

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	4364
Author:	Robeel Haque
Department:	Resident Services
Contact:	Robeel Haque (Job Title: Tree Services Programme Manager, Email: rob.haque@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 07720898364)
Subject:	National Trust Blossom Again Project
Total Value:	£45,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	To accept funding from the National Trust of £45,000 to deliver the Blossom Again Project as detailed in Appendix 1 To delegate the authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to enter into any procurement or contracts relating to the delivery of this project.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	This project aims to plant Blossom Trees around the country to remember people who have passed away due to Covid-19. The funding would be split across 2 different park sites in Nottingham. The National Trust are working with select partners across the country to achieve this objective. Nottingham City Council would receive funding to enhance park areas and plant more trees. Our aim is to plant 50,000 trees by 2023 as part of our Corporate priority and also to assist us in delivering our Carbon Neutral Strategy priorities by 2028.
Briefing notes documents:	National Trust Blossom Again Brief.docx

Other Options Considered: Option 1:- To decline this funding. This option has been declined as the offer of £45,000 funding to help plant more trees in the City is greatly needed and there are limited other funds to help plant trees
Option 2:- To explore other funding to deliver this project. This option has been rejected as there are no other dedicated funds available for this type of decorative tree planting .
Options 3:- This option has been accepted because the funding from the National Trust will fully fund a programme of tree planting in Nottingham's parks and it will help contribute to our tree planting priorities and it will enable the City to participate in a National Tree Planting initiative.

Background Papers: None

Published Works: <https://nt.global.ssl.fastly.net/documents/blossom-together-toolkit.pdf>

Affected Wards: St Ann's, Wollaton West

Colleague / Councillor Interests: N/A

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

Crime and Disorder Implications: The enhancements to the parks and planting of trees are designed to improve visual appearance of the parks which will discourage anti social behaviour and help improve the mental health of the community.

Equality: Please login to the system to view the EIA document: NCC EIA form for Blossom Sept 2021 Final version.docx

Regard for NHS Constitution: The project will help to deliver the objectives of the NHS Constitution and the delivery of the public health functions under the NHS Act 2006 by delivering a project that is designed to encourage people to enjoy taking a relaxing walk in their local park which will help our communities to enjoy the natural environment and help to improve both their fitness and mental health.

Decision Type: Officer

Executive Decision? Yes

**Scheme of Delegation
Reference Number or Other
Source of Delegation:**

1

Subject to Call In:

No
The call-in procedure does not apply to the decision because the value of the decision is below the call in threshold.

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

At least three written quotations will need to be obtained in respect of this procurement unless any other arrangement is legally accessible in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Any grant funding conditions must be complied with to ensure there is no clawback of funding. Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 23/06/2021.

Finance Advice:

The £45k of grant income will cover both the procurement and the labour costs. Any underspend on this project, which is expected to be delivered by Dec 2022, will be agreed by both parties as to how that will be spent, unless a clawback is agreed.
NCC must maintain accurate financial records in order to produce evidence of financial management and comply with the grant conditions. Therefore it is suggested that a budget is created within the internal financial system for this grant income. It is also a prerequisite of the grant conditions that Public / Employers liability insurance is obtained throughout the duration of the project. Therefore it is suggested that the NCC project lead make the necessary enquiries to ensure that this project falls under the existing insurance policy. Advice provided by Meagan Milic (Commercial Business Partner) on 14/07/2021.

**Equality and Diversity
Advice:**

There are no impacts to any of the protected characteristics therefore I am happy to sign off. Advice provided by Rosey Donovan (Equality and Employability Consultant) on 03/09/2021.

Procurement Advice:

The decisions to be taken raise no procurement concerns. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 22/07/2021.

Signatures:

David Murray (Interim Corporate Director Resident Services)
SIGNED and Dated: 09/09/2021

Appendix One

National Trust Blossom Again Project

The National Trust and Nottingham City Council are working in partnership with a view to planting trees at 2 different sites for the Blossom Again project.

Nottingham would be 1 of 4 or 5 places to be involved in this project.

The Blossom Again idea is to embed Covid-19 into the Nation's Cultural memory and to help nature and people to blossom.

The project aim is to select sites around the City that would benefit from a Blossom Circle, Avenue or other profile. Community and Stakeholder engagement will be key to selecting the site, shape of Blossom and establishing a connection with this project.

Out of several sites Lenton Recreation Ground and St Mary's Rest Garden have been shortlisted for this project as it is felt these sites will most benefit the community and enhance the locations.

Funding for this project will be provided by the National Trust and will be £45,000. With £40,000 being allocated at the start of the project and £5,000 being provided in Spring 2022 to promote the completion of the projects and for community engagement.

Volunteers will be engaged for ongoing maintenance and care of the trees and a watering programme will be implemented for the trees for the first 3 years as we would our newly planted trees.

Planting trees is crucial for Nottingham City Council achieving its 50,000 tree planting target and assisting us in being carbon neutral by 2028.

Equality Impact Assessment Form (Page 1 of 2)

screentip- sectionA

Title of EIA/ DDM: National Trust Blossom Project EIA for St Mary's Rest Garden and Lenton Park Recreation Ground

Name of Author: Rob Haque

Department: Tree Services
of Neighbourhood Services

Director: Mary Lester - Interim Director

Service Area: Public Realm
underline)

Strategic Budget EIA Y/N (please

Author (assigned to Pentana): Rob Haque

screentip- sectionB

Brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed:

The planting of Blossom trees on both of the sites listed above as funded by The National Trust in partnership with The People's Postcode Lottery. With the addition of furniture such as benches and footpaths to make the site more accessible.

screeintip- sectionC

Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

The people who would benefit from this project are those who live, work and visit the sites. For St Mary's Rest Garden this would tend to be local residents but also the public who frequent the neighbouring Victoria Park and also those using local amenities such as Victoria Leisure Centre and Sneinton Market. For Lenton Recreation Ground the local residents, students and people passing by. The additional of addition footpaths should make the park more accessible for those in wheelchairs or difficulty walking as it will provide a flat surface are to travel on.

Click once and type. Note any relevant consultation and who took part; refer to or hyperlink to document(s) if needed.

screeintip- sectionD

Could particularly benefit

May adversely impact

People from different ethnic groups

Men

√

Women	√
Trans	√
Disabled people or carers	√
Pregnancy/ Maternity	√
People of different faiths/ beliefs and those with none	√
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people	√
Older	√
Younger	√
Other (e.g. marriage/ civil partnership, looked after children, cohesion/ good relations, vulnerable children/ adults).	

Please underline the group(s) /issue more adversely affected or which benefits.

screeentip-sectionE

How different groups could be affected

Lenton Park Recreation Ground is currently used by students who play football on the grass using studded boots. There are signs placed on site to discourage the wearing of studded boots as this is destroying the grass but it continues. The introduction of the Blossom Project at Lenton Park Recreation Ground is designed to break

up the area in phase 1. Subject to funding, in phase 2 it is proposed to create a multi-use games area so football activity can be moved to another part of the park.

Provide details for impacts / benefits on people in different protected groups.

Note: the level of detail should be proportionate to the potential impact of the proposal / policy / service.
Continue on separate sheet if needed.

The aim of the project is to allow people to reflect on the impact of Covid and remember those who we have lost to this disease. Blossom trees will be planted with the addition of benches and additional footpaths to improve access to the Blossom trees. The footpaths will be created on a natural desire line that is predetermined by people who walk in the park. There is no negative impact envisaged for this project but rather to enhance existing parks and make them more welcoming and accessible to people from all backgrounds and with disabilities.

screeintip-sectionF

Details of actions to reduce negative or increase positive impact

In order to reduce negative impact and create a positive impact we aim to consult with the public who maybe affected by our project such as local residents, students, Councillors and Stake holders. Showing our proposed plans should help to engage those who may be affected and show what enhancements we have planned at each park. Contact will be made with the Equality and Employability team for disseminating information if required to the protected groups i.e. BAME, Disability, LGBT etc

1 Actions will need to be uploaded on Pentana.

Continue on separate sheet if needed.

The above action and any other that are recommended can be uploaded to Pentana as required.

screenip-sectionG Has consultation been done or planned for this proposal? Completed **Planned**

- Social media (Facebook & Twitter) via the parks pages and My Nottingham
- Contact made with Holy Trinity Church and the Sikh Temple, Lenton
- Contact made with Resident Associations for both areas
- Contact made with the University of Nottingham
- Local Councillors have been consulted

screenip-sectionH Has human rights legislation been considered in this proposal? **Yes** No

It is not thought there will be any negative impact on Human Rights for this project.

Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:

No major change needed Adjust the policy/proposal Adverse impact but continue

Stop and remove the policy/proposal

Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:

Note when assessment will be reviewed (e.g. Review assessment in 6 months or annual review); Note any equality monitoring indicators to be used; consider existing monitoring/reporting that equalities information could form part of. **An annual review is proposed to see if there is any negative impact that requires attention and this would assist if phase 2 of development is initiated.**



Approved by (manager signature):

The assessment must be approved by the manager responsible for the service/proposal. Include a contact tel & email to allow citizen/stakeholder feedback on proposals.

Date sent to equality team for publishing:

Send document or link to: equalities@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Before you send your EIA to the Equality and Community Relations Team for scrutiny, have you:

1. Read the guidance and good practice EIA's
<http://gossweb.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/nccextranet/index.aspx?articleid=9770>
2. Clearly summarised your proposal/ policy/ service to be assessed.
3. Hyperlinked to the appropriate documents.
4. Written in clear user friendly language, free from all jargon (spelling out acronyms).

5. Included appropriate data.
6. Consulted the relevant groups or citizens or stated clearly when this is going to happen.
7. Clearly cross referenced your impacts with SMART actions.