

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4219

Author:

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Department:

Resident Services

Contact:

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Subject:

Allocation of COVID Local Support Grant

Total Value:

£332,711.00 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To accept the Government's COVID Local Support Grant allocation to the Council.
- 2) To allocate £240,000 of the grant to provide FSM Food Vouchers to Nottingham children for the May 2021 half term.
- 3) To delegate authority to the Director for Sport and Culture/Covid Support to release the remaining grant funds as required in accordance with the grant conditions and agreed via the COVID Steering Group.
- 4) To approve the call off through Crown Commercial Framework RM 6255, to EdenRed for the supply of food vouchers.

Reasons for the Decision(s) The Government have extended COVID grant support for vulnerable families to continue until 20 June 2021, with a further £40 million of support. The CLSG has the same eligibility criteria, and uses the same reporting template (incorporating the Statement of Grant Usage Management Information (MI) Return), as the previous Covid Winter Grant Scheme.

Nottingham has been awarded £332,771 as part of this new grant, which launched after 17th April 2021 and runs until 20th June 2021.

1) at least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to support families with children, with up to 20% of the total funding to other types of households, including individuals;
2) at least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to provide support with food, energy and water bills (including sewerage), with up to 20% on other items.

A direct award through Crown Commercial RN6255 Eden Red is required to procure the food vouchers in time to support this scheme. The intended supplier is already set up with the council to provide vouchers and there is insufficient time to go through a full tendering process prior to the May half term holiday.

Briefing notes documents: Briefing - CLSG Briefing Note.docx

Other Options Considered: 1) To not accept the grant: this option is rejected, as the grant is needed to support those most in need in the city.
2) To carry out a full tender process to procure the food vouchers: due to the short timescale, it is not possible to undertake a full tender process for the purchase of these vouchers, therefore a call off will be made to the current council supplier EdenRed, who are listed on the Crown Commercial Framework RM6255.

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: None

Equality:	Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Equality Impact Assessment - COVID Local Support Grant v1.2.pdf
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	<p>No</p> <p>The call-in procedure does not apply to the proposed decision because the delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or Vice-Chair) in his/her absence has been consulted and agreed both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency.</p>
	<p>Person Consulted: Cllr Anne Peach, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny</p> <p>Consultation Date: 21/05/2021</p> <p>This grant offer from Government came in late with tight deadlines for acceptance, and the details were not finalised until last week, which means, in order to supply food vouchers to schools for use over the half-term, that there is insufficient time for call in.</p>
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity
Legal Advice:	<p>This ddm raises no significant legal issues. The award of a call off contract through the relevant CCS framework agreement for the supply of food vouchers is in compliance with public contract procurement rules and the council's own contract procedure rules.</p> <p>Government grant funding will contain grant funding conditions which must be complied with by the grant recipient failing which, there is the risk of clawback of some or all of the funding. Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 20/05/2021.</p>
Finance Advice:	<p>This decision is to approve the acceptance and spend associated with the grant for COVID Local Support Grant of £0.333m. The spend of this grant will be in accordance with the grant conditions to remove any risk of clawback; a majority of the spend will be used to support FSM during May half term which will provide additionality for the families of Nottingham.</p> <p>The remainder of the grant and its use is still to be determined and will be approved via delegated authority.</p> <p>The use of the framework for the procurement of the food vouchers negates any legal and contract risk. Advice provided by Ceri Walters as Finance Co-ordinator (Head of Commercial Finance) on 20/05/2021.</p>
Procurement Advice:	A call off from CCS framework agreement RM6225 is requested and this will provide a saving of 0.5% from our existing costs with EdenRed and the decision to be taken is supported by procurement. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 19/05/2021.

**Equality and Diversity
Advice:**

EIA has been completed to outline the allocation of this grant. Further EIAs will be submitted once consultation has taken place with working group and proposals for the remainder of the grant has been approved. This proposal will have a positive impact on protected groups. Happy to approve. Advice provided by Nasreen Miah (Equality & employability consultant) on 20/05/2021.

Signatures

David Mellen (Leader/ PH Strategic Regeneration Communications)
SIGNED and Dated: 21/05/2021
Dave Halstead (Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services)
SIGNED and Dated: 21/05/2021