

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Reference Number:

4004

Author:

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Department:

Development and Growth

Contact:

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Subject:

English Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) Intergration Funding 'Learn English Together'

Total Value:

£225,939 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1. To enter into a funding agreement with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) for ESOL Integration Funding for a total of £225,939 from July 2020 to March 2021.
2. To issue 7 month funding agreements with BEGIN, ENABLE, WEA and Belong as referral, engagement and delivery partners of the 'Learn English Together' project, totalling £201,852.
3. To approve the remaining budget of £24,087 to support NCC with existing staffing costs including project management, admin and marketing post, this will ensure NCC meet the MHCLG contractual requirements
4. To delegate the authority to the Director of Economic Development to administer the funds, in accordance with the MHCLG funding agreement

Reasons for the Decision(s) A decision is needed because In March 2020 the MHCLG department announced a £6.5 million funding opportunity to support community based English language classes for learners at New to ESOL (pre-entry - Entry level 1) and for social mixing clubs and activities to support English language practice and social integration. Only Local Authorities were allowed to apply for the funding. The Employment and Skills team pulled together a wide range of community based delivery partners to identify need. The partners included Enable, Basic Educational Guidance In Nottingham (BEGIN), Worker Education Association (WEA) and Belong. BEGIN the central referral agency for all non-accredited and accredited ESOL provision in the Greater Nottingham area identified that there are over 700 pre-entry - entry level 1 citizens currently waiting to access ESOL provision. Based on evidence of need within the city, the Employment & Skills team and its partners submitted an application.

Summary of the application includes: engaging 504 participants over the 7 month period
Learning outcomes will include:

- * Improved communication and literacy skills
- * Increased sense of belonging/integration within the wider community
- * Increased confidence in accessing and use of local services and facilities
- * Progression into formal ESOL learning, volunteering or employment related activity

Other Options Considered: Not entering into this agreement with the MHCLG. This was rejected as it would mean a loss of £225,939 grant funding for 504 Nottingham citizens. As a result, these individuals would not receive the training to support their language development and social integration within the wider community.

Background Papers:

Unpublished background papers: EFIF MOU NOTTINGHAM - signed.pdf, EFIF Application Form Appendix 1 Nottingham City Council.pdf, EFIF_APPLICATION_FORM_FINAL_V2 Nottingham City Council.pdf

Published Works:

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

ESOL provision encourages families, individuals and the wider community to be active members within their community and to be responsible citizens.

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: EIA not required. Reasons: This is not a new policy change or service

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

08/10/2020

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

This report seeks authority to accept funding from MCHLG and to provide funding to named partners. The City Council must ensure it complies with the terms of the funding agreement with MCHLG. The City Council has named delivery partners in the bid to MCHLG. The City Council will act as the lead accountable body for the funding and should put in place funding arrangements with its delivery partners which will enable the City Council to comply with its obligations under the funding agreement with MCHLG including monitoring expenditure and reporting on outputs achieved. It should also include provisions enabling the City Council to clawback funding from its partners where MCHLG recovers funding from the City Council. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 11/08/2020.

Finance Advice:

The ESOL project is a partnership between NCC and the MCHLG. The memorandum of understanding between the two partners sets out the funding arrangements - NCC will receive £0.266m from the MCHLG to deliver the agreed activity and outcomes of the ESOL project.

The cost to administer and manage the scheme have been identified at £0.024m and is included within the agreed funding package. This will fund two existing staffing roles to be allocated this project as well as new temporary post.

NCC will need to ensure terms and conditions of the project are adhered to, to prevent any clawback of funding. A project manager has been assigned to mitigate this risk. Delivery of the project will require NCC to enter into agreements with delivery partners. It is recommended the terms included in these arrangements are set out to minimise financial risk to the authority. Advice provided by Chanelle Poyser (Commercial Business Partner) on 06/08/2020.

Procurement Advice:

This decision relates to the award of ESOL Integration grant funding by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MGHLG) to the Council on behalf of a partnership involving a number of community based delivery partners. The Council will enter into a funding agreement with the partners named in the bid for the delivery of the 'Learn Together' project totaling £201,852. As this is grant funding awarded against the partnership funding application, there are no procurement implications. The project has been costed to secure best value for money; costs have been benchmarked against similar provision, costings provided by partners have been rationalized and existing resources and infrastructure maximized. The balance of funding will be used to support existing NCC staffing costs. In the use of this funding the terms and conditions of the MHCLG grant should be fully complied with. Advice provided by Jo Pettifor (Procurement Team Manager) on 20/07/2020.

Signatures

Neghat Khan (PH Employment and Community Protection)
SIGNED and Dated: 01/10/2020
Chris Henning (Corporate Director for Development and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 28/09/2020