Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision





Reference Number:

5027

Author:

Contact:

Mandy Pride

Department:

Resident Services

Mandy Pride

(Job Title: Resettlement Lead, Email: mandy.pride@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 07508180557)

Subject:

Asylum Dispersal Fund 2021/22

Total Value:

447,250 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

The decision seeks retrospective approval for the receipt of the Asylum Dispersal Scheme Grant for 2021/22 with a value of £447,250 from the Home Office issued under the terms of the funding instruction for 2021/22 and approval of the spend of this grant. To delegate responsibility to the Asylum and Resettlement Manager for the day to day management and operational decisions, in agreement with their Line Manager, regarding the Asylum Dispersal Scheme Grant for 2021/22.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Nottingham has been an Asylum Dispersal Area since 2002 and has not received any funding for this. In 2022 all local authority areas in England, Scotland and Wales were expected to participate in the new system, to allow for movement from hotels to less expensive and more suitable dispersed accommodation. The Secretary of State for the Home Office ("The Authority") is exercising the power conferred by Section 110 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to make the awarded grant funded to the Council. The instructions each replace any funding instructions previously issued by the Secretary of State in providing funding to support the Asylum Seeker Dispersal Scheme. This funding is un-ringfenced and can be used at the Local Authorities see fit to support Asylum Seekers and ease specific local pressures on already overstretched services. Payment will however be subject to the conditions of the grant agreement (i.e. funding instructions). It is understood the City has made commitments to support the scheme, and the Authority has agreed to provide the Council a grant as a contribution to supporting Asylum Seeker Dispersal (see the attached funding instructions). The funding will be used to support existing and current services for Asylum Seekers and the allocation of this resource is key to services within the Council and Voluntary Community Sector. The funding will help alleviate additional pressures placed on these services which currently already have a high demand and limited capacity. The funding will be used to support the delivery of vital services to this vulnerable cohort and adequately help resource services who have been delivering and developing quality provision previously without additional funding.

Reference Number: 5027, Page No: 1 of 3

Briefing notes documents:	Funding allocation 21-22 version 2.pdf, LA Funding Instruction Grant One 21-22 FINAL - 12-5-22.pdf
Other Options Considered:	Non-participation: This option was considered but not accepted, as this accords with a Council Plan priority. Not participating would incur a loss of income, as we are already a dispersal area and funding will help resource continued work with this cohort of individuals.
Background Papers:	
Published Works:	Funding Instruction for Local Authorities: Asylum Dispersal Grant
Affected Wards:	Citywide
Colleague / Councillor nterests:	Those consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Consultations:	Date: 16/08/2023
	Other:Brein Fisher Regional Migration Manager East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership
	Liaised with Brein Fisher to clarify the funding instructions and what this could be spent on. It was confirmed that that the funding is not ring fenced.
	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	As a vulnerable cohort, migrants are at risk of ASB, Hate Crime, Grooming, etc. We will work with partners to ensure key messages around Hate Crime and ASB are delivered. We will ensure all partners continue to work with Community Protection (CP) Intelligence Analysts to ensure that such matters are registered for consideration in the Tasking and Tensions Monitoring processes. In partnership with other CP teams and Notts Police, we provide intensive support with these matters.
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: There are no changes to policies or practices.
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Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes

Call In Expiry date:

10/10/2023

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance

Legal Advice:

See attached Advice provided by Richard Bines (Solicitor) on 07/09/2023.

Advice documents: Legal Advice Grant 1 2021-22.docx

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks retrospective approval to accept and spend funding totalling £447,250 from the Home Office. The Asylum Dispersal Grant Scheme One value in this decision is made of up as follows

. Financial Year 2021-22 - £447,250 (Confirmed grant funding)

This Asylum Dispersal Scheme will support Local Authorities through grant payments of £250 per asylum seeker in Home Office Supported Asylum Seeker accommodation as of 27 March 2022. The Payment was based on eligibility criteria as at 27 March 2022. Eligibility was based on the number of occupied beds in Home Office Supported Asylum Seeker accommodation for specific accommodation categories which was confirmed as 1,789. The payment was expected to be made by 30th June 2022 and has been received by Nottingham City Council (NCC).

The Budget manager will need to ensure the appropriate monitoring and reporting to ensure adherence to all grant conditions and submit timely returns as needed. Clear and centralised files must be kept in line with the requirement of possible future audits in the service in line with funding instructions/outcomes and ensuring continuity going forward. Adherence to all Home Office processes to meet the requirements of this conditional funding including but not limited to recruitment and purchasing processes.

Compliance with internal processes that are required in relation to meeting the requirements of the scheme and achieving best value also need to be fully met.

Advice provided by Susan Turner (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 04/09/2023. Advice provided by Susan Turner (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 08/09/2023.

Signatures

Sajid Mohammed (PH - Neighbourhoods, Safety & Inclusion)

SIGNED and Dated: 02/10/2023

Colin Parr (Corporate Director, CERS)

SIGNED and Dated: 21/09/2023

Reference Number: 5027, Page No: 3 of 3