

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number: 2057
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Department: Chief Executives Group
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Subject: To approve the funding to support a programmes of apprenticeships for 2015/16

Total Value: £955,000 for one year (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken: To approve the funding to support the delivery of a programme of apprenticeships in 2015/16:
£650,000 to fund the delivery of a targetted apprenticeship programme, currently provided by PATRA
£305,000 to fund the delivery of the Nottingham Apprenticeship scheme with
Funding from the Workforce Reserve.

Reasons for the Decision(s) Nottingham City Council is committed to supporting a programme of apprenticeships to provide employment opportunities for young city residents that are furthest away from the jobs market. These initiatives help to break down barriers for young people trying to gain entry to employment, the participants enjoy meaningful work experience, building on their existing skills and experience whilst gaining a nationally recognised qualification. The initiatives also help NCC to attract and retain a talented and diverse workforce. The programme is currently delivered via two vehicles:

- 1) Working in partnership with PATRA, a local provider of work placements for young BME citizens. Each trainee costs NCC £13,000 and we have been asked to provide 50 placements in 15/16.
- 2) The Nottingham Apprentice scheme, which aims to provide 50 Nottingham City placements. The 13/14 cohort resulted in 75% of participants securing sustainable employment.

Whilst both of these schemes remain a corporate priority, there is no sustainable funding model to support ongoing delivery.

Other Options Considered: Other options are not appropriate at this time. Both of these schemes remain a corporate priority and are supported politically.

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor
Interests:**

Consultations:

These are ongoing programmes which are fully supported, however we need the financial support to ensure continuity of delivery.

**Crime and Disorder
Implications:**

None

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: Both of these are positive action initiatives, in place partly to address under representation in the workforce.

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

14/07/2015

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

This report considers two funding issues:

(1) The targeted apprenticeship programme currently provided by PATRA. There are no legal concerns with regard to the additional funding. The contract with PATRA is due to expire in December 2015. The contract has previously been extended under delegated decisions 0919 and 1708. The assumption is made that the funding is in respect of the existing contractual obligations. The Council is under a duty to comply with both its financial regulations set out in the Constitution and also EU procurement legislation. In February 2015 the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 came into force and removed the categorisation of Part A and Part B type service contracts. As such, due to the value of the targeted apprenticeship programme the contract will need to be procured in accordance with the Regulations. Advice should be sought and followed by the Corporate Procurement Team in respect of the processes and timescales. A further approval will need to be obtained with regard to the procurement and award of any new contract, together with any additional funding requirements after March 2016.

(2) The Nottingham Apprenticeship scheme. This is a scheme that is delivered in-house and as such there are no legal concerns with regard to the proposal for additional funding to maintain the scheme.

Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 24/06/2015.

Finance Advice:

There are two elements to this decision.

1. Targeted apprentice programme - £0.650m - £0.416m has already been earmarked for this scheme from the Workforce Reserve (WR). The extension will require a further £0.234m to be made available from the WR.
2. Nottingham apprentice scheme £0.610m - 50% of the total cost of this scheme will be made available through existing departmental budgets and the remaining 50% to be funded from the WR.

The WR one off contribution totals £0.955m. If there are any extensions to this in future years further ongoing funding will need to be identified.

Advice provided by Ian Greatorex (Finance Project Manager), 25 June 2015.

Advice provided by Ceri Walters (Finance Business Partner) on 29/06/2015.

Procurement Advice:

This decision relates to the allocation of funding to support the delivery of a programme of apprenticeships in 2015/16. In relation to the targeted apprenticeship programme, the current contract with PATRA expires in December 2015. The contractual arrangements for the delivery of the programme beyond the expiry of the current contract will be subject to a separate decision.

The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 set out the legal requirements for the award of contracts by public authorities in the UK and any contract awarded for the delivery of the targeted apprenticeship programme should be procured in accordance with these Regulations.

The contractual arrangements following the expiry of the existing contract should be considered and decisions made in sufficient time for a compliant procurement process to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules. The Procurement Team will support the consideration of procurement options and will undertake any procurement process to ensure compliance and to maximise value for money and outcomes from the programme.

Advice provided by Jo Pettifor (Strategic Procurement Manager) on 24/06/2015.

Signatures

Nicola Heaton (Portfolio Holder for Community Services)
SIGNED and Dated: 06/07/2015
Ian Curryer (Chief Executive)
SIGNED and Dated: 02/07/2015