

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2192

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Department:

Development

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Subject:

ESIF Youth Employment Initiative bid Nottingham Gets to Work

Total Value:

£212,360 (Type: Capital)

Decision Being Taken:

Allocation of £212,360 of Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding over 2 years from 2016/17 and 2017/18 programmes as match funding for the Nottingham Gets to Work ESIF Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) bid being led by Sustrans to provide the transport component of the YEI employment support programme for 16-29 years olds in Nottingham City.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The proposed Nottingham Gets to Work programme has been developed by a partnership led by the existing local Community Smarter Travel Hub providers Sustrans and Sustainable Travel Collective in partnership with Nottingham City Council in response to the European Social Fund Priority Axis 1 (Inclusive Labour Markets) Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) Call (Reference OC08S15P 0036) for the D2N2 area, ring-fenced for Nottingham City, which was published in March 2015.

The outline YEI bid submitted in May 2015 has now been approved by the YEI fund Managing Authority, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), to proceed to the full bid stage. Bids to this programme require 33% match funding. Funding provided from Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) (£90k) and Local Travel Plan (LTP) (£90k) for the three existing Community Smarter Travel Hubs projects in quarters 3 and 4 of 2015/16 is eligible to be used as match funding towards the proposed 2015-2016 YEI Nottingham Gets to Work delivery activities. The Community Smarter Travel Hubs allocations totalling £180k were approved by Executive Board as part of the LSTF 2015/16 programme on 18th November 2014. At the outline YEI bid stage the City Council also offered an indicative allocation of £212,360 from the future LTP programme as a contribution towards 2016-18 bid activities.

DWP requires that all match funding must be secured at full application stage. Confirmation of the match for 2016/17 - 2017/18 will open up the opportunity to secure £761,640 of external European funding to provide assistance to address travel barriers and create skills and training opportunities in sustainable transport to support unemployed people aged 16-29 years in Nottingham City providing a programme worth £1.154 million.

Nottingham Gets to Work will support 3,500 young people aged 16-29 across Nottingham City to access employment, education and training opportunities using sustainable transport by providing tailored, intensive travel support to overcome barriers such as cost, limited travel horizons and lack of awareness of travel options. Developed in close consultation with colleagues in NCC Economic Development, the project has been designed to link closely with other local YEI bids and access to employment schemes, providing a high quality, efficient and integrated approach between all eight strands of the YEI Call.

The programme will build on the expertise and community recognition of the Community Hubs programme to support 16-29 year olds in Nottingham City who are unemployed, long-term unemployed and economically inactive to:

- Enable young people to take up work and learning opportunities provided by the YEI programme, through free and low cost travel
- Support sustainable integration into the labour market by building confidence and embedding sustainable travel skills
- Improve employability and resilience to changing employment markets, by providing local and national qualifications.

Participants will be engaged through three pathways:

- Referral through other employment support services, including successful YEI providers
- Outreach and promotion - direct engagement through social media, events and partner organisations

- Through support organisations targeting hard to reach groups (e.g. Disability Direct, Ingeus).

As lead partner, Sustrans will be responsible for overall project management. Travel advisors will support young people to access affordable travel options (public transport, cycling and walking) by assessing the needs of each participant, taking into account journey requirements, physical ability, and aspirations. This will identify the best solution for the individual, through three different support packages - Level 1, 2 and 3.

Level 1 - all 3,500 participants will be offered:

- Six month half price Kangaroo travel Jobseeker Citycard
- Journey planning
- Cycle skills and maintenance training, to increase confidence and reliability of commuter journeys
- Dr Bike (making existing bikes roadworthy)
- Free second-hand bike offer.

Level 2 - 1,085 long-term unemployed and inactive participants will also be offered:

- Free travel for those attending job interviews and starting work/training
- Journey buddy support - guided trips to employment/training sites
- Qualifications in bike maintenance, cycle skills/instruction, leading walks and cycle rides.

Level 3 -315 inactive participants will be offered more intensive activities:

- Specialist bike loan e.g. disabled adapted bikes
- Group activities to build confidence e.g. women only bike maintenance
- Transport workshops with young parents at children's centres and nurseries.

The NCC Citycard Team will administer the half-price travel offer modelled on the City Deal/LSTF funded Jobseeker Citycard offer which finished in August 2015. Eligibility for the new offer will need to be limited to 18-29 year olds in line with YEI criteria and applicants will be triaged via the YEI programme.

It is anticipated 2,800 Jobseeker Citycards will be issued from April 2016 - October 2017, making this element of the programme estimated to be worth circa £474,000 over this period. This estimated cost is over twice the value of the additional unsecured NCC match (£212,360) requested towards YEI activities in 2016/17 - 2017/18. Therefore by providing the YEI match to the partnership bid led by Sustrans, NCC will be leveraging 50% of the cost towards a targeted Jobseeker Citycard offer, along with delivery of a wider support package through a tried and tested Community Travel Hubs approach with experienced delivery partners.

This is a partnership bid led by Sustrans and the value of the match requested far exceeds the value of the element of the project to be provided by NCC.

Other Options Considered:

There are no other viable options. Match funding is already in place for 2015-2016 YEI Nottingham Gets to Work delivery activities through the existing Community Smarter Travel Hubs projects NCC currently funds from Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Local Travel Plan (LTP) in 2015/16. At the outline bid stage NCC offered an indicative allocation from the LTP programme as a contribution towards 2016-18 bid activities. The outline bid has now been approved to proceed to the full bid stage. However the YEI bid gateway assessment by the YEI funding Managing Authority DWP requires that all match funding must be confirmed when submitting a full application. There is no other available source of match funding from bid partners for this initiative.

There is no other bid with the YEI programme that seeks to offer travel support to address barriers to employment so this bid is unique. Therefore without advance approval of NCC's local match contribution for 2016/17 - 2017/18 from the Local Transport Plan the full bid will not be accepted, thereby losing the opportunity to secure £761,640 of external European Funding to provide assistance to address travel barriers and create skills and training opportunities in sustainable transport to support young people aged 16-29 years in Nottingham City into employment.

Background Papers:

Call for proposals: European Social Fund Priority Axis 1: Inclusive Labour Markets OC08S15P 0036 Youth Employment Initiative (Nottingham City only)

Unpublished background papers:

YEI-in-Nottingham-OC08S15P0036.pdf

Published Works:

None.

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

The Nottingham Gets to Work project will continue the successful Community Smarter Travel Hubs approach to support young people aged 16-29 into employment in two ways. 1) Provide eligible individuals with travel support including assistance with travel costs to broaden travel horizons, remove barriers to work and training opportunities and widen search areas for jobs and training and 2) Use sustainable travel activities/skills eg cycle maintenance, bike recycling courses, as a platform to build confidence, esteem, social and employability skills as a pathway into employment and providing diversionary activities to positively engage young people. Therefore the project will improve the chances of young people gaining employment thereby reducing the likelihood of their becoming involved in criminal activities and anti-social behaviour.

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA of YEI for DDM Sept 2015 fv.doc

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

14/10/2015

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

This report authorises the payment to Sustrans of £212,260 as match funding. The City Council must ensure the payment is not state aid. Sustrans is the lead partner and has set out in its bid application various grounds for arguing that provision of funding for YEI is not state aid. Those grounds include that the aid is for a local activity which does not affect trade between member states. Other grounds include reliance on specific state aid block exemptions. Those grounds and arguments put forward appear reasonable. The City Council can mitigate the consequences of the risk of the funding being state aid by including in the partnering agreement with Sustrans provisions for paying back any aid and clarifying with Sustrans whether Sustrans is required to make any notifications under the block exemption. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 09/09/2015.

Finance Advice:

This report requests approval to allocate £212,360 of Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding over 2 years from 2016/17 and 2017/18 programmes as match funding for the Nottingham Gets to Work ESIF Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) bid being led by Sustrans which will provide the transport component of the YEI employment support programme for 16-29 years olds in Nottingham City. This will represent a first call on LTP resources available in those years. The use of this match funding together with £180,000 of existing approved spend on Community Smarter Travel Hubs will enable Sustrans to lever in £761,640 of external European funding to address travel barriers and create skills and training opportunities in sustainable transport to support unemployed people aged 16-29 years in Nottingham City, providing a programme worth £1.154 million.

The LTP resource is capital but 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 match funding, offset by reduced expenditure in respect of LTP capital. The diversion of LTP capital funds of £212,360 will be managed through reserves over the period to 2017/18.

Advice provided by Jim Driver (Finance Service Partner) on 04/09/2015.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

The proposal and EIA more than satisfies the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty to ensure fairness and equality both in terms of consultation, activity and key objectives. Consultation however and response will be key to ensuring a successful outcome. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 03/09/2015.

Signatures

Nick McDonald (Portfolio Holder for Jobs, Growth and Transport)
SIGNED and Dated: 06/10/2015
David Bishop (Deputy CE, CD for Development and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 29/09/2015