

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

5133

Author:

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Department:

Communities, Environment and Resident Services

Contact:

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Subject:

Midlands Net Zero Hub Grant Funding - Local Net Zero Programme (Continuation Funding)

Key Decision (decision valued at more than £1million):

Yes

Key Decision (decision affects 2 or more wards):

Yes

Total Value:

£1,770,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To delegate authority to Head of Service, Midlands Net Zero Hub, in consultation with the Director of Environment and Sustainability to:1)Accept and spend grant funding totalling £1,770,000 from the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) to deliver the Net Zero Programme as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). In order to deliver the Third Variation to the Local Net Zero Hub Programme Memorandum of Understanding Annex B (The third Variation) as specified in DESNZ LOCAL NET ZERO CAPACITY SUPPORT SECTION 31 Grant determination (24/25)2) To sign and return to (DESNZ) a copy of the MoU, the Section 31 grant determination notice, grant claim form Section 151 officer declaration. 3) To spend the funding in-line with the Net Zero Programme MoU from DESNZ 4) To procure consultants as required for specialist work, as guided by the Midlands Net Zero Hub Board to deliver on the MoU objectives.5) To award grants to and enter into grant agreements with third party partners to procure consultants as required for specialist work, as guided by the Midlands Net ZeroHub Board to deliver MoU objectives.Non Executive decision, using the grant funding to:a) Establish and approve recruitment for a Heat Network Zoning Officer on 2 year fixed term contract (H grade)b) Continuation of the 4 x PSDS roles for an additional 2 years (3 x H grade 1 x J grade)

Reasons for the Decision(s) The Midlands Net Zero Hub, has been established as part of Nottingham City Council for five years, delivering on the LocalCapacity Support Programme for DESNZ successfully. The team has developed a strong reputation for delivery, with circa £400m secured directlyfrom DESNZ to deliver a range of programmes for DESNZ. This latest funding will enable the continuation of core activity to ensure the teamcan continue to support the development and delivery of a £400m project pipeline across the Midlands region, and encouragepartnership work, knowledge sharing and unified drive to Net Zero through to 2025. Furthermore it will ensurethat the funding of the Hub will enable the Local Authorities to go further and faster in implementing cost effective and integrated NetZero programmes and enabling a place based approach, that feeds into the regions' strategic plans. The funding provided ispredominantly revenue funding for staffing and associated costs including training, travel and events. Funding notrequired for staffing may be used to develop local and regional projects that support the Net Zero agenda as guided by theMidlands Net Zero Hub Board. The additional roles are a result of the expanding remit of the Midlands Net Zero Hub andtherefore increasing workload in the region and reporting requirements for DESNZ. Redundancy is factored into the costings and theposts would only be extended should additional funding be made available.

Other Options Considered: Other Options Considered: Not to accept the grant. This option was rejected because it would result in the loss of significant opportunities the grant offers and the100% funding it provides. Alongside the loss of jobs, skills and experience within the division.

Background Papers: N/A

Unpublished background papers: 2023.07.19 MoU with Midlands Net Zero Hub (STC 23)_ WB signed 18.7.23 - signed by R Brown.pdf, Additional wording from Legal for DDM.docx

Published Works: N/A

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: N/A

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: EIA not required. Reasons: Recruitment of staff will adhere to existing EIA

Social Value Considerations: Social Value considerations will be included in any procurement process in accordance with procurement guidelines.

Relates to staffing: Yes

Decision Type: Leader's Key Decision

Subject to Call In: No
The call-in procedure does not apply to the proposed decision because the delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or Vice-Chair) in his/her absence has been consulted and agreed both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency.

Person Consulted: Councillor Sam Gardiner
Consultation Date: 07/06/2024
A draft memorandum of understanding has just been received from the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero with sign off required by Friday 11th June 2024.

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources

Commissioner Comments: Commissioners have noted the report and have no further comments.

Legal Advice: See attached Note Advice provided by Richard Bines (Solicitor) on 10/06/2024.
Advice documents: Legal Comments.docx

Finance Advice: See attached Finance comments provided by Ian McLellan. 11/06/2024
Advice documents: MNZH Grant Funding - Finance Comments v1.docx

Procurement Advice: There are no direct procurement issues with the decisions being sought. Any procurement activity required in support of this funding to appoint consultants or to seek quotes or tenders for goods or services must be carried out in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (or its successor); the Procurement Team will continue to engage with the Hub to advise and support on this. Advice provided by Jonathan Whitmarsh (Lead Procurement Officer) on 11/06/2024.

HR Advice:

<p>The use of the consultants in this area will not have HR implications as they will not be employed directly to NCC and only providing services. In relation to the extension of fixed term contracts with the Midlands Hub this will take colleagues pass the two year employment mark which then entitles them to redundancy payments if the project comes to an end in 2026 and they have not been redeployed. For the new Heat Networking Zoning Officer role it has been evaluated at GLPC H. Recruitment to this role will still be subject to the relevant vacancy management processes. As the role is a 2 year fixed term contract then the postholder will be entitled to redundancy payments if the role is not extended at the end of the project Advice provided by Michael Carey (Governance Officer) on 12/06/2024.</p>
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Signatures:

Neghat Khan (Leader / Exec member, Strategic Regeneration)
SIGNED and Dated: 14/06/2024
Colin Parr (Corporate Director, CERS)
SIGNED and Dated: 14/06/2024