

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	3949
Author:	Jennifer Hardy
Department:	Children and Adults
Contact:	Jennifer Hardy (Job Title: Project Manager, Email: jennifer.hardy@nottinghamcity.gov.uk , Phone: 01158765629)
Subject:	Nottingham Schools Trust - grant agreement
Total Value:	£727,825 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	1) Approve the five year grant agreement for Nottingham Schools Trust 2) Approve release of funding outlined in the grant agreement

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Nottingham Schools Trust (NST) was established in 2017 in partnership between maintained schools in Nottingham and Nottingham City Council. It is part funded by schools, by money devolved by the Council from the Department for Education (DfE) and direct funding from the Council. In January, the Commissioning and Procurement Sub-Committee gave approval for the Council to enter in to a five year contract with Nottingham Schools Trust for the services it delivers, from 1st April 2020. The income awarded to NST through this contract comes directly to the Council from the DfE.

Part of the funding awarded to NST from the Council is for the Council's stake in the organisation, and this element is grant funded because it is not for specific services. Since exploring the grant funding arrangements more fully, it has been decided to amend the funding awarded through a contract and replace some of it with grant funding. The table below demonstrates this:

Funding stream

Annual figure

Governance

Intervention - funded by DfE

£120,000

Contract

School improvement monitoring

£83,565

Grant agreement (Originally down to be part of the contract)

Quality Assurance

£32,000

Contract

The Council's 20%

£62,000

Grant agreement

Approval has already been granted by the Commissioning and Procurement Sub-Committee to spend the funding outlined in the paper submitted in January, so this decision seeks approval to spend the proportion of the NST funding covered by the grant agreement. This is £152,000 annually for five years, which totals £760,000.

As a five year contract has been agreed for NST, a five year grant agreement is also sought to cover the same period - 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2025. Please note, this is a retrospective decision dating to 1 April 2020.

Other Options Considered: As a contract has already been agreed for NST, no other options were considered.

Background Papers: None

Published Works: Commissioning and Procurement Sub-Committee 14 January 2020 'Funding for Nottingham Schools Trust'

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None

Consultations:
Date: 14/01/2020
Other City Council Bodies: Commissioning and Procurement Sub Committee.
Recommendation approved.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: None

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: This is not a new or changing service or function.

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: Catherine Ziane-Pryor
Consultation Date: 30/06/2020
This is a retrospective decision.

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance

Legal Advice:

This report seeks authority to enter into a 5 year grant funding agreement with the Nottingham Schools Trust. The funding to be provided by the City Council will be split between a contract for services where the Trust is being commissioned to provide statutory services and other activities which the Council has now agreed to pay by a grant. The grant funding agreement will include KPIs so that the Council can measure the outputs delivered by the Trust. In addition to protect iteslef from funding cuts the grant agreement will reserve to the Council the right to terminate on notice before the end of the 5 year term. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 26/06/2020.

Finance Advice:

Finance observations are provided on the attached document.

Advice provided by Christine Green (Strategic Finance Business Partner) on 12/06/2020.

Advice documents: 2020 06 05 Financial Observations.docx

Signatures

David Mellen (Leader/ PH Regeneration, Schools, Communications)

SIGNED and Dated: 04/08/2020

Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)

SIGNED and Dated: 30/07/2020