

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

3927

Author:

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Department:

Development and Growth

Contact:

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Subject:

Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant 2020-21

Key Decision (decision valued at more than £1million):

Yes

Total Value:

£1,392,813.00 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To accept the grant of £1,392,813.00 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and spend it in accordance with the programme of spend outlined Appendix A - Rough Sleeper Initiative 2020-21 - Programme of spend (exempt from publication)

To grant dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules 4.1.1 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Operational Issues) in order for the continuation of service contracts outlined at points 1(Prison release navigator only), 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Appendix A. This provision will ensure seamless delivery of services required to achieve the continuation of a reduction in rough sleeping in Nottingham.

Reasons for the Decision(s) Rough Sleeping continues to increase nationally. Since 2018/19, the Government has made available grant funding to local councils via a competitive bidding process to help them tackle the issue. Up until now, there have been a number of separate grants that Nottingham City Council has secured through this process. This includes the Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant 2018/19 and 2019/20, the Rapid Rehousing Pathway Early Adopter Grant and 2019/20 Grant and the Cold Weather Fund Grant 2019/20. The Government has now combined the Rough Sleeping Initiative and Rapid Rehousing Grants into one funding stream called the Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant 2020/21.

Addressing the issue of rough sleeping in Nottingham is a key priority for Nottingham City Council and included as a pledge within the Council Plan. The Council has developed a comprehensive Homelessness Prevention Strategy which identifies rough sleeping as one of its four priority areas and a subsequent detailed strategic approach has been outlined containing the system of services required to tackle the issue. This funding is required for the continued delivery of those services in 2020-21.

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: None

Published Works: DD 3508
DD 3726
DD 3299
DD 3748
DD 3776

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:

Proposed variations and award of contracts

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 information on negotiations with organisations contracted to deliver services. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information because doing so may compromise the Council's position in respect of ongoing contract negotiations.

Documents exempt from publication:

Rough Sleeper Initiative 2020-21 Approvals for information not for publication v2.docx

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

None

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: Relevant Equality Impact Assessments have been written for previous decisions relating to the Rough Sleeping services contained within this decision within the past 12 months.

Relates to staffing:

Yes

Decision Type:

Leader's Key Decision

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

14/07/2020

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources

Legal Advice: This report seeks authority to accept grant funding and to extend or award a series of contracts to address rough sleeping in the City. The attached exempt appendix sets out the posts and contracts to be funded or awarded. Budgets for employment posts do not raise legal issues. Other contracts can be extended either where there is an option in the contract, because in aggregate the total spend falls below the applicable financial thresholds in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 for 'light touch' services such as these or alternatively in accordance with permissible modifications under Regulation 72. Contract documentation should be put in place with providers. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 20/04/2020.

Finance Advice: MHCLG allocated a number of grants within 19/20 to support the Council's work to reduce Rough Sleeping. The Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant (RSI) and Rapid Rehousing Pathway Grant (RRP) both are forecasting underspends which are completed via returns to MHCLG and therefore the allocation of the new Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant for 2020/21 has been adjusted accordingly by MHCLG. The detail of the spend for 20/21 is outlined in the exempt attachment and totals £1,545,171. The amount of grant received in 20/21 will be £1,393,813 with the remaining £154,358 to be carried forward from these underspends in 19/20 into 20/21. The appropriate financial adjustments will need to be completed at year end to ensure the money is correctly allocated in 20/21 and monitoring of the actual spend in 20/21 will be completed by the Homelessness Strategy Manager. Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 30/01/2020.

HR Advice: Management are proposing to extend a number of fixed term contracts for a period of 12 months to the 31 March 2021:FTE Hospital Discharge and 1 x FTE Mental Navigators, 1 x FTE Rough Sleeping Social Lettings Officer. When extending these contracts of employment, management will need to comply with the requirements of the Fixed Term Workers Regulations including consideration of rights to redundancy pay and redeployment as set out in the council's Fixed Term Workers Policy. Management should note that redundancy costs arising from these extensions will need to be fully met by the service. Advice provided by Shilpa Arya (HR Consultant) on 29/05/2020.

Procurement Advice: Dispensation from the Contract Procedure Rules 4.1.1 and 4.1.2, as applicable, in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) (operational issues) and is supported from a procurement perspective and permitted under Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, in order for direct awards to be made for the specified durations, as referred to in exempt appendix 1. Such awards will enable a range of measures to be put in place to support rough sleepers in Nottingham. 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 12/03/2020.

Signatures:

David Mellen (Leader/ PH Regeneration, Safety and Communications)
SIGNED and Dated: 20/06/2020
Chris Henning (Corporate Director for Development and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 22/06/2020
Laura Pattman (Strategic Director of Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 07/07/2020

Chief Finance Officer's Comments: