

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4100

Author:

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Department:

Commercial and Operations

Contact:

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Subject:

DCMS funding grant from British Library for provision of Business and IP Centre service

Total Value:

£704,673 over three years. (Type: Capital and Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1) Accept grant funding from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport via the British Library as follows:

2020-21 £230,835;

2021-22 £234,782;

2022-23 £239,055;

2) Commit money as agreed with British Library, including some payments above £10,000 for resources and services (see Collaboration Agreement for details of breakdown);

3) Approve dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.1 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 to purchase databases and appoint Smorgasbord to deliver the 'Reset. Restart'. programme as required by the funder.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Nottingham City Libraries have been part of the British Library's Business & IP Centres Network since 2018, operating as a pilot centre at Nottingham Central Library. The British Library was successful in obtaining a grant of £13m in the Chancellor's Spring Statement to be distributed across all Centres in England (currently 15 locations) to enable expansion of the support available to business start-ups in public libraries.

The funding is divided between funding three fixed-term posts, purchase of licences for market research and company information databases, marketing and outreach and the provision of a six-month programme in 2021 financial year to support businesses needing to refocus their model as a result of COVID-19.

In addition, the funding enables a hub and spoke delivery method allowing the service to expand its reach to three locations in Inspire's network of libraries in the county, with database access and support from specialist staff. These are Beeston, Mansfield and Sutton in Ashfield. Bulwell Riverside Library will also be a spoke site and will act as the main hub until the new Central Library opens. There is funding allocated for any refit costs required in the spoke sites.

Accepting this funding will enable the service to support more businesses and entrepreneurs across the city and beyond, boosting the local economy and helping people become economically active, which is particularly needed in the current climate with projected redundancy rates high following the cessation of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Additionally, many businesses are needing to pivot and change their direction of travel to remain viable in these times of social distancing and the support the 'Reset. Restart' programme will provide is essential in this regard.

There is potential that success with this funding could attract further investment from local partners such as D2N2 & LEP, which would enable even more support for City residents and longer term sustainability.



Briefing notes documents: BIPC EIA 2020 FINAL Signed off.docx, BIPC Collaboration Agreement 17.09.20 Nottingham DRAFT.doc, BL Democratising entrepreneurship report July 2019.pdf, 200826 MoU between DCMS and BL re BIPC Budget 2020.docx

Other Options Considered: Do nothing - REJECTED as this is an opportunity to support economic development for businesses in the region, providing free access to a range of resources and activities.

Background Papers: None.

Published Works: None.

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None

Dispensation from Financial Regulations: Yes

Consultations:
Date: 08/10/2020
Ward Councillors: David Trimble
Cllr Trimble as portfolio holder for the service is supportive for accepting this award.

Date: 27/08/2020
Other: Peter Gaw - Chief Executive of Inspire Libraries
Agreed to work with Nottingham City as lead to increase outreach work for Business IP to enable us to implement British Library scheme.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: None arising from this decision.

Equality:	BIPC EIA 2020.docx
Any implications affecting IT:	Yes
Relates to staffing:	Yes
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	03/02/2021
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Equality and Diversity, IT
Legal Advice:	<p>The DMCS grant funding is subject to conditions, failure to comply with which could result in clawback of some or all of the funding from the grant provider.</p> <p>Spending of the grant funding will need to comply with the council's financial regulations and contract procedure rules as well as procurement rules having regard to the total estimated value of each contract.</p> <p>Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (Senior Solicitor) on 16/10/2020 & confirmed on 21/01/2021.</p>
Finance Advice:	<p>The decision seeks approval to accept total grant funding of £704,673 from The British Library. The British Library will be funding the grant to the Council from increased funding they will receive from the Department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport. To ensure clear terms of reference, there will be a Collaboration Agreement between the British Library and the Council which includes a spending plan covering financial years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. The Council will be required to adhere to the grant conditions outlined in the Collaboration Agreement in order to avoid clawback of funding, which would lead to an unfunded pressure. The expenditure is expected to be incurred in accordance with the Council's financial regulations to ensure value for money. The grant will be used to cover some staffing costs during the period of the project. As the grant is time limited, the project officer will need to put in place measures to address possible exit costs to prevent any unfunded pressures at the end of this initiative. This could be achieved by having internal secondments and fixed term contracts.</p> <p>Advice provided by Claire Gavagan (Strategic Business Partner Commercial, Operations) on 16/10/2020 & confirmed 18/01/2021.</p>
IT Advice:	<p>IT support the proposal and will work with the library service on any future projects that arise to support use of the awarded grant.</p> <p>Advice provided by Paul J Burrows (IT Change, Projects and Strategy Manager) on 19/01/2021.</p>

Procurement Advice:

Spending of the grant funding will need to comply with the council's financial regulations and contract procedure rules as well as procurement rules having regard to the total estimated value of each contract.

Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Lead Procurement Officer) on 03/12/2020.

HR Advice:

The funding will pay for 3 posts. These should be filled in line with our recruitment policy and procedure which in the first instance will identify any suitable candidates at risk of redundancy at the time of recruitment.

Advice provided by Hannah Gemmill (HR Business Partner) on 12/10/2020 & confirmed 19/01/2021.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

Advice has been provided on the EIA that was attached. Need to provide details as to what measures will be put in place to ensure that the application process is fair and how this will be monitored. Also need to detail how/ what actions will be taken to increase partnership working. EIA advice provided, awaiting amended version to be sent in.

Advice provided by Nasreen Miah (Equality & employability consultant) on 15/01/2021.

Advice documents: BIPC EIA 2020.docx

Signatures

David Trimble (Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and IT)

SIGNED and Dated: 27/01/2021

Hugh White (Corporate Director for COVID Response and Recovery)

SIGNED and Dated: 26/01/2021

Clive Heaphy (Chief Finance Officer) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations

SIGNED and Dated: 24/01/2021

Chief Finance Officer's Comments: No comments