

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

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| Reference Number:           | 4504   |
| Author:                     | Mick Dunn  |
| Department:                 | Growth and City Development  |
| Contact:                    | Mick Dunn<br>(Job Title: GIS Service Manager, Email: mick.dunn@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 0115 8764001)   |
| Subject:                    | Grant Funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to Improve the Publication of Planning Data  |
| Total Value:                | £120,100 (Type: Capital and Revenue)   |
| Decision Being Taken:       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) To confirm the acceptance of a grant of £113,900 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to improve the publication of planning data, and to authorise the spending of the grant as set out in the funding application.</li><li>2) To maintain the required software support for the project beyond year 1, at a value of £3,100 per year, if appropriate.</li></ol>  |
| Reasons for the Decision(s) | The 'Planning for the Future' White Paper sets out the need for greater digitisation to improve the way that the Planning system works and is experienced. A cornerstone of this will be modern Planning software, underpinned by data and not documents. The DLUHC invited local authorities to submit expressions of interest to work with and develop existing development management software so that it supports the vision as set out in the White Paper. The Council submitted a proposal to the DLUHC and has been successful in responding to this funding call under the theme of improving the publication of Planning data. If, after 1 year, the project delivers a business benefit and is continued, then the associated software support and maintenance costs will be met from existing budget provision. |
| Briefing notes documents:   | SUBMITTED BID - DM-Pathfinder-EOI-Application-Form - Nottingham City Council.docx  |
| Other Options Considered:   | To not to accept and use the funding: this option is rejected as it would result in a lost opportunity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council's Planning Service.  |
| Background Papers:          | None   |

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| <b>Published Works:</b>                  | None  |
| <b>Affected Wards:</b>                   | Citywide  |
| <b>Colleague / Councillor Interests:</b> | None  |
| <b>Consultations:</b>                    | Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.  |
| <b>Crime and Disorder Implications:</b>  | None  |
| <b>Equality:</b>                         | EIA not required. Reasons: The decision does not represent proposals for a new or changing policy, service or function. |
| <b>Social Value Considerations:</b>      | Not applicable  |
| <b>Any implications affecting IT:</b>    | Yes   |
| <b>Decision Type:</b>                    | Portfolio Holder  |
| <b>Subject to Call In:</b>               | Yes   |
| <b>Call In Expiry date:</b>              | 28/01/2022  |
| <b>Advice Sought:</b>                    | Legal, Finance, Procurement, IT   |

**Legal Advice:**

There are no legal issues from the acceptance of the funding. The Council has the power to accept the funding under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. Legal Services have not been asked to review the funding terms and therefore are unable to comment on any obligations arising under that document. The client officer must read through and be satisfied that the Council can meet the requirements under the funding terms with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

With regards to the allocation of the fund, it is proposed that this is required to be with existing contractors. Subject to the Procurement team being satisfied that the contracts can be extended within the remit of either the Council's general requirements under Article 18.99 of the Council's Constitution, or if the value of the existing contracts are subject to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, that the extension complies with the requirements under Regulation 72, then there are no legal issues or concerns arising with the proposal.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screatton (Solicitor) on 18/01/2022.

**Finance Advice:**

The funding of £113,900 has already been received by the Council. There is a small amount of support and maintenance costs that the Service will meet from within existing budgets. The purchase and installation of this software should be delivered within the funding allocation and additional amounts stated here only, and any additional costs incurred must be managed from within the Service's budget so as not to cause any pressure to the Council's financial position.

Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 17/01/2022.

**Procurement Advice:**

The funding received will be used to buy software from existing providers and, therefore, modifying the contracts during their existing term under Regulation 72(1)(b) is proposed. Procurement would recommend that the cost for the approval to cover additional years' ongoing support and maintenance is included, to cover for the event that the project is successful and can be extended. There are no Procurement concerns.

Advice provided by Louise Dobson (Procurement Officer) on 18/01/2022.

**IT Advice:**

IT supports the development of this existing corporate system, allowing the Council to maximise its investment in existing technologies. Ongoing costs associated with future operations beyond the period of funding should be considered and funded appropriately.

Advice provided by Simon Salmon (Head of IT) on 20/01/2022.

**Signatures**

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| Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (PH Housing, Planning and Heritage) |
| SIGNED and Dated: 21/01/2022   |
| Sajeeda Rose (Corporate Director of Growth & City Development)         |
| SIGNED and Dated: 21/01/2022   |