

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	4014
Author:	Michael Gallagher
Department:	Commercial and Operations
Contact:	Michael Gallagher (Job Title: Regional Energy Project Manager, Email: michael.gallagher@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 07864 969755)
Subject:	Grant Support for Energy Efficiency Upskilling
Key Decision (decision valued at more than £1million):	Yes
Total Value:	£7,500,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	To enter into a Section 31 Agreement to accept £7.5million of grant funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), to enable Energy Services (Midlands Energy Hub) to design and run a competition to award training contracts to approximately 10 training provider organisations to up-skill and re-skill people and businesses so that they can install energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating, in order to facilitate the recently announced Green Homes Grant Programme.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	BEIS are committed to delivering support to enable the Green Homes Grant initiative to be both an economic stimulus and contributor to the UK's carbon net-zero ambitions. This funding will be managed by the Midlands Energy Hub within Energy Services, enabling training provision across the region in support of the low carbon economy. The total competition value is £7.5million, a portion of which will be allocated to the Midlands Energy Hub and the Council's Energy Services to design, deliver and monitor the competition. The Midlands Hub within Energy Services is well-placed to do this, and it will generate revenue for the Council and create jobs across the region. This work also aligns with the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership's Energy Strategy and developing Local Industrial Strategy, supporting the skills agenda that will enable green growth. Furthermore, it will support the supply chain development that is needed to meet the Council's Carbon Neutral 2028 ambitions. BEIS have requested Energy Services' Midlands Energy Hub support on this project due to its successful track record in project development and support, with an ability to meet challenging deadlines.
Briefing notes documents:	Briefing Note Green Skills Training Competition.docx

Other Options Considered:	To not accept the grant: this option has been ruled out, as it would represent a loss of revenue for the Council and would be a missed opportunity to support the development and growth of a skilled workforce in a growth sector.
Background Papers:	None
Published Works:	None
Affected Wards:	Citywide
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	None
Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	There is no direct impact on crime and disorder - this opportunity is about supporting a growth industry and job creation.
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: This decision does not represent proposed changes to a policy, service or function.
Relates to staffing:	Yes
Decision Type:	Leader's Key Decision
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	14/10/2020
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Human Resources

Legal Advice:

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has offered the Council grant funding to design and undertake a Green Homes Grant Skills Training Competition. This necessitates the Council entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BEIS, agreeing to comply with grant terms and conditions set out in the MoU. If the grant conditions are not met or are breached, BEIS may claw back the grant funding from the Council. The Council will need to include provision in its external contracts with contractors that they do not by act or omission bring the Council into breach of the funding conditions, and an indemnity to the Council in the event that BEIS requires repayment of the grant due to the acts or omissions of the contractor.

Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (Senior Solicitor) on 29/09/2020.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks to accept £7.5million grant funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to administer and run the Green Homes Grant(GHG)competition [1]. This aligns with the Council Plan 2019-2023, Green Nottingham, around becoming Carbon Neutral ([2], page 12). The grant is subject to an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that lays out the agreement between BEIS and the Council (as the accountable body) regarding conditions and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), etc., in order to administer the GHG.

Financially, the grant is split into two main sections (and is time limited):

1. Funds allocated to the successful competition applicants to deliver training and accreditation;
2. Remaining funds to be used by the Midlands Energy Hub (MEH) for administration and monitoring of the grant recipients.

Immediate release of £50,000 of the grant will enable immediate recruitment and/or secondment of Council employees to administer the scheme. The remaining grant monies will be released to the Council upfront. The administration of the grant is laid out in the MoU and details KPIs and claim procedures for applicants. Energy Services will need to create internal procedures to administer, monitor and report on the scheme, and keep appropriate records for the specified length of time as per the MoU, in order to minimise grant clawback. Any grant underspend will need to be reported to BEIS in order to agree how to spend any unspent grant funding, otherwise unspent grant will need to be repaid.

References:

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-homes-grant-skills-training-competition?utm_source=13e94e14-21f8-43ed-a64c-39599bfe1d19&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

[2] <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/2215620/nccplan19-web.pdf>

Advice provided by Tania Clayton Perez (Commercial Business Partner) on 29/09/2020.

HR Advice:

HR is supportive of the proposal to accept the funding as this will allow the Midlands Energy Hub to design and run the training contracts to support the governments Green Homes Programme. Any related staffing matters will be subject to separate consideration via appropriate staffing decisions, where HR advice will be provided.

Advice provided by Shakeel Khalil (Senior HR Consultant) on 25/09/2020.

Signatures:

David Mellen (Leader/ PH Regeneration, Schools, Communications)
SIGNED and Dated: 06/10/2020
Hugh White (Corporate Director for COVID Response and
Recovery) SIGNED and Dated: 07/10/2020