

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	5172
Author:	Scott Harrison
Department:	Growth and City Development
Contact:	Scott Harrison (Job Title: Principal Officer, Email: scott.harrison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 8765245)
Subject:	Acceptance and receipt of Department for Transport challenge funding for Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant (TSOG)
Total Value:	£631,374.47 (Type: Capital)
Decision Being Taken:	To accept grant funding from the Department of Transport of £631,374.47 to address issues relating to the phasing out of Halogen Incandescent lamps within the period 1/4/2024 - 31/3/2026. The funding will be used to address the backlog of obsolescence issues associated with traffic signal and delivery of the project will be the subject of a separate decision.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	Challenge funding has been applied for and granted by the Department for Transport to a value of £500,000 (in addition to an automatically allocated funding grant of £131,374.47). Funding will be used to address issues related to the phasing out of Halogen Incandescent (HI) lamps. The Council currently has around 48% of traffic signal assets using HI lamps. Upgrading (existing) assets to LED lamps will help to reduce ongoing electricity costs, decrease the carbon impact (approximately 78% reduction per lamp) and help to minimise the number of lamp faults and failures experienced with HI lamps. Projected savings of £118,000 are projected based on typical reductions in costs at locations already upgraded. Works are to be carried out in association with the Council's current traffic signals maintenance contractor. Existing Traffic Control Centre Officer to oversee term maintenance contractor completing the works, with associated staff time charged to project and grant funding being offered.
Briefing notes documents:	CD Briefing - TSOG Grant Acceptance June 24.docx
Other Options Considered:	An alternative option would be to reject the funding on offer, requiring internal Council funding to be used to address issues of traffic signal obsolescence and therefore this option was rejected.
Background Papers:	Traffic Signals Obsolescence challenge fund application

Unpublished background papers:	Traffic Signals Grant Challenge - Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant (TSOG) NCC Submission.pdf
Published Works:	None
Affected Wards:	Citywide
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	None
Consultations:	<p>Date: 21/03/2024</p> <p>Other City Council Bodies: Executive Member at time of application</p> <p>Councillor Kandola as Portfolio Holder for Transport at the time of challenge fund consulted and supportive of receipt of £500,000 of grant funding. Councillor Kandola was fully supportive of the receipt and use of this grant funding.</p> <p>Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.</p>
Crime and Disorder Implications:	None. Funding to be used to upgrade signals infrastructure to modern assets only.
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: Funding to be used to upgrade signals infrastructure to modern assets only with no noticeable changes to all road users.
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	24/09/2024
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance
Commissioner Comments:	Commissioners are content for this decision to proceed.
Legal Advice:	<p>The funding referred to in the Delegated Decision must be used in accordance with the terms of the grant.</p> <p>Should procurement be required this must adhere to the appropriate procedure. Advice provided by Tamazin Wilson (Solicitor) on 28/03/2024.</p>

Finance Advice:

The report highlights post completion of this project the Council is anticipating generating an ongoing saving, this saving has not been incorporated within the MTFP due to any saving being ring fenced within Moving Traffic Enforcement (MTE) with potential surpluses being held in the MTE reserve, once savings have been achieved it will be incorporated into the revenue position ensuring all savings within the MTE ringfenced accounts is treated accordingly.

As set out in the recommendations this decision would increase the Capital Programme by £631k. As set out in the Capital Strategy any amendment to the Capital Programme is required to be endorsed by the Capital Board, therefore, no monies can be committed until relevant endorsement has been confirmed.

The £631k grant is required to be spent by 31-Mar-26 and will be incepted into the Capital Programme with the budget split as follows:
24/25 - £100k
25/26 - £531k
Any movements between financial years will be managed as part of the capital forecasting process.

The grant conditions do not require any match funding from the Council and the project manager is required to ensure:
1) The conditions of the grant are not breached to minimise the risk of grant clawback,
2) The programme is managed within the approved budget due to funding pressures within the wider Capital Programme.
Advice provided by Tom Straw (Senior Accountant - Capital Programmes) on 16/07/2024.

Signatures

Neghat Khan (Leader / Exec member, Strategic Regeneration)
SIGNED and Dated: 12/09/2024
Sajeeda Rose (Chief Executive)
SIGNED and Dated: 13/09/2024

CD Briefing Note



TITLE:	Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant (TSOG) application proposal
CORPORATE DIRECTOR	Sajeeda Rose
HEAD OF SERVICE	Mark Jenkins – Head of Traffic & Flood Risk Management
AUTHOR	Scott Harrison
DATE SUBMITTED	21 st March 2024

PURPOSE

To seek Corporate Director support for the acceptance of £631,374.47 of funding (£500,000 +£131,374.47) from the Department of Transport (DfT) Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant (TSOG). (Subject to Portfolio Holder DDM)

ISSUE

A large proportion of the Traffic Signal assets and infrastructure within Nottingham City are of a historic nature using incandescent halogen signal lamps (almost 50%).

These lamps use large amounts electricity to power them and have to be regularly replaced, increasing the carbon impact of the assets.

Nationally increasing numbers of signal lamps are being replaced with an improved LED module which is gradually leading to obsolescence issues as manufactures move away from producing incandescent lamps.

BACKGROUND

The Department for Transport have a made a total of £30 million available to Highway Authorities through the Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant to upgrade traffic signal systems, replacing unreliable and obsolete equipment to improve reliability.

£10 million of the grant will be paid out through the transport metrics within the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) formula, whilst the remaining £20 million has been made available through an application challenge process, with funding allocated in £500,000 lots.

Nottingham City Council has been successful in their bid for £500,000 from the challenge fund. (£131,374.47 also automatically allocated to Nottingham).

PROPOSAL

The funding allocation of ££631,374.47 is accepted and directed towards replacing older assets, replacing Halogen Incandescent Lamps with modern LED retrofit signal heads. These modules consume an average of 9W across a typical cycle, producing an energy saving of around 75% over current stock. LED modules also have a much longer life span than traditional lighting methods, reducing the need for replacements and down time to allow for maintenance.

Retrofitting modules in this manner ensures that existing investment in the majority of the signal infrastructure is retained, minimising waste and disposal issues.

The grant funding allocated must be used to address the backlog of obsolescence issues in English authorities and should be use for additional works to address these problems. The funding cannot be used to replace existing allocated resources for this type of maintenance / upgrade work.

The maximum allocation of £500,000 of challenge funding grant (plus automatic grant of £131,374.47) has been approved by the Department for Transport and must be used throughout the funding period beginning 1 April 2024 and ending 31 March 2026.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Officers are recommending the following:

- The Corporate Director formally supports the request for a Portfolio Holder Decision to accept the total grant funding allocation of £631,374.47 (DDM to be submitted via the formal process).
- If the decision to accept the funding is received from the PfH, formal declarations from the CEO and the Section 151 Officer will be required by the Department for Transport by 31st December 2024
- All associated spend will be monitored by the Traffic Control Centre team, who will submit monthly project and budget reports to the DfT through the dedicated online TSOG portal. These reports will also be submitted to the City Council's Transport Delivery Board for oversight. Regular reporting of this type has also been required of the current Transforming Cities Fund 2 (TCF2) allocation for traffic signals projects.
- All other grant conditions stipulated on receipt of the Grant Funding to be fully reviewed and adhered too.