

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	4437
Author:	James Rhodes
Department:	Finance and Resources
Contact:	James Rhodes (Job Title: Policy, Performance and Insight Manger, Email: james.rhodes@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 0115 8765726)
Subject:	Data Accelerator Funding (MHCLG) to improve outcomes for families through enhanced data collection, integration and use
Total Value:	£525,500 income (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	To accept and endorse the available funding of £525,500 awarded through a successful data accelerator bid to improve the way information is collected and processed. The funding will be utilised over a period of 2 years to: Develop a partner gateway providing direct read/write access to the case management system Enhance data integration and automated data harvesting Develop a machine-learning model to identify families who require early help and support, particularly around the risks of financial difficulty and homelessness Develop a secure 'at a glance' dashboard for stakeholders

Reasons for the Decision(s) Nottingham City Council has successfully bid for government funding to enhance data systems. This will improve the way information is collected, processed and used by the council and its partners operating within the 'Supporting Families' initiative.

The successful delivery of the programme will streamline frontline and back office processes, bringing benefits to families in the City and potentially informing national practice in regards to a digital strategy. A total of £525,500 (paid over two years) has been awarded to Nottingham by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as part of the Local Data Accelerator Fund. Only 10 bids across the country were successful in securing funding.

The Analysis and Insight Team developed the proposal and will lead a 'data partnership' comprised of Leicestershire County Council, Doncaster Council and the University of Nottingham. Nottingham City Council are the lead partner and sharing skills and ongoing collaboration will be a central theme throughout the programme.

The programme is scheduled to run until April 2023. During this time the MHCLG will hold regular monitoring meetings with Data Partnerships to ensure timescales are met and all lead authorities operate within the agreed Memorandum of Understanding. Allied to the delivery of programmes will be the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation and an externally commissioned evaluation partner headed by Ecorys. Therefore transparency, accountability and strong information governance is assured.

The section 151 officer is supportive of the project and upon success of our proposal we are now seeking formal approval.

Briefing notes documents: Data Accelerator Briefing V2.docx

Other Options Considered: The option of not applying was considered but rejected as the funding will deliver developments that have been planned for some time but have been constrained by resourcing issues. The funding will enable the technical development to take place with lasting benefits to the council in terms of improved data collection, integration and usage. This will enhance our use of machine learning and predicative analytics which will have application across the transformation portfolio. E.g. links to customer first and demand management.

Background Papers: n/a

Published Works: n/a

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

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

Crime and Disorder Implications:

The project will bring efficiencies to practitioners from across the public sector (social workers, police etc) in terms of access to relevant information at the right time to prevent harm. It will also facilitate early intervention with anticipated positive impact on crime and disorder.

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: This is an enhancement to an existing service and does not directly impact on communities or special category groups.

Any implications affecting IT:

Yes

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

22/11/2021

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, IT

Legal Advice:

The government funding from MHCLG will be subject to terms and conditions which if not complied with or met, may be subject to clawback from Nottingham City Council (NCC). Accordingly, NCC will need to have legally binding agreements in place with delivery partners which oblige them to adhere to the grant funding terms. Such agreements will need to protect the Council in the event that any of those partners bring the Council into breach of the funding conditions. Any procurement of services will need to comply with public procurement rules and the Council's Financial Regulations (including Contract Procedure Rules). Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 13/10/2021.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval to accept grant funding from MHCLG of £0.526m over a 2 year period to improve the way data is collected, processed and used within the 'Supporting Families' initiative.

An overview of how the grant is to be spent is contained within the decision however specific details including delivery partners, contract lengths and values to still to be established.

The grant should be spent in accordance with any terms and conditions provided and monitored closely to ensure only the amount awarded is spent and that no adverse financial impact is incurred by Nottingham City Council. Any unspent grant may be requested to be returned to MHCLG.

As the award is over a 2 year period, the grant will need to be accounted for and carried forward (if applicable) in the correct financial year(s).

Advice provided by Philip Gretton (Finance Analyst) on 18/10/2021.

Procurement Advice:

The Analysis and Insight Team have secured funding to improve data processing and sharing. This may be done using a range of IT systems and software. The details of these contracts, their value and length haven't been established at this stage. The Procurement Team will work with A&I to follow compliant procurement processes which best suites the needs of the client and in-line with CPRs to establish contracts which meet the terms of the funding agreement.

In addition to the potential procurement of IT functionality, there may be additional services required of a Systems Analyst.

There are no procurement concerns. Advice provided by Louise Dobson (Business Support) on 13/10/2021.

IT Advice:

The IT Service support the proposals made in this delegated decision.

The proposal can be developed on the basis of supported technologies already in use by the Council and supports the development of information management projects already underway in the Council. As required by the Analysis and Insight Team the IT Service will provided any additional support required on a project basis.

Advice provided by Paul J. Burrows (IT Change, Projects & Strategy Manager) on 17/10/2021.

Signatures

Sam Webster (PH Finance and Resources)
SIGNED and Dated: 11/11/2021
Clive Heaphy (Interim Corporate Director for Finance & Resources)
SIGNED and Dated: 02/11/2021