

Operational Decision Record

Publication Date 04/04/2023	Decision Reference Number 4909
Decision Title	
Levelling Up Fund Capacity Funding	
Decision Value	
£125,000	
Revenue or Capital Spend?	
Revenue	
Department	
Economic Development	
Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details)	
Owen Harvey	
Decision Taken	
<p>1. To approve the acceptance of the £125,000 capacity building funding from The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to support the City Council's plans for economic development and levelling up including identifying and resourcing future bids to LUF</p> <p>2. To delegate responsibility to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development to spend capacity funding money on supporting the City Council's plans for economic development and levelling up, including identifying and resourcing future bids to LUF, expenditure on current staff and consultants (where expertise is not found in the Council), subject to compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.</p>	
Reasons for Decision and Background Information	
<p>Announced at the Spending review the Levelling Up Fund is a national initiative, investing in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK. The £4.8billion national fund will support town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets.</p> <p>The Levelling Up Fund identified Nottingham as a "Category 1" area. This category is for Local Authority areas that are more disadvantaged compared to others based on indices of deprivation. All Lead authorities in this category are given £125,000 capacity funding to enable them to build high quality bids for future rounds of the Levelling Up Fund expected from 2023 onwards.</p>	

The capacity funding will be used in financial year 2023/24 to support the city Council's plans for economic development and levelling up including identifying and resourcing future bids to LUF.

The capacity funding arrived on 23/01/2023, hence the need for this application for retrospective approval.

Income will reside in Economic Development budget codes.

Risk of accepting and using this funding is minimal as funding has been paid to Council on an upfront basis. There is no risk of clawback. This funding does not require any match funding (funding from the Council).

Other Options Considered and why these were rejected

Returning the funding to DLUHC and support the City Council's plans for economic development and levelling up at a cost to the Council.

This was rejected because:

- Nottingham would lose the opportunity to secure £125,000 to support the City Council's plans for economic development and levelling up, including identifying and resourcing future bids to LUF.
- Nottingham City Council would fail to demonstrate its commitment to the government's Levelling Up agenda putting at risk the Council's ability to secure larger funds in the future.

Reasons why this decision is classified as operational

The value of the decision is below £250,000

The decision being taken is within agreed policies (e.g. Keep Nottingham Working) and within the overall agreed budget controlled by the officer taking the decision

The decision seeks to accept grant funding to implement agreed policies, up to the value of £250,000.

Additional Information

Finance comments

This Operational Decision seeks to accept £125,000 from The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), to support the City Council's plans for economic development and levelling up including identifying and resourcing future bids to LUF.

Activity is intended to start from 1st April 2023 with the intention to spend all funding and complete activity in 2023 Financial year.

This funding is not at risk of clawback or requires any match funding (funding from the Council). The spend will be monitored by the service and reflected in the monthly forecast for the service

Advice provided by Paul Rogers (Commercial Finance Business Partner (G&D)) on 14/03/2023.

Decision Maker (Name and Job Title)

Sajeeda Rose, Corporate Director Growth & City Development

Scheme of Delegation Reference Number

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Date Decision Taken

22/03/2023