

Operational Decision Record

Publication Date 21 March 2024	Decision Reference Number 5108
Decision Title	
Economic Development staff costs within Local Transport Plan budget (2024/25)	
Decision Value	
£122,180	
Revenue or Capital Spend?	
Revenue	
Spend Control Approval	
Has the spend been approved by Spend Control Board? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> n/a Spend Control Board approval reference number: 8924	
Department	
Economic Development & Property	
Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details)	
Chris Pook Economic Strategy Manager Chris.pook@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Decision Taken	
Approved to continue to fund two posts in Economic Development – Bidding and Funding Manager and Neighbourhood Investment Specialist.	
Reasons for Decision and Background Information	
Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding was approved at Full Council on 4 March 2024 within the Council budget. Within the LTP budget, there is funding to cover the staffing costs for two posts in Economic Development for 2024/25 – Bidding and Funding Manager and Neighbourhood Investment Specialist.	

The use of LTP funding for economic development is consistent with the broad objectives of the LTP which includes provision for supporting wider place-based economic growth, ensuring alignment with transport and growth.

Two of the objectives in the LTP Implementation Plan are:

- 1) Improving access to key services, employment and training including creation of local employment and training opportunities
- 2) Improving the quality of citizens' lives and transforming neighbourhoods

The Bidding and Funding Manager post directly contributes to both of the above objectives, helping to secure funding for employment and training opportunities as well as wider place-based regeneration activity delivered by Nottingham City Council and our partners. The Neighbourhood Investment Specialist directly contributes to the latter objective by working with stakeholders in the city centre and neighbourhoods to regenerate these localities through targeted initiatives funded by external sources (primarily Government)

Funding these two posts will enable the continuation of activities that directly contribute to the Council Plan and departmental plans, i.e. supporting the vibrancy of our city centre & neighbourhoods, keeping Nottingham working, securing and managing external grant funding. This staffing resource enables the successful delivery of externally funded programmes including Levelling Up Fund (Bulwell), Long Term Plan for Towns funding (Clifton), the DCMS Create Growth Programme and employment support programmes (IPSPC and Work Well), which are all underway and provide positive impact in our communities.

The forecast costs are set out below:

1. Bidding and Funding Manager (J4) - 1 x FTE, forecast costs including estimated pay award, apprenticeship levy & pension deficit = £74,500.00.
2. Neighbourhood Investment Specialist (J4) - .64 FTE, forecast costs including estimated pay award, apprenticeship levy & pension deficit = £47,680.00 (remaining .36 FTE funded through External grant UKSPF)

Total cost = £122,180.00

Other Options Considered and why these were rejected

There is no core funding available to cover the above staffing costs. The only other option is to not fund the two posts. Given the strategic links between the LTP and economic development outlined above, it is considered to be prudent use of funding in order to deliver wider place-based regeneration across the city.

This option of not utilising the funding in this way has been rejected due to a clear operational need for the staffing resource. The staff are critical to the delivery of initiatives that are part of the Council Plan, departmental plan and other external grant funded programmes that are in progress across Nottingham.

Reasons why this decision is classified as operational
Approval of the LTP funding within the Council budget is a Council decision. The specific use of the LTP funding within departments to support departmental activity is an operational decision.
Additional Information
N/A
Decision Maker (Name and Job Title)
Sajeeda Rose Corporate Director for Growth and City Development
Scheme of Delegation Reference Number
1
Date Decision Taken
6 th March 2024