

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

5110

Author:

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Department:

People

Contact:

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Subject:

Grant funding for the provision of advice and assistance for people in financial difficulty to improve health and wellbeing outcomes

Total Value:

£406,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To approve spend of £406,000 from the Ring Fenced Public Health Grant to enter into a new agreement for grant funding to contribute to enabling Nottingham & District Citizens Advice Bureau (as lead of the Advice Nottingham consortium of advice centres) to further existing provision of advice and assistance for people in financial difficulty to improve health and wellbeing outcomes from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- 2) To delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to enter in into a grant agreement for the above purpose with Nottingham & District Citizens Advice Bureau.
- 3) To note spend control board approval

ID:8283 has been obtained for the above proposal.

Nottingham has high levels of deprivation and is ranked as the 11th most deprived district in England. More than 1 in 4 children in Nottingham live in low-income families.

One of the priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2025 for Nottingham is to promote the financial wellbeing of citizens. An important element of that work is working to assist people living in Nottingham who are vulnerable to financial difficulty to become more financially secure and to lessen the impact of financial problems on other aspects of their lives, including their physical and mental health, social and economic wellbeing, personal dignity, and contribution to society.

Local data and intelligence tells us that many people in Nottingham experience deprivation and poor health and wellbeing, as a city we have high rates of unemployment, benefit dependency and a high proportion of citizens experiencing unmanageable debt. 5.7% of people in Nottingham claim out-of-work benefits, compared to the national average of 3.7%. Increasingly, groups of people who have never accessed benefits or advice in the past are seeking support and advice, with lower income households impacted even greater by high inflation of energy and food costs. The negative health impacts of these factors is clear, with half of adults in problem debt also having a mental health problem (Money and Mental Health Policy Institute) and 30% of adults living in persistent poverty also being in poor health (The Health Foundation).

The proposed objectives of this grant funding are to provide timely, targeted and effective information, advice and assistance for citizens who are experiencing or at risk of financial difficulty. The provision will reduce the impact of financial crises on health and wellbeing outcomes by helping citizens to: 1) prevent financial difficulty from occurring, 2) reduce or resolve immediate financial problems, and 3) avoid or better manage future financial difficulty.

Nottingham & District Citizens Advice Bureau is the lead charitable organisation for Advice Nottingham, a multi-agency consortium of six established and highly skilled advice agencies (charities and civil society organisations as permitted by the Ring Fenced Public Health Grant) based in Nottingham with the experience, expertise and resources to deliver timely and effective activity. The funding from the Ring Fenced Public Health Grant will enable Nottingham & District Citizens Advice Bureau to continue to provide a moderate level of delivery of financial vulnerability advice during the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. Advice

Nottingham, led by Nottingham & District Citizens Advice Bureau, is the only neighbourhood collaboration of financially-regulated local advice centres in Nottingham City. The consortium of organisations are not economic enterprises for the purposes of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the grant would not compromise a subsidy as the ringfenced grant is being given to a charity/civil society organisation for their non-economic activities that are free at point of access. The grant funding will support individuals, not organisations. Whilst Nottingham & District Citizens Advice Bureau may receive funding from other sources to

supplement this grant, this still represents best value even though Ring Fenced Public Health Grant may not be the sole funder. £406,000 in grant funding to Nottingham & District Citizens Advice Bureau is estimated to return £3.2million in financial gains for people in Nottingham, contributing to important health and wellbeing outcomes and reducing health inequalities.

Local authorities (upper tier and unitary) are statutorily responsible for improving the health of their local population and reducing health inequalities, under Section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006. Alongside this duty, a ring-fenced public health grant is provided, for expenditure where the 'main and primary purpose' is public health, as stated in the grant conditions. Nottingham City Council is required to ensure the provision of public health services in line with the terms and conditions of the public health grant, which includes providing an annual Statement of Assurance that the grant has been used for the purposes intended. The terms of the grant outline prescribed (services mandated in the NHS Act 2006) and non-prescribed services, which are required as part of the grant. In determining the use of this grant the local authority must give due regard to the Public Health Outcomes Framework and local strategic priorities articulated in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Financial Wellbeing is one of four priorities within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Nottingham (2022-2025), within which financial insecurity is an important area to address.

The s151 spend control board approval reference for this expenditure of the ring fenced public health grant is ID:8283.

**Other Options Considered:**

**A decision to not fund the provision of advice and assistance for people in financial difficulty as proposed here would limit our ability to deliver against the financial wellbeing priority of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2025 for Nottingham City and to promote and protect the health and wellbeing of citizens experiencing or at risk of financial difficulty.**

**Background Papers:**

**Published Works:**

**Affected Wards:**

**Citywide**

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:**

**None.**

**Consultations:**

**Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.**

**Crime and Disorder Implications:**

**Taking action to prevent and reduce financial vulnerability will contribute to reduction in factors which can lead to crime, such as financial insecurity, and therefore contribute to the prevention and reduction of crime.**

**Equality:**

**EIA not required. Reasons: Not required at this time. The Citizens Advice Nottingham & District (as Advice Nottingham) proposal identifies how advice is to be tailored to certain groups of citizens**

**Regard for NHS Constitution:**

**Local authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to the NHS Constitution when exercising their public health functions under the NHS Act 2006. In making this decision relating to public health functions, we have properly considered the NHS Constitution where applicable and have taken into account how it can be applied in order to commission services to improve the health of the local community.**

**Decision Type:**

**Portfolio Holder**

**Subject to Call In:** Yes

**Advice Sought:** Legal, Finance, Procurement

**Legal Advice:** See the attached word document. Advice provided by Richard Bines (Solicitor) on 11/03/2024.  
Advice documents: Final Legal Comments.docx

**Finance Advice:** As outlined by the report author, this decision is to award a grant of £406,000 from the ringfenced Public Health Grant during 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 to Nottingham & District Citizens Advice Bureau.

Once the decision is approved, a budget virement will be posted to realign the grant expenditure budget, supporting budget managers to robustly monitor the budgets.

A grant agreement should be drawn up with the Nottingham & District Citizens Advice Bureau to ensure the grant is used in line with the Public Health ringfenced conditions. The actual costs associated with this decision will require monitoring to form appropriate financial accounting, best value, and an audit trail to support robust forecasting. Any un-spend grant at the end of the 31st March 2025 will need to be returned to Public Health.

This decision has been approved from the Spend Control Board and the Commercial Oversight Board.

Further approval will be required:

- . To establish any posts not requested in this decision.
- . If there are any changes to the grant proposals or value outlined in this decision

Tracey Moore  
Commercial Business Partner 19/03/24  
Advice provided by Tracey Moore (Senior Finance Technician) on 21/03/2024.

**Procurement Advice:** This decision relates to grant funding for Citizens Advice Nottingham & District (as lead of the Advice Nottingham consortium of advice centres) to support their activities providing advice and assistance to citizens experiencing or at risk of financial difficulty from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. As the arrangement will be grant funding and not a services contract, it is not subject to the UK Procurement Regulations or the procedural requirements of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, therefore there are no procurement implications. An appropriate grant agreement should be entered into to reflect the award of funding, ensure best value is delivered and the conditions of the ringfenced Public Health Grant are complied with. Advice provided by Jo Pettifor (Procurement Team Manager) on 08/03/2024.

**Signatures**

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health)  
SIGNED and Dated: 25/03/2024  
Lucy Hubber (DPH)  
SIGNED and Dated: 22/03/2024