

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

4326

Author:

Jack Hayhoe

Department:

Growth and City Development

Contact:

Jack Hayhoe

(Job Title: Regional Principal Energy Project Officer, Email: [jack.hayhoe@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:jack.hayhoe@nottinghamcity.gov.uk), Phone: 07864973065)

Subject:

Electrification of Council Depots

Total Value:

£60,000 (100% External Grant Funded) (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To commission a consultant through an open tender process, on behalf of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) funded

Midlands Energy Hub, to develop an authoritative guide to making council depots electric fleet ready for across the Midlands Energy Hub region at a cost of up to £60,000.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

The Midlands Energy Hub Board, made up of representatives from across the nine Midlands Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), unanimously voted for up to £60,000 of the Midlands Energy Hub (MEH) consultancy budget to be allocated to procure an engineering consultant as a part of its role to support Local Authorities implementing their net zero strategies.

The cost of this report will come out of the Midlands Energy Hub budget, which is external grant funding.

Nottingham City Council are the accountable body for the Midlands Energy Hub and therefore have oversight of how the BEIS funding is spent.

The work will provide robust, independent and objective guidance on the options available to councils as they embark on installing the depot electric vehicle charging infrastructure over the next decade. It will rigorously examine competing technological solutions. It will provide model solutions for a range of depot archetypes across the various geographies of the MEH region. It aims to enable users make informed decisions and minimise the risks associated with high capital value depot electrification projects. It will enable users to properly evaluate the claims made by equipment suppliers in the still evolving electric vehicle (EV) charging technologies market. The cost of this report will come out of the MEH budget, which is external grant funding from BEIS. The MEH, Regional Energy Team have conducted soft market testing with a range of reputable engineering consultants to confirm there is market capability to deliver this project.

**Other Options Considered:**

Not completing the report was rejected because the core mission of the Midlands Energy Hub is to supply capacity support and expertise to partners across the Midlands to assist their respective decarbonisation efforts. The need for a report examining depot EV charging options was identified following extensive engagement with stakeholders across the region. As the detailed specialist knowledge (particularly that pertaining to electricity grid design, regulation and future direction) necessary to draft such report is not currently available to the MEH, external consultants were deemed necessary. It would not be appropriate for the MEH to offer support to stakeholders for depot EV charging projects that is not robustly referenced meaning the only option available would be to rely on currently published material, much of which lacks the requisite objectivity. Not completing the report would therefore severely hamper the MEH core mission.

**Background Papers:**

None

<b>Published Works:</b>	None
<b>Affected Wards:</b>	Citywide
<b>Colleague / Councillor Interests:</b>	None
<b>Use of Consultants</b>	<p><b>Number of Days:152</b></p> <p><b>Rate per Day:394.74</b></p> <p><b>Total value:60000</b></p> <p><b>Start date:01/07/2021</b></p> <p><b>End date:30/11/2021</b></p>
<b>Reason for using a consultant:</b>	<p>Please note - Above costs are estimates only as we haven't selected a consultant at this moment. The information is based of our own soft market testing. The key requirement for an `Authoritative Guide' requires that the outputs are, and seen to be, robust, independent and objective in order to have the desired credibility with the MEH partners.</p> <p>This is a substantial piece of work that will require considerable resource to ensure it is completed within the required time-frame. The required combination of knowledge and capacity are not available at a Local Authority level. The work will have a heavy engineering emphasis and as such requires specific professional capabilities.</p>
<b>Other options considered:</b>	<p>Not completing the report was rejected because the core mission of the Midlands Energy Hub is to supply capacity support and expertise to partners across the Midlands to assist their respective decarbonisation efforts. The need for a report examining depot EV charging options was identified following engagement with stakeholders across the region. As the detailed specialist knowledge (particularly that pertaining to electricity grid design, regulation and future direction) necessary to draft such report is not currently available to the MEH, external consultants were deemed necessary. Not completing the report would severely hamper the MEH core mission.</p>
<b>Name of consultant:</b>	N/A
<b>Reason for selection?</b>	We have put together the specification, but haven't yet gone out to tender. This will be our next step after the completion of the delegated decision process.
<b>Has the consultant previously completed work for the City Council?</b>	N/A - see above.

**Specific activities to be undertaken by the consultant are:**

**Provide an overview of the system that will need to be installed in a council depot capable of charging the various EVs by 2030. Examine the technical risk and merits of different charging systems. Have an emphasis on technical specification, good engineering practice. Offer guidance on the sizing of connection upgrades to the distribution network that will be necessary to accommodate EV fleets at depots. Identify parameters that need to be considered when specifying charging infrastructure. Explain how depot charging should inform vehicle procurement strategy to ensure standardisation and compatibility of vehicles with depot charging infrastructure. Describe how to 'design in' reliability and resilience in a depot charging system. Examine how the layout of depots will need to change in order to accommodate an electric fleet. Investigate the viability of using Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities to provide power for depot charging infrastructure.**

**Period of engagement:**

**5 Months**

**By what process was the consultant selected?**

**The consultant will be procured through normal procurement routes.**

**Consultations:**

**Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.**

**Crime and Disorder Implications:**

**This decision will not have any direct implications on crime and disorder.**

**Equality:**

**EIA not required. Reasons: The decision does not relate to new or changing policies or services.**

**Social Value Considerations:**

**N/A**

**Relates to staffing:**

**Yes**

**Decision Type:**

**Portfolio Holder**

**Subject to Call In:**

**Yes**

**Call In Expiry date:**

**13/08/2021**

**Advice Sought:**

**Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources**

**Legal Advice:**

**Given the total estimated value of the scheme, at least three written quotations could be obtained for this work. However, the corporate director for the service area may choose to seek tenders in lieu of written quotations. Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 04/06/2021.**

**Finance Advice:**

The estimated cost of the consultants proposed is £0.060m which is to be funded through the BEIS MEH grant. This is an ongoing BEIS grant and funding has been received by NCC. The consultant cost has been earmarked within the MEH grant programme of projects and will form part of the grant spend.

If the final costs are materially higher than estimated, this will need to be contained within the grant programme spend and further approval sought from the MEH board. Any underspend can be released for further MEH projects. Advice provided by Tania Clayton Perez (Commercial Business Partner) on 16/06/2021.

**Procurement Advice:**

There are no procurement concerns with the decision being sought. The Procurement Team will work with the Energy Team to ensure that consultants are appointed in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules. Advice provided by Jonathan Whitmarsh (Lead Procurement Officer) on 28/05/2021.

**HR Advice:**

It is noted that due to the specialist nature of the work required management will work with Procurement to source appropriate resources. If the consultant appointed is to be paid via NCC the guidance and procedure provided on the "IR35 Off Payroll Working" intranet page should be followed. Otherwise, there are no concerns and the decision is supported. Advice provided by Matthew Hackney (Resourcing Consultant) on 03/06/2021.

**Signatures:**

<b>David Mellen (Leader/ PH Strategic Regeneration Communications)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 04/08/2021</b>
<b>Sally Longford (PH for Energy, Environment and Waste Services)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 03/08/2021</b>
<b>Michael Wayne Bexton (Interim CD for Growth &amp; City Development)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 02/08/2021</b>