

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	4371
Author:	Richard Wellings
Department:	Growth and City Development
Contact:	Richard Wellings (Job Title: Senior Public Transport Officer, Email: richard.wellings@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 64896)
Subject:	Acceptance of Tranche 2 DfT grant award for Development of Local Bus Proposals as outlined in the National Bus Strategy
Total Value:	£197,465 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	Permission is sought to: 1. Accept £197,465 in capacity support that has been offered to Local Transport Authorities to develop local bus proposals as outlined in the National Bus Strategy (NBS). 2. Delegate authority to the Head of Transport Strategy and Head of Public transport to use the funding to upskill existing staff, recruit additional resource, purchase specialised transport planning software and secure specialised consultancy and legal support as required to deliver an Enhanced Partnership by April 22 and to support business case development support in relation to bus infrastructure and decarbonisation projects.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	This is additional funding on top of the £100,000 already received and will be used to progress an "Enhanced Partnership" for bus services across the Greater Nottingham area that currently forms the Robin Hood Public Transport Network by April 2022. This grant has been allocated to support Local Transport Authorities for the development of their Enhanced Partnership Schemes (EPS) or franchising schemes, and Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP) work, and to meet the challenging timescales that go alongside that work. Nottingham will use the funding to develop an Enhanced Partnership Scheme with local bus operators and other key stakeholders over the next 12-24 months in line with the requirements of the National Bus Strategy. This funding will be used on a combination of additional staff resources and bought in specialist expertise to work up the detail of the new bus partnership scheme and improvement plan as required. Compliant procurement routes will be followed in relation to any expenditure and additional delegated decisions submitted if required.
Briefing notes documents:	210726 signed letter LTA bus capacity grant_final.pdf

Other Options Considered: Not claim the grant award. This option was rejected due to the delivery timescales required by government in relation to both the development of an Enhanced Partnership and the related Bus Service Improvement Plans. Specialist external legal and technical support alongside reallocation of internal resource within Transport Strategy / Major projects will be required in order to ensure timescales are met. Both plans will have a critical role to play in dictating future funding allocations to the city in relation to bus infrastructure and revenue support.

Background Papers: none

Published Works: none

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: none

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

Crime and Disorder Implications: n/a

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: Acceptance of the grant award has no equality implications

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 22/09/2021

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

This report seeks approval to accept Tranche 2 grant funding from the DfT by way of a s.31 grant and to spend in accordance with the details within the report.

The Council must ensure that it complies with any grant funding conditions upon receipt to ensure the risks of claw back are avoided and/or mitigated.

Any spend from the grant funding that is proposed to be made using external resources must only be made following compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, including recruitments, external advice and procurement requirements.

Legal services will provide support as necessary. Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screamon (Solicitor) on 19/08/2021.

Finance Advice:

As stated in the report Nottingham City Council have already been allocated £100,000 and this award is an additional £197,465 in capacity support to develop local bus proposals as outlined in the National Bus Strategy (NBS). As stated in will be used to progress an "Enhanced Partnership" for bus services across the Greater Nottingham area that currently forms the Robin Hood Public Transport Network by April 2022.

This grant together with the £100k already received will be spent on staff, consultancy and legal costs as well as specialised transport planning software. Of the £100k already received approximately £30k has been allocated to date and Transport colleagues are in discussions about allowing some of the grant to be spent in 22/23 given the timing of its allocation.

As stated in the main body of information the procurement must follow Financial Regulations and CPR.

The grant conditions attached are around the outcome to be achieved and discussions have taken place with DfT on the type of spend allowed. The expenditure will be coded separately and monitored so that any carry forward or repayment can be readily identified.

Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 29/07/2021.

Procurement Advice:

Procurement colleagues will provide any necessary assistance if any quotations or tenders are required to support this project. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 24/08/2021.

Signatures

Rosemary Healy (Portfolio Holder Highways, Transport, Cleansing)
SIGNED and Dated: 14/09/2021
Sajeeda Rose (Interim CD for Growth & City Development)
SIGNED and Dated: 13/09/2021