Sleeping Grant 2020-21, however these measures were not designed to incorporate the current public health emergency and as a result the Local Authority will need to find the financial resources to ensure the safety and wellbeing of it's citizens in appropriate accommodation.

The decision to close hotels and bed and Breakfast accommodation whereby families and individuals owed a statutory duty has resulted in the re-accommodation of this cohort adding greater pressure to finding alternative accommodation amongst a limited choice of hotels choosing to remain open. Despite Government guidance to remain open where people have been placed who are owed a statutory duty, hotels and Bed & Breakfast provision have closed causing greater pressure to find safe and suitable accommodation.

The funding is required to deliver the interventions contained within the plan. These are outlined in exempt Appendix - 1 Covid 19 Emergency Funding.

Briefing notes documents:

Covid 19 Emergency Support for Homelessness and Rough Sleeping v5 13.5.2020.docx

Other Options Considered:

To not bid for, accept and spend the funding This has been rejected as the council is reliant upon this funding to deliver the services required to tackle the public health issue as a result of Covid 19 and rough sleepers who are a high risk category of being infected and transmitting the disease in the city.

To accept the funding and use it in another way than that outlined in Appendix A. This has been rejected as the funding is conditional on spending it in accordance with the defined programme.

Background Papers:

Unpublished background papers:

MHCLG COVID -19 Rough Sleeping Contingency Fund.pdf

Published Works:

Confirmation from MHCLG that an initial £22,500 from the Covid 19 Rough Sleeping Contingency Fund would be issued to Nottingham to address the immediate issue of ensuring that rough sleepers had offers of hotel accommodation and thereby removing them from the street. The Night shelter and Safe Space to stay hub was deemed inappropriate as dwellings for rough sleepers as the facilities were not self contained as the use of shared bathroom facilities increased the potential spread of the virus.

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Any Information Exempt from publication:

Yes

Dispensation from Financial Regulations:

Yes

Exempt Information:

Description of what is exempt:

Attached appendix is exempt as this contains sensitive information with regards payments to providers

An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because it contains details of confirmation of payments and fees made to individual providers for the provision of accommodation for those experiencing homelessness.

Documents exempt from publication:

Covid 19 Emergency Support for Homelessness and Rough Sleeping v5 13.5.2020.docx

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

The support will ensure that rough sleepers and homeless families and individuals are accommodated in appropriate accommodation. Without this provision rough sleepers will be a visible presence on the streets and are at greater risk of further spreading the virus. New police measures include the police having the powers to detain individuals who are in a public place that are symptomatic and places for these people to be removed to are urgently required.

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: This decision does not concern new services or functions

Regard for NHS Constitution:

Local authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to the NHS Constitution when exercising their public health functions under the NHS Act 2006. In making this decision relating to public health functions, we have properly considered the NHS Constitution where applicable and have taken into account how it can be applied in order to commission services to improve the health of the local community.

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

12/06/2020

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

This report seeks authority to accept grant funding and to place contracts with accommodation providers to house rough sleepers. The City Council can award direct contracts in response to the COVID 19 outbreak as a matter of urgency in accordance with Regulation 32 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The legal services team will support and provide assistance to procurement and commissioning colleagues to put in place contracts with the accommodation providers. It is advised that the Community Protection team should be consulted and/or involved in the implementation of the provision of the accommodation to the rough sleepers. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 20/04/2020.

Finance Advice:

See attached document for financial advice
Provided by Clare Gavagan (Strategic Finance Business Partner - C&O) and Susan Tytherleigh (Strategic Finance Business Partner - D&G) on 23/04/2020.
Advice documents: Finance comments Covid-19 Rough Sleeping and Homelessness DD complete.docx

Procurement Advice:

Dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Emergency Action) is supported from a procurement perspective in order to direct award contracts to the suppliers listed in the Appendix to ensure that there is sufficient provision to manage the spread of Covid-19 within the Rough Sleeping and Homeless communities. The individual values of these proposals fall below the EU procurement threshold. It should be ensured that there are appropriate contractual arrangements in place with the suppliers. Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 17/04/2020.

Signatures

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (PH Housing, Planning and Heritage)
SIGNED and Dated: 04/06/2020
Chris Henning (Corporate Director for Development and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 21/05/2020
Laura Pattman (Strategic Director of Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 03/06/2020
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: