

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Reference Number:	4253
Author:	Cristina Nogues
Department:	Growth and City Development
Contact:	Cristina Nogues (Job Title: Principal Officer, Email: cristina.nogues@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 8762703)
Subject:	Independent Medical Assessments for Mobility Card Applicants
Total Value:	£200,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To procure a 3-year contract for carrying out the Independent Medical Assessment for Mobility Card holders and applicants, with the option for a 1 year + 1 year extension (3+1+1 years).2) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development to award the contract to the successful supplier, following the tender process.3) To fund the project from the money received from the Department for Transport (DfT) for concessionary fares.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	The Council has a statutory obligation to provide concessionary travel passes to eligible residents with qualifying disabilities as part of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme. Qualifying disabilities are defined by the DfT guidelines. The Council also has discretionary powers to provide companion passes to some Mobility Concessionary cardholders whereby an unnamed assistant can travel free of charge with the Mobility Citycard holder within the City's administrative area. DfT guidelines advise the use of an independent medical assessment in order to achieve consistency of applicant assessments, together with the use of certain qualifying evidence.
Other Options Considered:	To not send Mobility applicants for an independent assessment and ask applicants to have their application form signed and disabilities verified by their own doctors: the Council used this approach before 2012 and, unfortunately, it led to a number of abuses of the system, where around 50% of applications granted did not meet the criteria for the Mobility bus pass, even though the applicants were verified as eligible by their own doctors. 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:	None
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: The decision does not relate to a new or changing policy, service or function.
Social Value Considerations:	Not applicable
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	23/06/2021
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement
Legal Advice:	<p>This report seeks authority to appoint a contractor to undertake independent medical assessments. The specification for the contract should ensure any provider of the assessments fully complies with all disability and accessibility requirements. Provided the contract is awarded in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, this report does not raise any significant legal issues.</p> <p>Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader - Contracts and Commercial) on 30/04/2021.</p>

Finance Advice:

This procurement decision is expected to cost £200,000 over the 3 year contract, with an option to a 1+1 year extension, and spans over financial years 2021/22 to 2025/26. Year 1 costs have been estimated at £80,000 with a £30,000 per year cost thereafter during years 2-5. The cost of this decision will be contained within the Concessionary Fare Services' core budget and therefore will not have no impact on the Councils' Medium-Term Financial Plan. It is the responsibility of the Head of Public Transport to ensure that value for money is achieved when selecting the preferred supplier.

Advice provided by Roma Patel (Commercial Business Partner) on 10/05/2021.

Procurement Advice:

The decision to procure a contract to deliver Independent Medical Assessments for Mobility Card applicants is supported by the Procurement Team, who will manage the procurement process.

Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 22/04/2021.

Signatures

Rosemary Healy (Portfolio Holder Highways, Transport, Cleansing)

SIGNED and Dated: 16/06/2021

Michael Wayne Bexton (Interim CD for Growth & City Development)

SIGNED and Dated: 02/06/2021