

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	4349
Author:	Ellen Cooper-Tydeman
Department:	Growth and City Development
Contact:	Ellen Cooper-Tydeman (Job Title: Energy Policy Officer, Email: ellen.cooper-tydeman@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158763437)
Subject:	Retrofit Academy Support for Local Authority Delivery of the Green Homes Grant
Total Value:	£85,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	<p>1) To approve the spend of £85,000 of grant money received from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 2 of the Green Homes Grant.</p> <p>2) To approve dispensation to Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.1, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Operational Issues), to award a contract directly to Retrofit Academy to provide all participating Local Authorities across the Midlands with membership of the related Centre of Excellence, as well as developing and disseminating a LAD Procurement Toolkit.</p>
Reasons for the Decision(s)	BEIS is commissioning the Midlands Energy Hub to deliver Phase 2 of the Green Homes Grant, as set out in the commissioned sourcing strategy for this work. Awarding a contract to Retrofit Academy will provide all of the Local Authorities across the Midlands with membership of the related Centre of Excellence, and they will develop and disseminate a procurement toolkit for LAD that will build on their previous work. Sector research has been carried out and has not found any alternative providers who can run the same service within the required timeframe. This work will increase public sector knowledge on the new standard required for retrofit measures and supports the Hub's wider strategic role to build capacity across the region.
Other Options Considered:	1) To not spend the funding: this option was rejected as it would represent a missed opportunity to support the Council and the Midlands region with domestic retrofit to help address fuel poverty, domestic decarbonisation and regional green recovery.
Background Papers:	None

Published Works:	Delegated Decision 4034: Green Homes Grant - Local Authority Delivery (https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5379)
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 decision does not represent proposals for a new or changing policy, service or function.
Social Value Considerations:	Retrofit Academy has provided a reduced rate of membership to enable access to support delivery of domestic retrofit across the region.
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	27/08/2021
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

The proposals in this report seek to support Local Authorities (LAs), including Nottingham, with the Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 project aimed at reducing fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency of homes in the city.

The project now requires a new standard for retrofit and, in order to support the member LAs in ensuring compliance with this requirement, additional support and guidance is required. Money has already been received from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy by the Council to support this project and the spend with Retrofit Academy will be in furtherance of this project.

It is understood that Retrofit Academy is the only provider of the Centre for Excellence and, as such, is best placed to provide the relevant training and guidance to the LAs. For that reason, dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.1 is supported.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Sreaton (Solicitor) on 04/08/2021.

Finance Advice:

This decision supports CRES and the Midlands Energy Hub in reducing fuel poverty and in meeting the CN28 pledges, aligning with the current 2019-2023 Council Plan.

This decision seeks to spend £85,000 from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 (LAD2) Grant administration budget to direct award to Retrofit Academy. This provider is currently the only Centre of Excellence for accredited installers regarding new PAS 2035 Compliance and will support Local Authorities and other bodies, including the Council, in complying with the new standard.

The BEIS LAD2 grant has been received by the Council as per Delegated Decision 4034 and the proposed expenditure value is within the grant budget allocation for administration purposes.

The request for dispensation to Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.1 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Operational Reasons) is supported due to the reasons stated by the author.

Advice provided by Tania Clayton Perez (Commercial Business Partner) on 16/07/2021.

Procurement Advice:

A direct award by dispensation from the Contract Procedure Rules is a compliant route to appoint a supplier; and the Retrofit Academy, as the national Centre of Excellence, would be best placed to deliver the requirement for this scheme.

Advice provided by Jonathan Whitmarsh (Lead Procurement Officer) on 15/07/2021.

Signatures

Sally Longford (PH for Energy, Environment and Waste Services)
SIGNED and Dated: 20/08/2021
Michael Wayne Bexton (Interim CD for Growth & City Development)
SIGNED and Dated: 18/08/2021
Clive Heaphy as Chief Finance Officer (Chief Finance Officer) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 17/08/2021
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: