

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

<b>Reference Number:</b>	<b>2310</b>
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<b>Department:</b>	<b>Children and Families</b>
<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Geoff Oxendale</b> <b>(Job Title: Policy Officer, Email: geoff.oxendale@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 63978)</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Core Cities annual subscription 2015/16</b>
<b>Total Value:</b>	<b>£53,750 (Type: Revenue)</b>
<b>Decision Being Taken:</b>	<b>To renew Nottingham's membership of the Core Cities Group for 2015/16. This covers the direct operating costs and expenses of the network and delivery of the Core Cities Cabinet's work programme and makes a contribution to the Group's reserves.</b>
<b>Reasons for the Decision(s)</b>	<p><b>Membership of the Core Cities Group enables Nottingham to work closely with the nine other Core Cities in the UK, and engage effectively with central government and other influential stakeholders. The Core Cities Group has regular discussions with government on the economic growth and public sector reform agendas. Nottingham City Council gains significant influence and a higher profile for being a Core City. The City Council also gains access to expertise, problem solving and information sharing with the other Core Cities. Membership allows the Council to participate in over a dozen workstreams (including skills and labour market, transport, housing, finance, low carbon, health and social care and public health). This is a renewal of a long-standing membership and the cost is contained within a corporate budget.</b></p> <p><b>Membership subscriptions were reduced for three years from 2011/12 to 2013/14 in recognition of the pressures on local authority budgets, and reserves were used to bridge the gap. Further reduction was not possible in 2014/15 as reserves had largely been spent and more work was being undertaken by the group, particularly around the devolution agenda. The 2015/16 subscription will allow the group to maintain its current workstream and to maintain the prominence of the group and the Core Cities Cabinet's ambitions on devolution and economic inclusion. The subscription also allows the group to replenish its reserves in order to be able to respond to changes in demand and emerging priorities following the General Election in 2015.</b></p>

**Other Options Considered:**

**Not renewing the subscription for 2015/16. However this would mean Nottingham would lose its status as a Core City, and the concomitant influence and profile.**

**Negotiating a reduced subscription. From 2011/12 to 2013/14 the Core Cities agreed a reduced subscription and spent down reserves, in recognition of the pressure on City Council finances. The subscription increased in 2014/15 as it was felt that the reduced level would not allow the priorities of the Core Cities Cabinet to be delivered. The subscription for 2015/16 maintains the same level of funding plus a contribution to replenish the group's reserves. The next 1-2 years will be a critical time in the policy cycle for Core Cities to press for significant devolution of powers and funding to cities and to develop policy on economic inclusion. The Core Cities have already laid the groundwork and it would be a missed opportunity not to be able to give the work the necessary focus and pace at such an important time. A replenishment of the group's reserves is required so that the Core Cities can respond swiftly to change and opportunities, without first having to draw down money separately from each city. Funding will only be committed with the agreement of the Core Cities Cabinet.**

**Background Papers:**

**None**

**Published Works:**

**Delegated decision 1639 - Core Cities Annual Subscription 2014/15**

**Affected Wards:**

**Citywide**

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:**

**None**

**Consultations:**

**Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.**

**Crime and Disorder Implications:**

**none**

**Equality:**

**EIA not required. Reasons: EIA not required. Reasons: this decision does not include proposals for new or changing council policies or functions.**

**Decision Type:**

**Portfolio Holder**

**Subject to Call In:**

**Yes**

**Call In Expiry date:**

**03/02/2016**

**Advice Sought:**

**Legal, Finance**

**Legal Advice:**

**There are no legal issues arising out of this decision. The report sets out the business rationale for the decision and on that basis the proposal is supported. Advice provided by Malcolm Townroe (Legal Services Manager) on 22/12/2015.**

**Finance Advice:**

**The value of the decision (£53,750) is the cost of renewing the City's subscription to the Core Cities Group. Payment will be made to group's administering authority and covers the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. The cost will be met from an ongoing corporate revenue provision for subscriptions as incorporated in the currently approved Medium Term Financial Plan. Value for money will accrue to the extent that the City's representation within the Core Cities Group yields added value or reduced costs arising from access to the group's collective expertise and influence.**  
**Advice provided by C I Sharpe (Finance Analyst) on 17/12/2015.**

**Signatures**

<b>Jon Collins (Leader of the Council)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 27/01/2016</b>
<b>Ian Curryer (Chief Executive)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 21/01/2016</b>