

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

4643

Author:

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Department:

Finance and Resources

Contact:

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Subject:

Data Accelerator Project - Spend and Recruitment Proposals

Total Value:

525,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To deliver the Data Accelerator Project there is a need to recruit to a series of positions to successfully deliver this government grant funded programme. There will also be spend on IT, training and IG. Specifically, approval is sought to spend grant money received from DHLUC (approved under Delegated decision - 4437) to create:- Config Analyst (1 FTE - G Grade) up to 2 years. A JD for this post already exists.- Create a new post for a Data Science/Strategy lead (1 FTE - J Grade) up to 2 years. This will require a new JD.- Create a Project/Partner co-coordinator (1 FTE - H grade). This will require a new JD.- Further backfill/additional duties as the workstreams develop (dependent on internal moves into the positions above.- IT project support.- IG project support.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

The Council has successfully bid for government funding to enhance data systems. This will improve the way information is collected, processed and used by the council and its partners operating within the 'Supporting Families' initiative.

The successful delivery of the programme will streamline frontline and back office processes, bringing benefits to families in the City and potentially informing national practice in regards to a digital strategy. A total of £525,500 (paid over two years) has been awarded to Nottingham by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as part of the Local Data Accelerator Fund. This DDM is to seek approval to allocate this funding. A separate staffing decision DDM will reflect the need to alter the existing establishment.

To successfully deliver this project to timescale and quality, the Analysis and Insight department of the Council will need to flex their current structure and recruit to a number of new posts to either provide backfill or contribute directly to the projects various work streams. This work aims to deliver change that is sustainable beyond the two years given that many of the developments can be automated and therefore should not require a dedicated ongoing resource.

**Briefing notes documents:**

Data Accelerator Briefing V2.docx

**Other Options Considered:**

- 1. Don't deliver changes - Consequences of failure to deliver would mean a forfeit of further £220k in government grant for 2022/3 and loss of reputation. This would impact on any future bids, for this reason this was rejected.**
  
- 2. Attempt deliver with existing resources - The team are already beyond capacity and the project is in danger of slipping. A number of BAU duties would not be delivered and the current roadmap would require renegotiation with stakeholders. This would impact on OFSTED inspection, statutory duties and the support of accessing further government funding (Troubled families payment by results). For this reason, this option was rejected.**
  
- 3. Deliver with consultants - This would not be cost effective and a key aspect of the bid was to develop in-house capacity/ expertise. For this reason, this option was rejected.**
  
- 4. Recruit a series of key posts to deliver Data Acceleration project whilst mainlining all current commitments - This is the preferred option. Further resources are required to ensure quality and timely delivery. This investment over two years will pay dividends in future years as the project aims are to revolutionise and automate data flow. This is the most viable option.**

**Background Papers:**

**None.**

**Published Works:**

**Delegated Decision 4437 - Data Accelerator funding (MHCLG) to improve outcomes for families through enhanced data interrogation and use. - November 2021**

<b>Affected Wards:</b>	Citywide
<b>Colleague / Councillor Interests:</b>	None.
<b>Consultations:</b>	Portfolio holder for children's service have been sent briefing papers. No impact on other groups noted above.
<b>Crime and Disorder Implications:</b>	None known.
<b>Equality:</b>	EIA not required. Reasons: This relates to recruitment and enhancement of bau processes.
<b>Any implications affecting IT:</b>	Yes
<b>Relates to staffing:</b>	Yes
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Portfolio Holder
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	Yes
<b>Call In Expiry date:</b>	09/06/2022
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	Legal, Finance, Human Resources, IT
<b>Legal Advice:</b>	<p>The proposals in this report seek to approve the use of grant funding awarded to the Council by DHLUC (under DDM4437) in the most part towards the costs of engaging additional staff to support the Local Data Accelerator Fund Project.</p> <p>The creation of any new internal posts must be in accordance with the Council's Constitutional requirements and associated HR policies and procedures and supporting advice.</p> <p>Any spend or allocation to third parties for example for the IT and IG project support associated with the project must only be made in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules with further support from procurement and legal colleagues being sought accordingly.</p> <p>All spend must continue to be in accordance with the grant terms provided by DHULC to ensure compliance. Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screamon (Solicitor) on 06/05/2022.</p>

**Finance Advice:**

<p>This decision is to approve the allocation of the grant of £0.525m; the receipt of the grant was approved in November 2021 on DDM 4437.</p> <p>As referenced in the Legal advice it is assumed that any spend on additional resources will comply with both HR and Procurement policies and procedures ensuring value for money is achieved.</p> <p>Spend will be closely monitored to ensure maximum impact of the grants deliverables and that there is no risk to the organisation. Advice provided by Ceri Walters as Finance Co-ordinator (Head of Commercial Finance) on 09/05/2022.</p>
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**HR Advice:**

<p>Please see attached advice. Advice provided by Sheena Yadav-Staples (HR Consultant) on 18/01/2022.</p>
<p>Advice documents: Online DDM - Data Accelerator Project - Spend and Recruitment Proposals (SYS).docx</p>

**IT Advice:**

<p>The IT Service supports the proposals made within this delegated decision.</p> <p>The IT Service will work with colleagues in Analysis &amp; Insight to provide colleagues recruited with access to IT products and systems as required to deliver the Data Accelerator Project. The IT Service will also support the Data Accelerator Project as required on a project basis to ensure implemented solutions conform to Council standards and are documented and sustainable.</p> <p>Advice provided by Paul J. Burrows (IT Change, Projects &amp; Strategy Manager) on 12/05/2022.</p>
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**Signatures**

<p>Cheryl Barnard (Portfolio Holder- Children, Young People, Schools)</p>
<p>SIGNED and Dated: 31/05/2022</p>
<p>Clive Heaphy (Interim Corporate Director for Finance &amp; Resources)</p>
<p>SIGNED and Dated: 30/05/2022</p>