

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	2120
Author:	Sushma Fear
Department:	Development
Contact:	Robert Caswell (Job Title: Programme Manager, Email: robert.caswell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158763408)
Subject:	Approval of the 2015/16 allocation of the Schools' Forum funding for disabled access works in schools
Total Value:	£200k (Type: Capital)
Decision Being Taken:	<p>Approval is sought for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The allocation of the Schools' Forum Funding for disabled access works in schools, as prioritised by the Disability Access Group (DAG). These schemes are identified in Appendix A.2. The appointment of the consultants, Faithful and Gould, to support and deliver the Schools Accessibility Programme for 2015/16.3. The appointment of the contractor, GF Tomlinson, through the East Midlands Property Alliance (EMPA) Framework to deliver the Schools Accessibility Programme for 2015/16.4. The delegated authority to approve any future schemes that are prioritised by DAG and are within this funding envelope of £200k be given to the Corporate Director for Children and Adults in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Schools.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Dedicated Schools Grant funding has provided an opportunity to support both maintained and academy schools to improve their accessibility. Funding of £200k has been approved for allocation for the 2015/16 programme of works; this will allow further works to be undertaken at schools that will improve their accessibility for pupils with disabilities. A number of schemes have been identified for the 2015/16 programme of works which are specified in Appendix A. It is requested that the proposed programme is approved to allow for the identified projects to be progressed.

The programme of work has been generated from consultation with the schools' Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCo), Occupational Therapists (OTs), Educational Psychologists (EPs), the School Admissions Team and the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Team. The schools identified in this report have been prioritised by the Disability Access Group and the works are required to support current and new pupils within the school. The programme covers a broad range of projects from simple schemes to install ramps or adapt toilets to major work required to make a school fully accessible. All of these works make a considerable difference to the care and education of children.

Referrals for adaptation work are child specific and are received throughout the year, and are generally required at short notice. Delegating the authority to the Corporate Director for Children and Adults in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Schools to approve future schemes, within this funding envelope will allow a timely response to future needs. These additional schemes will be funded by the contingency that is identified in Appendix A.

The appointment of the consultants, Faithful and Gould was approved on 13 January 2015 to support and deliver the current Schools Accessibility Programme. Faithful and Gould carry out site surveys, compile project specification and design proposals, and manage the work on site with the contractor. Faithful and Gould also ensure that the appointed contractor efficiently and effectively complete the projects. Approval is sought to continue the engagement of Faithful and Gould to support the programme of work identified for 2015/16. All fees associated with the engagement of Faithful and Gould will be included within the specified approval total for each individual project identified within the funding envelope.

The appointment of the contractor, GF Tomlinson was approved on 13 January 2015 to deliver the current Schools Accessibility Programme. GF Tomlinson have been appointed from the EMPA Intermediate Lower Framework to deliver the programme of work. The EMPA Framework offers a formal and legally compliant route for procuring this programme of work and offers value for money. GF Tomlinson has previously successfully completed projects within schools in the City. All fees associated with the engagement of GF Tomlinson will be included within the specified approval total for each individual project identified within the funding envelope. The projects will be tendered and the quotes received from the subcontractors will be compared and reviewed by the Quantity Surveyor and Faithful and Gould to ensure value for money. Approval is sought to continue the engagement of GF Tomlinson to deliver the programme of work identified for 2015/16.

Briefing notes documents:

Appendix A 20150618.xls

Other Options Considered:

1. To do nothing. This option has been rejected as the funding has already been approved by School's Forum for use on Disabled Access works.
2. To use an alternative framework, for example the Local Educational Partnership (LEP). This was rejected as these schemes are generally small and would not represent best value.
3. To tender the work. This was rejected as the cost of each tender process would outweigh the benefits and this will slow down the response process.

Background Papers:	None.
Published Works:	None.
Affected Wards:	Citywide
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	None.
Use of Consultants	Number of Days:50 Rate per Day:500 Total value:25000 Start date:16/06/2015 End date:16/06/2016
Reason for using a consultant:	NCC in house Property Team has insufficient resources to deliver the programme of works within the time frame. It was their proposal to procure Faithful and Gould to manage the Schools Accessibility Minor Works Programme.
Other options considered:	NCC in house Property Team. This option was rejected due to insufficient in house resources.
Name of consultant:	Faithful and Gould
Reason for selection?	Faithful and Gould was previously used to manage and deliver the 2013/14 and 2014/15 Minor Works Programmes and therefore the request is made to continue with this appointed and engagement to deliver the schemes identified in Appendix A for 2015/16.
Has the consultant previously completed work for the City Council?	Yes. Faithful and Gould have previously managed and delivered the 2013/14 and 2014/15 Minor Works Programmes successfully and the value of the contract was £20k. Faithful and Gould have also been used on a number of other projects including the primary schools reorganisation schemes, where they provided a high level of service and supported Nottingham City Council in implementing improvements to City schools as part of the primary school reorganisation programme.
Specific activities to be undertaken by the consultant are:	Faithful and Gould will carry out site surveys, compile project specification and design proposals, and manage the work on site with the contractor.
Period of engagement:	1 Year
By what process was the consultant selected?	The Major Programmes Team will procure Faithful and Gould through the EMPA Framework. The anticipated value of the contract is £25,000, all fees associated with the engagement of Faithful and Gould will be included within the specified approval total for each individual project identified within the funding envelope.
Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

There are no crime and disorder implications.

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Equality Impact Assessment 20150625.pdf

Social Value Considerations:

The EU threshold is not exceeded.

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

11/08/2015

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

On the basis that the appointments recommended in the report will all be made through compliant framework arrangements it is considered that the proposed decisions raise no significant legal issues and are supported. Advice provided by Malcolm Townroe (Legal Services Manager) on 14/07/2015.

Finance Advice:

Finance Comments

On 29th March 2012 Schools Forum approved the allocation of £0.707m of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding each year to fund the following BSF Wave 5 priorities:

- i. schools accessibility work;
- ii. school health and safety condition work;
- iii. ICT options appraisal;
- iv. ICT services to schools

The funding was phased as per Table 1 in Appendix B (attached).

As stated in Table 1 £0.200m was allocated in 2015/16 for schools accessibility works. At the end of the financial year 2014/15 £0.276m remained unspent of the previous years funding allocations due to the slippage of projects, this funding has been carried forward to the financial year 2015/16.

Any remaining uncommitted funding at the end of the financial year 2015/16 will be returned to the Statutory School Reserve at the year end and then carried forward to 2016/17 in the Building Schools For The Future Wave 5 budget. Any overspends on individual schools projects will need to be met from the contingency in Appendix A.

The £0.707m is reported as CERA (capital expenditure from the revenue account) on the s251 statement. This expenditure line is not subject to academy recoupmnt. Academies will be included in the prioritisation of works.

The funding for the above mentioned works will be from Schools Forum, therefore, the inclusion of these schemes will have no overall impact on the Capital programme. The capital programme will be amended accordingly.

Advice provided by Julia Elizabeth Holmes (Finance Analyst) on 25/06/2015.

Advice documents: Appendix B - Disability Access in Schools 2015-16.doc

Procurement Advice:

There are no significant procurement concerns with this decision.

The National Scape framework for Asset Management, Surveying, & Design Services and the EMPAii Regional Lower Intermediate Framework provides a compliant route for the engagement of Faith & Gould and GF Tomlinson.

Advice provided by Sue Oliver (Category Manager - Procurement) on 29/06/2015.

HR Advice:

There are no HR implications at this time. Advice provided by Leanne Sharp (Service Redesign Consultant) on 24/06/2015.

**Equality and Diversity
Advice:**

The proposal to ensure that the access needs of disabled children and young people are met is welcomed and enables the Authority to demonstrate one of the principles of the Public Sector Equality Duty: to promote equality of opportunity.

It is hoped that the mechanisms identified to monitor the SCAPE commitments are met and that diversity is promoted and evidenced in the SME's etc that are commissioned to conduct the works. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 30/06/2015.

Signatures:

Jon Collins (Leader of the Council)
SIGNED and Dated: 04/08/2015
Sam Webster (Portfolio Holder for Schools)
SIGNED and Dated: 27/07/2015
Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)
SIGNED and Dated: 22/07/2015