

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4577

Author:

Rachael Harding

Department:

Growth and City Development

Contact:

Rachael Harding

(Job Title: Homelessness Strategy Manager, Email: rachael.harding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158762754)

Subject:

Winter Pressures Fund 2021-22

Total Value:

£181,232 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1. To accept a revenue grant of £94,283 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Winter Pressures Fund (WPF)2. To reinvest £86,949 Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) grant underspend in the Winter Pressures Programme of Spend (detailed at Appendix A - Winter Pressure Fund 2021/22 - Programme of Spend.)3. To agree to spend the combined WPF and RSI specified funding in line with the Programme of Spend detailed at Appendix A.4. To authorise the issuing of a contract variation to temporarily reduce the Housing Related Support Mental Health Pathway contract with Framework Housing Association by 5 x bedspaces and another contract variation to temporarily increase the Rough Sleeping Supported Accommodation contract with Framework Housing Association by 5 x bedspaces until 31 March 20225. To enter into a grant agreement with Emmanuel House to enable Point 2 of Appendix A to be delivered6. To create the post of 1 x full time equivalent Housing Aid Officer, Grade F on a temporary fixed term (to 31/03/2022) outlined at Point 3 of Appendix A and agree for the Housing Aid Service Manager to deploy existing resource to cover the function in the interim, where possible7. To recruit to the temporary role referred to above (Non-Executive Officer Decision)

Reasons for the Decision(s) Since the government launched their Rough Sleeping Strategy in 2018, Nottingham City Council has maximised all opportunities to bid for grant funding to ensure that a comprehensive local system of services could be introduced to tackle rough sleeping in Nottingham. Working together with community sector partners, the city has implemented a range of services that have led to almost a 50% reduction in the numbers of rough sleepers out on any given night. Despite the measures that have been put in place to support individuals and move them away from street homelessness, the new flow of rough sleepers into the city remains problematic and the annual estimate in November 2021 found 23 rough sleepers in Nottingham, clearly showing there is more work to be done. The need to protect rough sleepers health and wellbeing in the winter months is particularly acute when the cold weather presents additional risks. On 28th October 2021, the government DLUHC announced a £10million fund available to local authorities with higher levels of pressure to supplement local provision and plans and manage additional seasonal demand. Nottingham City Council developed a proposal (Appendix B - Nottingham City Council Winter Pressures Fund application), which was agreed by DLUHC on 16th December 2021 (Appendix C - Winter Pressures Fund Nottingham confirmation of funding). DLUHC agreed a grant of £94,283 on an underwritten basis, alongside a redistribution of £86,949 RSI 2021-22 underspend, collectively ring fenced for spend according to the programme specified at Appendix A.

Briefing notes documents: Appendix C - Winter Pressures Fund - Nottingham Confirmation of funding.pdf, Appendix A - Winter Pressures Fund 2021-22 - Programme of Spend.docx, Appendix B - Nottingham City Council Winter Pressures Fund Application.docx

Other Options Considered: Not to bid for the funding. This option was rejected because of the ongoing level of demand.To bid for the funding but spend it in a way not specified in the programme. This options was rejected because the conditions of the grant mean that it is ring-fenced for spend on rough sleeping and according to the outlined measures agreed with DLUHC.

Background Papers: None

Published Works: Delegated Decision 4356 - Rough Sleeping Initiative 2021-22

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None

Consultations: Date: 15/11/2021
Other:Homelessness Prevention Strategy Implementation Group Homelessness Stakeholder Forum Rough Sleeping Initiatives Service Leads Meeting Cross-Council Homelessness Group

Over the Autumn, government funding opportunities for supporting rough sleepers has been a regular agenda item at the Homelessness Prevention Strategy Implementation Group, the Homelessness Stakeholder Forum, the Rough Sleeping Initiative Service Leads Meeting and the Cross-Council Homelessness Group. Feedback from the ICP Rough Sleeping workshops has also informed bid development.

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 for the broader Rough Sleeping Initiative grant, which applies to this funding.

Social Value Considerations:

N/A

Relates to staffing:

Yes

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

01/04/2022

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources

Legal Advice:

The proposal in this report seek to approve the receipt and allocation of the Winter Pressures funding from DLUHC to support rough sleepers in Nottingham during the winter period.

The money must be used in accordance with the funding terms and conditions and associated guidance issued to the Council upon receipt.

Any use of the funding to external third parties must be in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 to ensure compliance and best value.

Support from legal services should be sought as required in terms of the allocation of funding in accordance with the attached appendices.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screatton (Solicitor) on 24/02/2022.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks the approval to accept and allocate funding to the total of £181,232. This balance is made up of new grant funding from DLUHC and under spends from the existing Rough Sleepers Initiative grant 21/22.

DLUHC have allocated £94,333 to Nottingham City Council as part of the Winter Measures programme for 21/22. This is to be spent in accordance with the attached Appendix A. Funding is up to March 2022 and is to be claimed in arrears. The S151 officer is obliged to submit a signed summary of actual spend figures up to 31st March by no later than 14th April 2022. DLUHC request a forecast of spend to support the claim. This is required by 14th February 2022. Funding will be released once completed grant claim forms have been submitted. Therefore, the project manager will need to liaise with finance colleagues to ensure the proper accounting treatment has been applied to the ledger to ensure there is no negative impact in the final outturn at the end of the financial year.

The remaining £86,949 is from the under spends of the Rough Sleepers initiative 21/22 already identified and reported to DLUHC. The decision is to seek approval for this to rolled into the Winter Measures Programme 21/22. This is also detailed in appendix A. DLUHC support the re-distribution of this funding to the Winter Measures Programme. All funding is to remain ring fenced.

To ensure accurate monitoring, a dedicated cost centre has been set up. All spend relevant to this project will be coded here and monitored accordingly. The under spend element is currently separately identified in the ledger in the RSI cost centre but this will transfer to show clarity in both the RSI and the Winter Measure Programme. As the grant element is paid in arrears, there will be no risk of needing to pay any surplus back to DLUHC.

Advice provided by Michelle Pullen (Commercial Business Partner) on 31/01/2022.

Procurement Advice:

This decision relates to the award of a revenue grant of £94,283 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for the Winter Pressures Fund to deliver a programme of spend as detailed at Appendix A. The proposals to issue a contract variation to temporarily reduce the Housing Related Support Mental Health Pathway contract with Framework Housing Association by 5 x bedspaces and to issue a contract variation to temporarily increase the Rough Sleeping Supported Accommodation contract with Framework Housing Association by 5 x bedspaces are permitted modifications under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The individual values fall below the UK procurement threshold and are supported from a procurement perspective. It should be ensured that there are appropriate contractual arrangements in place with providers and that any spot purchases for nightly accommodation provide best value and are compliant. The use of this funding should comply with the DLUHC grant conditions and suitable agreements should be in place with external providers to ensure compliance and satisfactory performance.

Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 25/01/2022.

HR Advice:

Management will need to ensure that recruitment is conducted through the appropriate processes, including redeployment consideration. Management should be aware that the selected post-holder should commence on a starting salary of Level One within the respective grade, unless the appointed colleague is already in employment at the Council and on Level 2 of the same grade, in which case the employee would be matched over at the rate of pay they currently receive. There will need to be a support and development plan for the new post-holder once appointed in line with managing performance.

As the post is temporary, an appropriate exit strategy must be in place in order to terminate the contract in line with NCC guidance in the event that the post cannot be made permanent at the end of the fixed term period. Management will need to ensure appropriate timelines are in place to notify the affected employee and give appropriate notice. Advice provided by Aadil Bhatti (HR Consultant) on 16/03/2022

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Signatures

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (PH Housing, Planning and Heritage)
SIGNED and Dated: 25/03/2022
Sajeeda Rose (Corporate Director of Growth & City Development)
SIGNED and Dated: 17/03/2022