

Operational Decision Record

Publication Date 01/12/2021	Decision Reference Number 4462
Decision Title	
Unipol Student Homes grant funding for academic year 2019-2020	
Decision Value	
£39,100	
Revenue or Capital Spend?	
Revenue	
Department	
Growth and City Development	
Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details)	
Graham de Max - Partnership and Policy Manager	
Decision Taken	
To approve payment of grant funding for Unipol Student Homes for the academic year 2019-2020	
Reasons for Decision and Background Information	
<p>The City Council supports the presence of Unipol Student Homes in the city by providing an annual grant which has been at the rate of £39,100 since funding commenced in 2008. Unipol provides, for agreement with the Council, a delivery plan of the activities which it will deliver in Nottingham, primarily accreditation of student accommodation and an accommodation finding and advice service.</p> <p>Payment is due at the end of the academic year, ie July. For the year 2019-20 payment was made without a delegated decision to support it. This was because the budget was temporarily vired from the then Commercial and Operations Department to the then Development and Growth Department, resulting in confusion over responsibility for writing the decision. This decision seeks to rectify that situation by providing a clear audit trail for the 2019-20 payment. A separate decision for the 2020-21 payment has now been taken.</p>	
Other Options Considered and why these were rejected	
Not to take this decision as payment has already been made: Rejected because it is essential that there is a proper audit trail for payments being made by the Council to external bodies.	
Reasons why this decision is classified as operational	
Has a value below £150,000 Has been taken within agreed policies and budgets.	
Additional Information	
The funding required by this decision is to pay for work undertaken by Unipol within the	

City in providing assurances to students wishing to rent from the private landlord sector. As explained in 'Reasons for the Decision' section, this decision relate to payment which has already been made for the work undertaken by Unipol during the 2019-2020 academic year, and as such is retrospective to ensure that there is a full audit trail for the spend. The decision is within the financial limit of the decision maker according to the Council's current constitution. The decision appears to be within the remit of the decision maker. The terms on which the funding is given, including the performance measures which Unipol is required to meet will be contained in the funding agreement. Advice provided by Tamazin Wilson (Solicitor) on 03/09/2021.

This decision seeks retrospective approval for expenditure of £39,100 for the year 2019/20. This cost was funded from revenue budget held in Housing Strategy service area (cc 5904) within the Growth & City Development Department and the approval provides authorisation for use of that budget for this specific expenditure. There is no impact on the Council's current year budget. Advice provided by Julie Dorrington (Senior Accountant (Housing Revenue Account)) on 17/11/2021.

Decision Maker (Name and Job Title)

Sajeeda Rose (Corporate Director for Growth and City Development)

Scheme of Delegation Reference Number

1

Date Decision Taken

30/11/2021