

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

4268

Author:

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Department:

Development and Growth

Contact:

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Subject:

Next Steps Accommodation - Interim Proposals

Total Value:

£269,163 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To accept the grant of £269,163 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and spend it in accordance with the programme of spend outlined at Appendix 1 - Next Steps Accommodation Programme interim funding - schedule of costs.

To grant dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules 4.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Operational Issues) in order for the continuation of service contracts (outlined at points 1 of Appendix A) This provision will ensure the seamless service delivery of services required to achieve a reduction of rough sleeping in Nottingham and protect the health of rough sleepers.

To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Growth & City Development to sign new contracts/contract variations and adjust the remit of spend between the listed measures within the financial period 2020-21, in agreement with MHCLG.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)** Following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the government launched the 'Everyone in' initiative which required local authorities to make provision for a place of safety and shelter for individuals found to be rough sleeping in the area.

Like many other cities, Nottingham has higher numbers of rough sleepers and therefore relied upon the use of hotel accommodation to fulfil this requirement.

The government funding made available to facilitate this ended on 30th June 2020 (see published document - delegated decision 3893).

Government has now released a further revenue stream - Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) interim funding - to allow for the continuation of accommodation for rough sleepers as the risk from the pandemic continues.

Nottingham City Council successfully bid for NSAP interim funding and secured an allocation for the purposes of maintaining existing hotel provision and ensuring spot purchase arrangements to meet additional need during nights when the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) is activated.

This will help to ensure that rough sleepers in the city are offered accommodation and support to protect them from the risk of the pandemic. It will also enable us to maximise opportunities to engage with rough sleepers and support them into more settled accommodation and away from street homelessness in the longer term.

**Briefing notes documents:** Appendix 1 - Next Steps Accommodation Programme interim funding - schedule of costs.docx

**Other Options Considered:** To not bid for, accept and spend the grant. This has been rejected as the Council is reliant upon this funding to deliver the services required to tackle rough sleeping and reduce the spread of Covid 19.

To accept the grant and spend it in alternative ways than that outlined in Appendix A. This has been rejected as the grant is conditional on spending it in accordance with the defined programme.

**Background Papers:** Next Steps Accommodation Programme Prospectus  
Next Steps Accommodation Programme interim award Grant Determination letter

**Unpublished background papers:** NASP grant determination letter Interim award.pdf, Next Steps prospectus.pdf

**Published Works:** Decision 3893

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

<b>Colleague / Councillor Interests:</b>	None.
<b>Dispensation from Financial Regulations:</b>	Yes
<b>Consultations:</b>	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
<b>Crime and Disorder Implications:</b>	No issues identified relating to crime and disorder
<b>Equality:</b>	EIA not required. Reasons: EIA not required as relevant EIA have been written for previous decisions relating to Rough Sleeping services contained within this decision within the last 12 months.
<b>Social Value Considerations:</b>	Services procured are not above EU threshold
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Portfolio Holder
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	Yes
<b>Call In Expiry date:</b>	13/07/2021
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	Legal, Finance, Procurement
<b>Legal Advice:</b>	<p>There are no significant legal concerns arising from this report. Where accepting any funding the Council must ensure that this is used for the intended purposes and in accordance with any requirements stipulated by the funder.</p> <p>The Council may grant a dispensation from its Contract Procedure Rules and tendering requirements for operational reasons where the value of the contract is below the thresholds set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended). The author has set out the operational reasons in this report which raise no concerns given the demographic that will benefit from the contracts being in place and the market availability for this type of accommodation.</p> <p>Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 23/04/2021.</p>

**Finance Advice:**

The Next Steps Grant was ring-fenced for 2020-21 and was used for Next Steps Accommodation Programme interventions only as set out in the grant award Annex.

The grant was received and spent in 2020-21 and totaled £269,163 for Nottingham City Council - the detail of the approval of this spend is outlined in appendix A (attached) and includes £15,000 for cold weather provision.

The dispensation from contract procedure rule 4.1.1 in accordance with financial regulation 3.29 (operational issues) is deemed appropriate due to the specialist nature of this provision and to achieve a timely reduction of rough sleeping in Nottingham and to protect the health of rough sleepers during the pandemic.

Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manger) on 14/06/2021

Previous advice given on 22/01/2021 as follows:

The Next Steps grant is ring-fenced for 2020-21 and is to be used for Next Steps Accommodation Programme interventions only as set out in the grant award Annex.

The grant has already been received and totals £269,163 for Nottingham City Council - the detail of how this will be spent appears in Appendix A attachment.

This includes £15,000 for Cold Weather Provision.

The expenditure in relation to this grant must be recorded separately to ensure that at the end of the financial year the actual amount spent can be clearly identified. MHCLG have stated that future awards of rough sleeping funding will be reduced to the extent that funding is not used in line with the ringfencing condition.

The dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules 4.1.1 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Operational Issues) is deemed appropriate due to the specialist nature of this provision and to achieve a timely reduction of rough sleeping in Nottingham and protect the health of rough sleepers during the Pandemic.

Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 22/01/2021 & confirmed 15/06/2021.

**Procurement Advice:**

The proposal to spend the Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding on the measures as outlined are supported from a procurement perspective. Dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.2, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (operational issues) is supported from a procurement perspective in order to direct award the contract to the supplier listed at point 1 of Appendix 1 for the stated period in order to ensure seamless service delivery of services to reduce rough sleeping and protect the health of rough sleepers in the City. The individual values of these proposals fall below the EU procurement threshold. The use of this funding should comply with the MHGLG grant conditions and suitable agreements should be in place with external providers to ensure compliance and satisfactory performance.

Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 17/05/2021.

**HR Advice:**

- Advice provided by Matthew Hackney (Resourcing Consultant) on 22/01/2021.
Advice documents: Next Steps Accommodation.docx

**Signatures**

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (PH Housing, Planning and Heritage)
SIGNED and Dated: 05/07/2021
Michael Wayne Bexton (Interim CD for Growth & City Development)
SIGNED and Dated: 01/07/2021
Clive Heaphy as Chief Finance Officer (Chief Finance Officer) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 21/06/2021
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: