

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4418

Author:

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Department:

Growth and City Development

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Subject:

Bikeability Level 2 training for Year 6 pupils 2022/23-2026/27

Total Value:

Up to £600,000 expenditure over 5 years supported by grant income. (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1) To continue to apply for, and accept, the maximum possible Government grant, and any eligible top-up grant, each financial year to deliver Bikeability Level 2 to pupils in Nottingham's schools.2) To bid for any additional child cycle training grant that the Government offers, e.g. SEND pupils3) To procure a delivery supplier(s) for 5 years (on a 1+1+1+1+1 basis), starting 2022/23, and delegate the approval to award to the Head of Traffic.

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 to the Government. Each year, providers are able to bid for grant funding, currently £45 per training place, to deliver Bikeability Level 2 training. 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. The Government also occasionally announces specific grants for specialist training such as for those with Special Education Needs and Disabilities. In 2019, the Government announced that they intend increasing the funding so that every child can be trained. As there are over 3,500 pupils in year 6 then, in the future, the grant could be over £150k per year. However, we expect that the amount of funding will only gradually increase. 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. Provider(s) will be procured to deliver any agreed training within the 5-year period 2022/23 - 2026/27. The amount of training will be agreed each year subject to the amount of Government grant received each year as part of the bidding process. The total cost of around £600k is based on a 25% increase in funding per year until 2026/27 and any additional grant opportunities. 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 approve a lower or higher limit on the amount of funding. This option has been rejected as the Government is expected to increase the amount of grant per training place and the number of places able to be offered annually and the value is considered to be a reasonable upper limit to the amount of grant that could be available over the 5 years timescale. 3) To appoint a supplier for a shorter or longer timescale. This option has been rejected as the timescale chosen is considered reasonable for a supplier to have some certainty for any future planning and providing the opportunity to test the supplier market every few years to ensure best value.

Background Papers:

Published Works:

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: 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:	03/11/2022
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement
Legal Advice:	Local authorities have a statutory duty under section 39 Road Traffic Act to take appropriate measures in order to promote road safety. This delegated decision seeks authority to apply for, and if successful, accept grant funding from central government to teach children to cycle to national standard thereby promoting their safety on the roads. Any offer of grant funding from central government will contain funding conditions which must be complied with (and possibly targets to be met), failing which Government could seek clawback from the council of the funding. Any external contract for the provision of such training would need to be procured in accordance with public procurement rules and the Council' Contract Procedure Rules having regard to the estimated value of the contract. Given that grant funding can only be applied for on an annual basis, any contract awarded for the provision of cycle training could only be for an initial one year term with an option for the council to extend at its discretion if further grant funding were to be secured for a subsequent year. Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 20/10/2021.

Finance Advice:

The decision seeks the approval to accept and allocate grant funding up to a maximum of £600k over a 5 year period. It is not clear and assumes that this will not be an equal split over each year and will depend on each annual successful bid plus any top up available. The amount is based on current levels of 1,200 places a year increasing by 25% as demand is set to increase to ensure ALL children have an opportunity. The final placements to reach 3,600 by 2026/27.

The grant covers the cost of administering/delivering cycle training and to maintain and store a fleet of bicycles and other equipment. The decision also seeks to clarify that a tender process will take place to secure a suitable provider for the full 5 year time frame to commence 2022/23. This will not only ensure the children benefit from adequate training and placements can be fulfilled, but also that it will be delivered within the funding envelope each year taking into account value for money. This scheme will be 100% grant funded and therefore there will be no impact to the MTFP. Placements cannot be fulfilled if funding falls short to mitigate any financial risk to the authority Advice provided by Michelle Pullen (Commercial Business Partner) on 15/07/2021.

Procurement Advice:

Procurement colleagues will assist with the tendering exercise to ensure that a fully compliant, value for money contract is entered into. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 21/06/2021.

Signatures

Rosemary Healy (Portfolio Holder Highways, Transport, Cleansing)
SIGNED and Dated: 27/10/2021
Sajeeda Rose (Corporate Director of Growth & City Development)
SIGNED and Dated: 25/10/2021