

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4303

Author:

Scott Talbot-Hartshorn

Department:

Growth and City Development

Contact:

Scott Talbot-Hartshorn

(Job Title: Service Manager - Safety, Cycling & Walking, Email: scott.talbot@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 65225)

Subject:

Bikeability Level 2 training for Year 6 pupils 2021/22

Total Value:

Up to £80,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To continue to apply for and accept the maximum possible Government grant, including any eligible top-up grant, and any additional child cycle training grant that the Government offers, e.g. SEND pupils, up to £80,000 for 2021/22, to deliver Bikeability Level 2 to Year 6 pupils in Nottingham's schools.
- 2) To grant dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.2, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29, to award the delivery contract to Ridewise for 2021/22.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Road Traffic Act 1988 s39 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety. The practical training of road users is one of the measures that can be taken to discharge this duty.

"Bikeability" is the national cycle training programme. It is overseen by the Bikeability Trust on behalf of the Government. Each year, providers are able to bid for grant funding, currently £45 per training place, to deliver Bikeability Level 2 training.

In recent years, Nottingham City Council had been awarded a small annual grant of <£25k to deliver training to around 600 pupils. Towards the end of the 2020/21 financial year we were informed that we would be offered a grant of £34,425 covering around 750 places.

Other areas of the country are sometimes unable to deliver the amount of training they expected which means the Trust is able to allocate additional funds to areas that were able to deliver more than the number initially funded.

This grant is used to help cover the costs of administrating/delivering cycle training and to maintain and store our fleet of bicycles and other equipment which enables us to provide access to the training for any child in Nottingham.

We began discussions with our current training provider, Ridewise, to determine whether this was a realistic amount of training they could provide. Ridewise are a local charity and have worked with us for many years to deliver this training.

As the summer school term is the main period where this training is delivered then we have agreed that they could commence the training, up to £20k, while approval for the full amount is obtained.

Due to the ongoing covid recovery there is a high level of interest from schools and with a demand for around 1,200 places this year.

Accepting the current grant will provide 765 of these places and we can bid for additional funding for the remaining places. If successful, Nottingham City Council could receive a total grant of £54k.

This decision is for a total up to £80k in case demand remains high and there are any further opportunities for additional training later in the year.

At the current rate of delivery, the £20k will be used by the end of June and training will have to pause and dispensation is being sought to allow Ridewise continue as the training provider for the whole of 2021/22:

* To ensure there is no disruption to the delivery of training.

* The interest in training is highest in the summer term to July and decreases for the autumn term and usually ceases between November and March due to the poorer weather.

* The process to seek an alternative supplier will take a few months and the peak training period will be missed. NOTE: There is a further decision to continue Bikeability training from 2022/23 having procured a long-term supplier.

*** The Bikeability Trust has introduced a number of changes to reporting and training this year and their email of 23 Feb 2021
"We also recommend that if you outsource your delivery then you continue to use your current provider to ensure that delivery commences as smoothly as possible once restrictions are lifted recommend that no changes are made to suppliers while this happens."**

Teaching children to cycle to the national standards will help them stay safe on the roads and encourage them, and their families, to be more active and choose sustainable transport modes in the future. These will all help contribute towards the aims in the Council Plan to:

*** Work with 5,000 people to help them become physically active and improve their health.**

*** Become carbon neutral by 2028.**

Other Options Considered: 1) To reduce or end the delivery of training. This option has been rejected as it does not support the Council's aims. 2) To pause the current delivery while the procurement process takes place. This option has been rejected as it will delay the delivery and reduce the number of pupils that can be trained. 3) To approve a lower or higher annual limit on the amount of funding. This option has been rejected as it would reduce the number of pupils that can be trained. The £80k limit has been chosen as it is considered to be a reasonable upper limit to the amount of grant that may be possible to deliver this year.

Background Papers: None

Published Works: None

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None

Dispensation from Financial Regulations: Yes

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: None

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: The proposals do not represent a change to policy, service or function.

Social Value Considerations: N/A

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 04/08/2021

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice: Given the total estimated value of the scheme, dispensation from CPR 4.1.2 will be required in accordance with financial regulation 3.29. Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 23/06/2021.

Finance Advice: This decision seeks the approval to receive and allocate a grant of up to a maximum of £80k in order to provide bikeability training to students in the Nottingham area.
The grant is used to help cover the costs of administering/delivering cycle training and and helps to maintain and store a fleet of bicycles and other equipment to ensure training can be accessed by all children. There will be no impact to the MTFP as this will be fully funded via the grant. Training places will not be offered if there is not enough grant received.
There is an initial allocation of £34,425 to enable training places for up to 765 places.
Other areas are not always able to fulfil their requirements and so it is usual practice for other local authorities to bid for a top up grant within the financial year.
Nottingham would like to provide training for 1200 students if possible. All current available places have been fully booked in the Summer term with schools requesting further places for Autumn, so the demand is definitely there as is the opportunity to fulfil those requirements if top up bids are successful.
This decision takes into account any top up that is successfully bid for.
Due to the timeliness and speed in which these sessions are to be delivered, the author has requested a 1 year dispensation with CPR 4.1.2 under the financial regulations 3.29 to maintain the current provider. There is to be a full procurement procedure which will commence this year in regards to future grants for this scheme. Advice provided by Michelle Pullen (Commercial Business Partner) on 15/07/2021.

Procurement Advice: This decision requires a 1 year dispensation with Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) to proceed with the training for this financial year on the understanding that a procurement exercise will commence this year for any future requirements and the decision to be taken is supported from a procurement perspective. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 21/06/2021.

Signatures

Rosemary Healy (Portfolio Holder Highways, Transport, Cleansing)
SIGNED and Dated: 28/07/2021
Michael Wayne Bexton (Interim CD for Growth & City Development)
SIGNED and Dated: 27/07/2021
Clive Heaphy as Chief Finance Officer (Chief Finance Officer) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 20/07/2021
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: Approved as a 1 year solution - no further exemptions from Financial Regulations will be granted