

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4025

Author:

Anne-Marie Barclay

Department:

Development and Growth

Contact:

Rasita Chudasama

(Job Title: Principal Transport Planner, Email: rasita.chudasama@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158763938)

Subject:

Appointment of provider for e-scooter trial in Nottingham

Total Value:

£100,000 (Type: Capital)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Development and Growth to enter into a contract with Wind Mobility to deliver the electric scooter (e-scooter) trial, following a competitive tender in July 2020.
- 2) To approve the commencement of the rental e-scooter trial in accordance with the Department for Transport suggestions for a 12 month trial period.
- 3) To approve the allocation of £100,000 funding from the Future Transport Zones grant to support the delivery of an electric scooter (e-scooter) rental scheme in Nottingham and Derby.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

In March 2020 Nottingham was named one of the Government's Future Transport Zones to deliver a range of measures to support the take up of new mobility services, which includes the delivery of a series of electric mobility hubs to provide access to a wide range of transport services. In the longer term this would include options to hire e-scooters alongside shared ebikes for use by the public.

As part of the recovery response to Covid-19 the Department for Transport (DfT) has made regulatory changes to enable e-scooters to be used on public roads, utilising the same road space as cycles. The regulatory changes will only apply to DfT approved schemes for a 12 month period, and all participants must hold a valid driving licence. This change in legislation has provided the Council the opportunity to pilot an e-scooter scheme, which will support the Council's response to Covid-19 whilst also offering the opportunity to gain further insight and understanding of micro-mobility solutions to support our longer term aspirations.

In July a tender opportunity was published to seek an e-scooter provider who could deliver a long and short term rental scheme for both Nottingham and Derby. Aimed at supporting key workers and commuters, participants will be given exclusive access to an e-scooter for one months up to a year. This subscription service will allow participants to take an e-scooter home, with helmet and charging cable, to complete necessary travel. A pay per minute (short time option) will also be provided with on street hire locations to support the general public, visitors and students. Evidence suggests e-scooters are popular for short journeys and will help people to move around whilst social distancing requirements are in place, offering a sustainable commuting alternative to private car use.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been drafted to identify and mitigate potential safety issues arising from the use of e-scooters. The Council will welcome feedback and listen to views from key stakeholders during the trial. It is intended that once the trial is underway a stakeholder group will be established through which issues arising from the scheme can be discussed with both the Council and the scheme operator. A risk assessment has been undertaken to capture potential risks relating to the trial and has been shared with the police as part of the Crime Prevention Strategy. A copy is included with this report.

Project delivery will be monitored as part of the wider Future Transport Zones programme reporting, which is subject to rigorous monitoring through the Council's Project Assurance Review process, and monthly reporting to the Councils Portfolio Management Office. The Council will continue to participate in weekly e-scooter meetings with the DfT and other live trial cities over the year.

A joint evaluation was undertaken with Derby City Council which awarded Wind Mobility the highest score following a competitive procurement exercise. The e-scooters have highly visible branding, which will help identify them as part of the trial and the operator is upgrading its short term fleet to also include an integrated helmet over the coming months, encouraging safe riding with easy access and convenient storage. Free helmets will be distributed following launch for long term hire participants. The offer also included the option of free home delivery and maintenance visits, which the evaluation team considered to be a key strength in supporting the successful delivery of the long term hires. As part of the contract award up to £100,000 capital funding from the Derby-Nottingham Future Transport Zones programme will be awarded to Wind Mobility to help establish the trial. Funding will go towards offering discounted rides to key workers, students and disadvantaged communities alongside the provision of a vocational training and development programme providing new skills and training opportunities for young people.

The Council's proposals required approval from the Secretary of State for Transport before the contract could be signed and the scheme implemented. As the trial is only valid within the City Council's administrative boundary, the e-scooters are required to have geo-fencing capabilities, that will restrict the operational area meaning e-scooters will slow and eventually come to a stop at the boundary. This technology also enables the creation of other areas such as 'slow speed' or 'no go' zones to address any issues identified when the trial is live.

The Council have received approval from the DfT to legalise the Nottingham and Derby trials. An Experimental Traffic Regulation Order has been put in place that will permit the use of e-scooters where cycles are currently used, a copy of which is appended to this decision. The trial will commence in late October 2020 and will run for 12 months.

Briefing notes documents:	TME 7362 E-Scooter Trial TRO advert.pdf, NOT FOR PUBLICATION for information DfT Cover Letter and VSO.pdf, e-scooter Risk register.pdf
Other Options Considered:	<p>Do nothing - REJECTED as the Future Transport Zone programme included the potential to explore the introduction of e-scooters. With the Government fast-tracking rental trials, the trial provides a controlled manner in which to test an e-scooter service and further understand attitudes and perceptions from users and non-users. The main focus of the trial in Nottingham will be to deliver long term hire to key workers and commuters as an alternative mode of transport whilst social distancing measures are in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The option to do nothing was rejected as it would not help to fulfil our future transport aims and fails to support our local transport Covid recovery response.</p> <p>On-Street public hire - REJECTED - The traditional form of e-scooter rental centres around short term (per minute) hire from a series of on-street hire locations. The option of solely providing a traditional on-street e-scooter hire model was rejected. Providing short term rental alongside long term e-scooter hire would best support the need to help people get back to work and study as it will provide the user with regular access to an e-scooter at an affordable rate. This option and commercial deliverability was tested with the market prior to the procurement.</p>
Background Papers:	None.
Published Works:	Executive Board 16 June 2020 - Transforming Cities report, appendix C - FTZ table
Affected Wards:	Citywide
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	
Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

All e-scooters will be fitted with GPS tracking, and insured by the operator of the scheme. The e-scooters are fitted with geo-fencing technology enabling the Council to restrict area in which the e-scooter will function. There may be certain areas, where cycling remains illegal, or due to the sensitive nature of the location, where e-scooters will not be permitted. This includes areas such as Old Market Square, Lace Market Square and shopping centres. Details of all these no go zones will be identified on the app, and additional restrictions can be added at any time. The requirement for these will be monitored thought the contract in conjunction with the operator.

Users must hold a driving licence to access the scheme and the operator will be required to undertake user verification as part of the sign-up process. Any users who abuse the service can have their accounts suspended.

A joint working protocol is being established between the operator, Council and the local Police and Community Protection teams to effectively manage crime and disorder issues emerging from the trial.

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: e-scooter EIA.pdf

Social Value Considerations:

N/A

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

26/10/2020

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

There are no significant legal concerns arising from this report. The funding being proposed from the Future Transport Zones grant will need to be used in accordance with any grant provisions.

The award of the contract to the successful provider follows the completion of a compliant tender process. Once the Secretary of State for Transport has provided approval to the Nottingham scheme the contract terms will be formally entered into.

Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 08/09/2020.

Finance Advice:

As detailed in the body of the decision the Future Transport Zone was approved at Executive Board June 2020 and therefore the £100,000 in this decision does not increase the Capital Programme.

Following the approval of this decision the capital programme will be amended by reallocating £0.100m from the neighbourhood of the future workstream budget (project 26922) to the e-scooter trial.

Advice provided by Tom Straw (Senior Accountant - Capital Programmes) on 16/09/2020.

Procurement Advice:

Procurement supports the decision to be taken and we have completed an openly advertised tendering exercise and evaluated all of the proposals and we would like to award the trial to the most economically advantageous tender received.

Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Lead Procurement Officer) on 01/09/2020.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

The Disability Involvement Group (DIG) raised Concerns around the usage of e-scooters on pavements and in pedestrian areas. These will be mitigated through the local design of the scheme and by publicising the customer services contact details clearly.

An invitation for DIG members to attend an event to meet with the operator was made (with the inclusion of BSL interpreter) to learn more about the e-scooter and the trial. This is reasonable consultation. No further protected groups are impacted, therefore happy to sign off.

Advice provided by Nasreen Miah (Equality & employability consultant) on 15/10/2020.

Signatures

Adele Williams (Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Local Transport)
 SIGNED and Dated: 19/10/2020

Chris Henning (Corporate Director for Development and Growth)
 SIGNED and Dated: 18/10/2020