

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4531

Author:

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Department:

Growth and City Development

Contact:

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Subject:

Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme 2021-24 - Round 2

Total Value:

£237,610.00 (Type: Capital and Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To accept £100,500 revenue funding from Governments Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) now known as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and £137,110 capital from Government's Homes England, combined as £237,610 funding from the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) 2021-24 to provide move on accommodation to rough sleepers in Nottingham
- 2) To spend the RSAP funding in accordance with the schedule outlined at Exempt Appendix A - RSAP 2021-24 Round 2 - Programme of Spend
- 3) To sign the Grant Agreement at Appendix B and Legal Opinion at Appendix C, both issued by Homes England outlining funding conditions and committing Nottingham City Council and consortia partners to their specified roles in delivery of the project
- 4) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Growth and City Development to adjust the remit or reinvest any grant underspend on services for rough sleepers in agreement with the MHCLG and Homes England as demand requires, within the financial envelope of the grant.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

In May 2021, 101 different individuals were identified by the Street Outreach Team as rough sleeping in Nottingham. Additionally, new flow to street homelessness is a significant challenge, accounting for around 44% of all individuals seen since the beginning of 2021.

At the time of the bid, it was assumed that there was a total of 64 rough sleepers in Nottingham (20 found at the June 2021 Street Outreach count and a further 44 rough sleepers sheltered in rough-sleeper-specific emergency accommodation).

In 2018 Nottingham City Council Capital Board added the purchase of 50 one-bedroom self-contained flats to the homeless property acquisition Capital Programme. In 2020, Nottingham City Council sought government funding through the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) to support delivery of 15 of these units. 11 out of the 15 acquisitions were completed within the NSAP funding timeframe and Nottingham City Council has now sourced further grant through the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) to support delivery of 2 out of the 4 units that remain unspecified under the Capital Programme. Through the remaining planned delivery of Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) 2020/21 and RSAP Round 1 2021/24 we will be providing homes to 36 of these individuals. This leaves 28 rough sleepers in need of settled accommodation, 6 of whom would benefit from the housing being introduced through this proposal.

This proposal sees the introduction of 6 homes as move on accommodation for up to two years for rough sleepers currently in emergency accommodation but whom would thrive well in an independent living setting with in-reach support. The homes will also be available to more entrenched or returned rough sleepers who are currently street homelessness, who have not previously achieved positive outcomes from shared supported accommodation and for whom a housing-led approach in a self-contained property will better meet their needs and maximise sustained resettlement.

Briefing notes documents:

For Information Not For Publication - Nottingham RSAP round 2 bid.xlsx, Appendix B - Grant Agreement (Consortium) in relation to RSAP 2021-2024.pdf, Appendix C - Legal Opinion - RSAP Consortia.docx

Other Options Considered:

- 1) To not bid for the RSAP funding: this option was rejected because the need for move on accommodation for rough sleepers in Nottingham remains acute and there is no other available funding source to enable delivery.
- 2) To accept the RSAP funding, but not spend it according to the programme outlined at Exempt Appendix A: this option was rejected because a condition of the grant is that it is ring-fenced for spend according to the predetermined programme. This includes direct awards to the specified providers. This is a necessary approach because of the grant requirements to mobilise quality assured services at pace, which requires partnerships with experienced, specialist providers who can enhance existing provision and deliver cohesively with the wider system.

Background Papers:

None

Published Works:

Delegated decision 4086 - Acceptance of Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Next Steps Accommodation Programme Grant Funding

Affected Wards:	Citywide
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	None
Any Information Exempt from publication:	Yes
Dispensation from Financial Regulations:	Yes
Exempt Information:	
Description of what is exempt:	Exempt Appendix A - RSAP 2021-24 Round 2 Programme of Spend
	An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972
3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because the Programme of Spend contains service costings that are commercially sensitive and, if published, could prejudice the Council's negotiating position for future commissioning as well as disadvantaging the provider in a competitive bidding process
Documents exempt from publication:	Exempt Appendix A - RSAP 2021-24 Round 2 Programme of Spend.docx
Consultations:	Date: 10/05/2021
	Other:Registered Providers of social housing in Nottingham. Homelessness Prevention Strategy Implementation Group (SIG) Homelessness Stakeholder Forum

Multiple communication has been sent to all operational Registered Providers of social housing in Nottingham as well as homelessness stakeholders via the SIG and Stakeholder Forum to determine options for taking forward partnership proposals via this government grant funding scheme. This was to ensure maximum opportunity for use of the grant for the coordinated delivery of homes to rough sleepers in accordance with Nottingham's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

None

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: A recent EIA has been completed in relation to rough sleeping services (August 2021)

Social Value Considerations:

None

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

24/02/2022

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

This report seeks approval to accept and spend funding received from MHCLG for the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme within the City. The Programme will be delivered by the Council as lead in collaboration with a number of delivery partners as detailed in the report. The Council must ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement with MHCLG and the other delivery partners.

As the delivery partners are also party to the Grant Agreement there are no procurement implications directly for the Council on the spend of this funding but should any external spend in addition to this made, it must be done so in accordance with the Council's Constitutional requirements.

Legal services are working with the report author to complete the formalities required by MHCLG in terms of implementing the necessary grant agreements and opinion letters. Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screamon (Solicitor) on 31/12/2021.

Finance Advice:

This decision requests approval to accept the funding of £237,610 from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) and Homes England. Nottingham City Council is to act as lead local authority working in collaboration with existing delivery partners. NCC will be responsible for drawing down funding at the appropriate times via the Investment Management System (IMS) and in line with the spending schedule as set out in Appendix A

This funding is to be ring fenced and allocated according to the appendix, however, the decision seeks the approval to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Growth and City Development to enable any slippage or underspend to be utilised within services in Rough Sleepers with approval from DLUHC and Home England colleagues as demands change and ensuring it remains within the funding envelope.

The monitoring of this grant will be carried out on a regular basis via both revenue and capital systems to ensure full compliance with the grants terms and conditions and that delivery partners are allocated funds in a timely manner and ensure all outcomes and objectives are met within the specified time frames and to mitigate risks of delay.

As this is over numerous financial years, it is the responsibility of the designated officers to liaise with finance colleagues to ensure the appropriate accounting treatment is applied each year end.

As the capital element of the project is funded by ringfenced external grant it is exempt from the current amended scheme of delegation. Advice provided by Michelle Pullen (Commercial Business Partner) on 05/01/2022.

Procurement Advice:

This decision relates to the receipt and expenditure of £100,500 revenue funding from Government's Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) now known as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and £137,110 capital from Government's Homes England, at an overall total of £237,610 for the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RASP) 2021 -24. This funding will be used to provide move-on accommodation to rough sleepers in Nottingham as set out in the grant funding conditions and as outlined in accordance with the schedule outlined at Exempt Appendix A - RSAP 2021-24 Round 2 - Programme of Spend. As these are grant funding arrangements, there are no procurement implications, however all funding should be used in accordance with MHCLG and Homes England grant conditions. Any allocations to providers which are not grants should be compliant with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Procurement Team will support this as needed.

Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 15/11/2021.

Signatures

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: 20/01/2022
Clive Heaphy as Chief Finance Officer (Chief Finance Officer) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 20/01/2022
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: