

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4608

Author:

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Department:

Resident Services

Contact:

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Subject:

One Hyson: Growing Together - Libraries project funded by Arts Council England (ACE) Libraries Improvement Fund

Total Value:

£164,946 (Type: Capital and Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To approve acceptance (by the Library Service) of Libraries Improvement Fund grant funding for its One Hyson: Growing Together project. Arts Council England (ACE), the body managing the funding on behalf of the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS).
- 2) To approve expenditure to deliver the One Hyson project, funded through the ACE grant of £114,758 and other match funding as outlined in this decision, totaling £50,188
- 3) To authorise delivery of the improvements set out below (in 'Reasons for the decision'), in accordance with the Council's procurement processes and in line with grant funding Terms and Conditions.
- 4) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Resident Services to go to tender as required and award contracts to the successful bidder(s).

Reasons for decision

Hyson Green is a culturally rich area with a large black and minority ethnic (BAME) community (55.7% of local population) and high numbers of newly arrived citizens. It is an area of high unemployment, higher than average numbers of people seeking benefits, a large number of houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) dwellings and high crime rates. The area has higher than average levels of factors increasing the risk of mental health problems, where people report they feel lonely often and where levels of social integration are lower than average. The proposed project improvements will help Hyson Green Library to address these issues in the following ways, providing a more vibrant and creative community facility, enabling greater cohesion and helping citizens to feel better connected and supported through an open and welcoming environment:

1) Renovate the garden and effectively extend the Library to create a safe, accessible, outdoor green space for year round use that Library users, Acorn Day Centre clients, Mary Potter Centre staff, visitors, and the wider community can enjoy. Helping to increase access to the outdoors and associated health and wellbeing benefits and address Covid-19 transmission risk.

2) Relocate the world language stock to an area where many languages are spoken and where the collection will be more heavily used along with Conversation groups supporting ESOL communities and community events to celebrate different cultures and aid tolerance and wider understanding.

3) Purchase of an interactive sensory activity table to benefit adults with dementia, adults and children with disabilities or sensory and physical impairment; families with young children.

4) Better support adults with sensory and physical impairment; families with young children; vulnerable citizens; BAME communities and newly arrived citizens who do not have English as a first language, as well as offer increased volunteer opportunities.

5) Make our Library more visible as it is currently difficult to identify where the Library is located due to lack of signage. 6) The proposed project aligns with our current service developments at Hyson Green Library and our already established local partnership collaborations including social prescribers, the Acorn Day Centre, Hyson Green Children's Centre and Small Steps Big Changes.

To do nothing and decline the ACE funding opportunity. Returning the funding will see an externally funded opportunity for improvement missed. The works are decorative and low risk and would help offset some longer-term maintenance of the site for Nottingham City Council and the building owners. This option has been rejected due to this funding opportunity directly supporting our libraries aims and values, which include seeking to increase social cohesion, increase wellbeing and create a better future for citizens within our communities.

Background Papers:

None.

Published Works:

None.

Affected Wards:

Hyson Green and Arboretum

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

None.

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

Minimal: Extending the use of the garden as a library facility may attract anti-social behaviour, however, library staff will regularly patrol the garden area which has CCTV cameras in-situ. The Mary Potter Centre also has a security guard on site should any specific issues arise.

Equality:

Please see attached EIA document: eia-2021-form_Hyson-LIF (2).docx

Relates to Council Property Assets:

Yes

Relates to Building Services:

Yes

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	28/04/2022
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity, Property, Building Services
Legal Advice:	<p>There are no significant issues arising from this decision. Any expenditure of the funding must be in accordance with the funding requirements and terms, together with the Council's Constitutional requirements under Article 18.</p> <p>Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 12/04/2022.</p>
Finance Advice:	<p>See separate document for details.</p> <p>Advice provided by Maria Balchin (Senior Commercial Business Partner - Resident Services) and Tom Straw (Senior Accountant - Capital Programmes) on 08/03/2022.</p> <p>Advice documents: One Hyson DDM finance comments.docx</p>
Building Services Advice:	<p>Building Services supports this project and has no concerns over the scope of works been suggested.</p> <p>Advice provided by Trevor Bone (Property Maintenance Manager) on 04/03/2022.</p>
Property Advice:	<p>This funding will enable improvement's to the Library area of the JSC and provide improvements to the garden shared with Adult Services. The building is a private sector funded building leased by LIFTco and managed by the Community Health Partnership (CHP). CHP are aware of the proposed funding bid and works.</p> <p>Advice provided by Christine Read (Property Business Partner) on 16/03/2022.</p>
Procurement Advice:	<p>There are no significant procurement concerns with the recommendations set out within the report. Procurement will work with the client to ensure all procurement activity is in-line with NCCs Contract Procedures Rules and associated funding requirements.</p> <p>Advice provided by Sue Oliver (Category Manager - Procurement) on 31/03/2022.</p>
Equality and Diversity Advice:	<p>There are no impacts to any of the protected characteristics and therefore happy to sign off.</p> <p>Advice provided by Rosey Donovan (Equality and Employability Consultant) on 08/03/2022.</p>
Signatures	<p>Eunice Campbell-Clark (Portfolio Holder Leisure, Culture and Schools)</p> <p>SIGNED and Dated: 20/04/2022</p>

Frank Jordan (Corporate Director, Resident Services)

SIGNED and Dated: 20/04/2022