

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Reference Number:	2128
Author:	Chris Henning
Department:	Development
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Subject:	Funding to support delivery of the Nottingham Growth Plan and Retail Strategy
Total Value:	£900,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	To continue funding to support delivery of the Nottingham Growth Plan and Retail Strategy to deliver sustainable economic growth. This will be managed through ongoing use of Local Transport Plans (LTP) funds and phased as follows: £400,000 in 2015/16, £300,000 in 2016/17, and £200,000 in 2017/18.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>This decision provides on-going staffing and project delivery resource required to deliver the following elements of the Growth Plan, Retail Strategy and related business growth projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">*6 staff to manage and deliver projects - including 2 which are match-funded;*continuation of our contribution to the Inspiring Retail programme for entrepreneurial retailers;*support for continuation of Growth Plan business support projects and match-funding for new projects which will emerge from EU Structural Investment Fund programmes;*match-funding support for local partners to achieve complementary business growth objectives;*support for marketing, communications and publications - including presence at events which will attract businesses to invest and grow in Nottingham. <p>These, and related activities have been supported by the Council from the LTP budget since the inception of the Growth Plan in 2012. The allocation for 2015/16 represents a 33% reduction in the budget for these activities from 2014/15, reflecting the much tighter financial position faced by the Council.</p>

Briefing notes documents: **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LTP BUDGETS_FEB2014v2.doc**

Other Options Considered: **Not re-aligning funds was rejected as this would leave Growth Plan projects unfunded, undermining a flagship policy and risking Nottingham's economic recovery. It would also reduce the City Council's ability to 'match-fund' external grant funds, leading to an inability to draw in funds worth generally twice our own contribution.**
Re-aligning a larger sum was rejected as budgets across the Council are extremely tight and analysis showed that no more funding could be realigned without potentially risking delivery of other services.

Background Papers: **None**

Published Works: **Medium Term Financial Plan - 24 February 2015**

Affected Wards: **Citywide**

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Consultations: **Date: 24/02/2015**
Other City Council Bodies:Executive Board
Approved.

Date: 24/02/2015
Other:Councillor Graham Chapman, Deputy Leader/Portfolio Holder for Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration Councillor Jane Urquhart, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation
Both Portfolio Holders are happy with the proposals as presented to Executive Board

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: **None**

Equality: **EIA not required. Reasons: The decision does not relate to new or changing policies, services or functions.**

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 20/08/2015

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Human Resources

Legal Advice: The decision to be taken does not raise any significant legal issues. It is noted that the saving will fund existing posts. However, should new posts be created, they should be done so in accordance with s.7 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which requires any appointment of new staff to be made on merit. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 24/03/2015.

Finance Advice: In February 2015 Executive Board considered the Medium Term Financial Plan and as part of the Capital Programme approved the allocation of Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital resource for Economic Development activities (annex 3 appendix C section 1).

The LTP capital resource may be used to deliver sustainable economic growth in accordance with the Council's priorities. The Council has reserves funded from revenue sources which had been planned to support capital projects. Due to the flexibilities in respect of the LTP capital funding, the revenue reserves can now be diverted to cover revenue expenditure to cover the requirements of the Economic Development service area, offset by reduced expenditure in respect of LTP capital. The diversion of LTP capital funds of £900,000 will be managed through reserves for 3 financial years from April 2015, phased as follows:

2015/16	£400,000
2016/17	£300,000
2017/18	£200,000

The Director of Economic Development will need to put effective monitoring procedures in place to ensure commitments are aligned with the approved funding levels and any exit costs are contained within approved budgets. Expenditure in relation to this funding will be incurred in accordance with financial regulations.

Advice provided by Jim Driver (Finance Service Partner) on 09/03/2015.

HR Advice: To realign these resources will secure employment for an extended period of up to 6 colleagues. Consideration needs to be given to potential redundancy costs should a fixed term employee exceed 2 years continuous service. Advice provided by Wendy Tutin (Service Redesign Consultant) on 09/03/2015.

Signatures Nick McDonald (Portfolio Holder for Jobs, Growth and Transport)
SIGNED and Dated: 13/08/2015

David Bishop (Deputy CE, CD for Development and Growth)

SIGNED and Dated: 13/08/2015