

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4737

Author:

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Department:

People

Contact:

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Subject:

Household Support Fund 3

Key Decision (decision valued at more than £1million):

Yes

Key Decision (decision affects 2 or more wards):

Yes

Total Value:

£3.7 million (estimated) (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To:1. accept the latest Household Support Fund grant from the Department for Work and Pensions, estimated to be no more than £3.7 million; 2. approve that the existing working group makes recommendations about how the grant should be allocated, in conjunction with the Cost of Living Steering Group; and3. delegate authority to the Director of Education to allocate the grant, based on recommendations as set out in (2), which will be subject to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and in accordance with the grant conditions from Government.

On 26 May 2022, the Chancellor announced, as part of a number of measures to provide help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living, that the Household Support Fund (HSF) would be extended from 01 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The Barnet formulae will continue to be used and although final confirmation has not been received by local authorities it is anticipated the grant for Nottingham will be approximately £3.55m in line with the Household Support Fund (HSF) 1 and 2 grant amounts. This decision has a value of £3.7 million to allow for some flexibility if the allocation is greater than the estimate. If the HSF3 grant exceeds £3.7 million a further decision will be written to accept the additional funds.

The draft information provided on 26 August 2022 states the criteria has again changed with HSF3 from the previous grant, but is still focussed on supporting vulnerable people in Nottingham. Key changes from the previous grant are:

<!-- There is no specific 1/3rd allocation split for Households with Children, Pensioners and Other Households.

<!-- Part of the fund should be on an application basis, so residents have the opportunity to come forward and ask for support. This can be directly or through third party organisations

<!-- Authorities should prioritise supporting households with the cost of energy, although the fund can also be used for food and essential supplies.

<!-- Monitoring information should now include the number of households, where possible, as well as the volumes and values of support provided.

Current Programme for HSF2

Using the learning and feedback from the COVID support funds and the first round of the HSF scheme, the current HSF 2 programme of support has given more focus to directly identifying vulnerable residents through the support of key community organisations. Age UK, Advice Nottingham, Nottingham City Homes Tenancy Support and Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing have all partnered with the Council to undertake a programme of assessments and support to vulnerable residents through directly providing supermarket vouchers and referrals to the Council's Energy Team to provide energy support vouchers. This has been welcomed and very successful as it also enables residents to directly access financial support and advice to help improve their financial situation in addition to the enhanced support these agencies could provide from the scheme.

In addition, the scheme has also provided free school meals vouchers for May and Summer 2022 holiday periods with £65 of direct support provided to all eligible pupils during this period.

Summary of planned support to vulnerable residents includes:

- Free School Meal Pupils - Supermarket Vouchers - £1.26m

<!-- Food Banks and Social Eating Projects - £250,000

<!-- Pensioners Energy Support - £400,000

<!-- Pensioners Supermarket Vouchers - £500,000

<!-- Families and Other Households Energy Support - £400,000

<!-- Families and Other Households Supermarket Vouchers - £300,000

<!-- Care Leavers - £50,000

<!--Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support - £27,000

<!--Ukraine Cultural Centre - £23,000

<!--Homeless Support - £25,000

<!-- Mobile Social Supermarket Project - £10,000

<!-- Adult Social Care - Hospital Leaver Support - £12,500

<!-- Welfare Rights Support to Clients - £15,000

<!-- Administration - £175,000

It is intended to distribute any remaining or underspent funds before the end of the current scheme to existing applicants as additional energy support vouchers, especially for pensioners.

HSF3 Programme

It is proposed that the existing programme and partnerships that have been created for HSF2 be continued and build upon with the new HSF3 fund and further work is done to identify additional partners and organisations who provide key front line contact and support to vulnerable people in Nottingham.

Currently all partner organisations have expressed interest in continuing to support vulnerable people in Nottingham and some re-issuing of both energy and food voucher support to those who have already been assessed can be implemented. This should accelerate the early distribution of funding whilst still providing a continuing fund for residents who have yet to come forward or seek support.

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| Other Options Considered: | There is an option not to accept and administer this grant from the government but that would not be in the best interests of the city so has not been considered further. |
| Background Papers: | None |
| Published Works: | None |
| Affected Wards: | Citywide |
| Colleague / Councillor Interests: | None |
| Consultations: | Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision. |
| Crime and Disorder Implications: | None |
| Equality: | EIA not required. Reasons: Not required because this is not a new policy or service. |
| Social Value Considerations: | None |
| Decision Type: | Leader's Key Decision |
| Subject to Call In: | Yes |
| Call In Expiry date: | 13/10/2022 |
| Advice Sought: | Legal, Finance, Procurement |
| Legal Advice: | The Household Support Fund grant from DWP is subject to grant terms and conditions which must be strictly adhered to, failing which the grant could be subject to clawback. Procurement of any goods and/or services must be in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and public procurement rules. Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 27/09/2022. |

Finance Advice:

The decision is to approve the acceptance and spend associated with the Household Support Fund (HSF) grant. This is the third iteration of the grant, and the other 2 versions have been accepted by the Council.

The value of this decision is £3.7 million. The grant itself is due to be for £3.55 million, but it might be higher, depending on government policy decisions.

Spend should be in accordance with the grant conditions to prevent risk of clawback, supported by robust financial management.

Should the grant be larger than £3.7 million there will need to be a further DDM to approve accepting the money.

Clare Rickett
 Senior Commercial Business Partner, Children's and Education
 clare.rickett@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Advice provided by Clare Rickett (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 26/09/2022.

Procurement Advice:

The proposal involves using a framework to enter into a contract. The framework has specific call-off terms for awarding contracts. Provided the framework process is followed, the award of contract would be compliant with procurement law and therefore there would be no significant Procurement concerns. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 28/09/2022.

Signatures:

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| David Mellen (Leader/ PH Strategic Regeneration Communications) |
| SIGNED and Dated: 05/10/2022 |
| Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People) |
| SIGNED and Dated: 05/10/2022 |