

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	3894
Author:	Anne-Marie Furnell
Department:	Development and Growth
Contact:	Anne-Marie Furnell (Job Title: Homelessness strategy Manager, Email: anne-marie.furnell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 07949185383)
Subject:	Programme of spend for Flexible Homeless Support Grant and Homeless Reduction Grant 2020-21
Total Value:	£969.035.00 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	<p>To accept the Government Flexible Homeless Support Grant (FHSG) 2020-21 of £592,258.00 and Homeless Reduction Grant (HRG)2020-21 of £376,777.00 and spend in accordance with the programme of measures outlined in Appendix 1 - programme for spend of FHSG and HRG 2020-21.</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Development and Growth to adjust the remit of spend between the listed measures as demand requires within the financial envelope.</p> <p>To approve dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules 4.1.1 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (operational issues) in order to commence services as outlined in points 2 (a) 2 (b) 2 (c) in Appendix 1 - Programme for spend of FHSG and HRG 2020-21.</p>
Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>Homelessness remains a national issue and for 2020-21 Government have issued two ringfenced grants to support local authorities in their work to both prevent and respond to homelessness.</p> <p>In Nottingham, the pressures have been acute with increasing numbers contacting the local authority for support as they find themselves homeless (or at risk of homelessness). Nottingham City Council has a comprehensive workplan that aims to deliver interventions that help to prevent people from becoming homeless and to rehouse them if they do. The plan also includes ensuring sufficiency in temporary accommodation for those households in need of emergency shelter pending their resettlement. This funding is required to deliver some of the measures contained within the plan. These are outlined in Appendix 1 - Programme of Spend for Flexible Homeless Support Grant and Homeless Reduction Grant 2020-21 - for information not for publication.</p>
Briefing notes documents:	Appendix 1 Programme for spend of FHSG and HRG 2020-21 Not for publication v3 (002).docx

Other Options Considered: To not bid for, accept and spend the grant. This has been rejected as the council is reliant upon this funding to deliver the services required to tackle rough sleeping.
To accept the grant and spend it in another way than that outlined in Appendix A. This has been rejected as the grant is conditional on spending it in accordance with the defined programme.

Background Papers:

Unpublished background papers: Flexible Homeless support grant 17-18 Form2921.pdf

Published Works: Delegated Decision 3308 - Reducing the Use of Bed and Breakfast for homeless households
Delegated Decision 3491 - Use of New Burdens funding for homelessness provision
Delegated Decision 3725 - Use of Flexible Homelessness Support Grant 2019/20
Delegated Decision 3677 - Use of New Burdens Grant 2019/20
Delegated Decision 3676 - Use of Private Rented Sector Access Fund - Quarter 4 2018/19 to end of 2019/20

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None

Any Information Exempt from publication: Yes

Dispensation from Financial Regulations: Yes

Exempt Information:

Description of what is exempt: Appendix of spend

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 the appendix contains details of providers' fees for the provision of accommodation for those experiencing homelessness.

Documents exempt from publication:

Appendix 1 Programme for spend of FHSG and HRG 2020-21 Not for publication v3 (002).docx

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

None

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: An EIA has been completed within the past 12 months for a previous delegated decision containing the measures included within the programme of spend for this grant.

Any implications affecting IT:

Yes

Relates to staffing:

Yes

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

12/06/2020

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, IT

Legal Advice:

This report seeks authority to accept two grants to fund homelessness reduction projects and to approve how the funding is to be allocated. The bespoke solutions fund. Following discussions with the report author and procurement colleagues there are no significant issues with any of the proposals to extend contracts as either the financial values in aggregate remain under the 'light touch' regime - and therefore the dispensations are supported. The 'bespoke prevention solutions' budget allocation provides a fund for a variety of uses to enable the City Council to respond in flexible ways to try and prevent homelessness - while the proposal suggests the sums to be used for each activity are small it is important that those who make the payments ensure they have records and evidence of payments made. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 29/04/2020.

Finance Advice:

Flexible Homeless Support Grant (FHSG) for 20/21 and the Homeless Reduction Grant 20/21 allocation provides Nottingham City Council with a reduced overall grant allocation in comparison to 19/20 for Homelessness of approximately £30k.

The detailed programme of work outlined within the appendix to this decision aligns to the grants purpose and will be monitored monthly with any reallocation requiring the approval of the Corporate Director of Development.

The dispensation of financial regulations requested as part of this decision is considered appropriate as it requires the continuation of contracts with specialist providers.

Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 14/02/2020.

Procurement Advice:

The proposal to direct award contracts for supported accommodation provision and spend the Flexible Homeless Support Grant allocation on the measures as outlined and dispensation from the Contract Procedure Rules 4.1.1 and in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) (operational issues)is supported from a procurement perspective and is allowed under Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. 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 providers.

Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 23/03/2020.

IT Advice:

The IT Service supports the proposals made within this delegated decision.

The delivery of services to address homelessness is made in concert with other Council services. The IT Service will support work arising from this funding where IT requirements arise ensuring solutions are compatible with other Council services.

Advice provided by Paul J. Burrows (IT Change, Projects & Strategy Manager) on 04/02/2020.

HR Advice:

Management propose the creation and renewal of a number of fixed term posts. Where an employee has accrued more than 2 years' service, management should be aware of the right to a redundancy payment if the reason for dismissal is redundancy and budget accordingly. In giving notice to end a fixed term contract, management will need to ensure appropriate timelines are in place to notify the affected employees and give appropriate notice and referral to Redeployment in accordance with the Fixed Term Workers Policy. Management will need to complete a variation to contract to notify the Employee Service Centre (ESC) to ensure that employees are advised of the decision to extend in writing.

Management proposals to uplift 1x Housing Aid Officer to a supervisor. Any uplift or changes to job descriptions are subject to job evaluation under the GLPC Job Evaluation scheme. The uplifted supervisor position should be ring-fenced to all those in the Housing Aid Officer job role and recruitment should be in line with a ring fenced recruitment process.

For further clarification please contact Shilpa Arya HR Consultant extension 62120 Advice provided by Shilpa Arya (HR Consultant) on 24/02/2020.

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: 26/05/2020
Laura Pattman (Strategic Director of Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 04/06/2020
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: