

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Reference Number:	4854
Author:	Mick Dunn
Department:	Growth and City Development
Contact:	Mick Dunn (Job Title: GIS Service Manager, Email: mick.dunn@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 0115 8764001)
Subject:	Grant Funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to improve and modernise planning through 3D digital engagement
Total Value:	375,000 (Type: Capital and Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	a) To confirm the acceptance of a grant of £375,000 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to improve and modernise planning through 3D digital engagement; and b) To delegate authority to Director of Planning to authorise the general spending profile of the grant as set out in the funding application (attached). Where appropriate procurement will take place through an existing framework. c) To create, and a recruit to a temporary 18 month position to support the programme (Officer Decision Under Delegation 16).
Reasons for the Decision(s)	The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill sets out the intentions for greater digitisation to improve the way the planning system works and is experienced. A cornerstone of this will be using digital solutions to improve the current planning consultation process for communities, local authorities and industry stakeholders. PropTech Engagement Fund provided in Round 3 is designed to support local authority teams and their appointed suppliers to design and test solutions to meet various consultation data needs and use cases that can be rolled out at scale and at pace to compatible local authorities. The Council submitted a proposal to the DLUHC which has been successful in responding to this funding call. The decision is to accept the funding, the general spending profile and enable further discussion with DLUHC and partners to refine the proposal.
Briefing notes documents:	NCC 3D PropTech Engagement Fund_ Round 3 Application 07022023 UPDATE.docx
Other Options Considered:	Not to accept and use the funding: this option is rejected as it would result in a lost opportunity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council's Planning Service.

**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: EIA not required. Reasons: The decision does not directly represent proposals for a new or changing policy, service or function.

**Any implications affecting IT:** Yes

**Relates to staffing:** Yes

**Decision Type:** Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:** Yes

**Call In Expiry date:** 16/02/2023

**Advice Sought:** Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, IT

**Legal Advice:**

**This report seeks a decision to accept grant funding of £375,000 from DLUHC, authorise a spending profile as set out in the funding application, appoint to a fixed term role for 18 months and procure, where necessary, through existing frameworks.**

**In accepting the grant funding, the Council must ensure it complies with grant conditions, in particular any requirements to provide evidence of acceptable spend and achieving the aspirations of improving and modernising planning through 3D digital engagement to mitigate, as far as possible, the risk of clawback.**

**No spending outside of the profile set out in the funding application should happen unless specific agreement and authority is secured from DLUHC before the spend is committed.**

**The appointment to the 18 month role needs to be clearly framed as relating to this project and be linked to the grant funding. Care needs to be exercised if the grant funding is extended and there is a proposal to extend the term of the role - in those circumstances support from HR should be sought.**

**The use of an existing framework for any requirements should ensure a route to market compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Constitution.**

**Anthony Heath, Senior Solicitor, Contracts and Commercial, 8th February 2023 Advice provided by Anthony Heath (Senior Solicitor) on 08/02/2023.**

**Finance Advice:**

**This report seeks a decision to accept grant funding which has been awarded of £375,000 from DLUHC. This is more than the original bid of £290,000. Any grant conditions must be adhered to and information monitored and reported in line with requirements. There is no requirement for match funding from the Council and there will be no other spend incurred as part of this project.**

**The spend profile was outlined in the funding application and once approved a budget will be set up within Fusion to ensure the ability to accurately forecast, monitor and report at key milestones and all spend must be in line with Financial Regulations. There is a requirement to appoint to a fixed term role for 18 months and exit costs should be included.**

**S151 sign off was required at bid stage to confirm the grant will be ringfenced for use on this project only and carried forward as appropriate. The intended timescale is to make the payment on the 27th February for the whole grant and this must be treated appropriately in the accounts to ensure that unspent grant at the end of 22/23 financial year is carried forward to use on the project next year.**

**Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 08/02/2023.**

**Procurement Advice:**

**Procurement Team will support the procurement of services as proposed in this decision form for services of software development and will ensure that any funding conditions are met and can be evidenced.**

**No procurement concerns. Advice provided by Louise Dobson (Lead Procurement Officer) on 08/02/2023.**

**HR Advice:**

**Advice provided by Raj Athwal 09.02.2023 Advice provided by Raj Athwal (HR Consultant) on 09/02/2023.**

**Advice documents: 2023.02.09 Funding post BDS within GIS HR comments (RA).docx**

**IT Advice:**

**The IT Service support the proposal contained within this delegated decision.**

**The IT Service will provide support to the identified project team on its regular project support basis. It is understood that the proposed project development will be based on technologies currently employed by the Council and compliant with its technological standards and strategic direction.**

**Advice provided by Paul J. Burrows (IT Change, Projects & Strategy Manager) on 08/02/2023.**

**Signatures**

<b>Pavlos Kotsonis (Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Planning)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 09/02/2023</b>
<b>Sajeeda Rose (Corporate Director of Growth &amp; City Development)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 09/02/2023</b>