

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	4044
Author:	Alex Cox
Department:	Commercial and Operations
Contact:	Alex Cox (Job Title: Operations Manager, Email: alex.cox@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 07983427888)

Subject: **Acceptance of Government Funding for COVID Enforcement**

Total Value: **£236,000 (Type: Revenue)**

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To accept COVID enforcement funding from the Government, for spending on COVID-19-related compliance and enforcement activities.
- 2) To delegate authority to the Head of Operations (Community Protection) to approve spending from the ring-fenced funding allocation.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

On 22 September, the Prime Minister announced that £60million will be made available across the Police and Local Authorities for compliance and enforcement activities relating to COVID-19. Of this £60million, £30million is being allocated to all District and Unitary Authorities, including Metropolitan Borough and London Borough Councils in England, to spend on COVID-19-related compliance and enforcement activities. Local Authorities will be provided with an allocation of this funding. The funding made available is ring-fenced for any activity that will support compliance and enforcement of measures to control the spread of COVID-19 across individuals, businesses and in the community.

Nottingham City Council has been allocated £236,000 from the COVID-19 Enforcement Fund. This funding will be used to:

- increase patrols in city/town centres, to ensure that people are complying with the new restrictions;
- increase compliance work and enforcement checks on businesses; and
- ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidance in local communities. Enforcement Officers, such as Environmental Health Officers and Community Protection Officers, are responsible for explaining and encouraging businesses and communities to follow the latest guidelines, carrying out inspections, issuing fines and closing premises in the case of non-compliance.

Briefing notes documents:	Covid Enforcement Appendix A.docx, COVID Enforcement Note V3.docx
Other Options Considered:	The option to not accept the funding would go against the Government's advice and Public Health guidance. Non-acceptance would not help fight the spread of the virus, and would potentially endanger the health of Nottingham citizens. For this reason, this option is rejected.
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:	Accepting this fund and continuing to enforcement the COVID regulations will have a positive impact on crime and anti-social behaviour. Community Protection Officers will be a highly visible deterrent, engaging with individuals, businesses and in the community. The funding made available is ring-fenced for any activity that will support compliance and enforcement of measures to control the spread of COVID-19. The Council will be working in partnership with the Police and both of the universities in Nottingham, with targeted patrols and engagement in high-volume student areas of the city.
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: The decision does not represent a change to a policy, service or function.
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	16/11/2020
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance

Legal Advice:

Provided that the grant is spent in accordance with its terms and conditions, its acceptance raises no significant legal issues and is supported.

Advice provided by Malcolm Townroe (Director of Legal and Governance) on 23/10/2020.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval to accept grant funding totalling £236,000. The grant has been allocated to Nottingham City Council and is ring-fenced for compliance and enforcement. Non-compliance with the conditions could lead to grant clawback. The spending programme is being developed to support the spend over the next four months, and will be approved through the normal approval process. The budget manager will need to put in place the appropriate monitoring and reporting processes, to ensure adherence to the conditions of the grant. As the funding is time-limited, the budget manager will need to ensure expenditure is affordable, and does not continue after the approved period, to ensure no legacy costs.

Advice provided by Claire Gavagan (Strategic Business Partner - Commercial and Operations) on 21/10/2020.

Signatures

Neghat Khan (PH Employment and Community Protection)
SIGNED and Dated: 06/11/2020
Andrew Errington (Strategic Director, Community Protection)
SIGNED and Dated: 05/11/2020