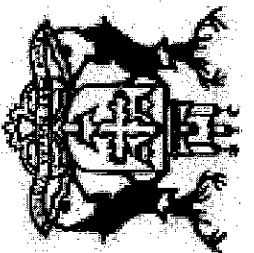


# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

2549

Author:

Michael Cole

Department:

Communities

Contact:

Michael Cole

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Subject:

Unipol Student Homes - continued funding

Total Value:

39,100 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To continue to purchase the services of Unipol Student Homes for the accreditation of student Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) for the period August 2016 to July 2017.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Unipol Student Homes commenced provision of an accreditation service on behalf of the city in October 2007, working initially on improving the City's accreditation scheme. Since that time their contract has been renewed annually, with the most recent renewals being authorised by DD 0053 (for the financial years 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15) with authority for 2015/16 having been given by the Head of Service of Community Cohesion. The current funding would be used to continue offering the accreditation scheme as part of the Nottingham Standard. This scheme was introduced by the City Council's Housing Strategy Team in cooperation with Unipol and DASH (Decent and Safer Homes) to support, promote and develop higher standards in the rented housing market in Nottingham.

Other Options Considered:

There are three possible options:

1. Cease funding Unipol although this would hinder the work carried out by the HMO Licensing team with their Rogue Landlords campaign.
2. Provide our own in-house service. This would work out much more expensive as well as giving out a different message to landlords and students.
3. Reduce the amount of funding as the amount of funding given to Unipol since their initial establishment has slowly been reduced. Any further reductions would affect their other on-going work carried out with City Council support.

**Background Papers:**

None.

**Published Works:**

Delegated decision 0053, dated 2012

**Affected Wards:**

Dunkirk and Lenton, Radford and Park, Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:**

No specific interests although Mike Cole and Graham Demax both represent the City Council on the Unipol Nottingham Services Committee that meets three times each academic year.

**Consultations:**

Date: 10/05/2016

Ward Councillors: David Trimble, Sally Longford, Sarah Piper, Sam Webster, Anne Peach

All supportive of further funding.

Date: 10/05/2016

Other City Council Bodies: Local NDOs for the relevant wards with high student numbers.

All supportive of further funding.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:**

By continuing to provide a Nottingham Standard for a large number of HMOs, the City Council will continue to develop and promote better housing standards. This will help raise the standard of accommodation in those areas with high numbers of students, and part of those standards will be around improved security and safety measures thereby reducing the number of burglaries in student properties.

**Equality:**

EIA not required. Reasons: This is not a new funding decision and relates to the continued funding of the Unipol Accreditation Scheme (Nottingham Standard).

**Decision Type:**

Officer

**Executive Decision?**

No

**Scheme of Delegation Reference Number or Other Source of Delegation:**

Delegation 127

**Advice Sought:**

Legal, Finance

Legal Advice:

1. The decision is within the financial limit of the decision-maker according to the Council's current Constitution.
2. The decision is within the general delegation to Corporate Directors under delegation 1 of the Constitution; subject to appropriate sub-delegation by the Corporate Director to the decision-maker, it is within the power of the Director to take.
3. The terms on which the funding is given including the performance measures which Unipol is required to meet will be contained in the contract. Advice provided by Judith Irwin (Senior Solicitor) on 13/07/2016.

Finance Advice:

The cost of this decision is £39,100 and is paid in 4 equal quarterly payments. Nottingham City Council has a Safer Housing Service where funding has been set aside specifically to fund this activity.

The funding is April-March although it should be noted that the contract starts later in the financial year. Budget will need to be available in 17/18 and must be included in the budget process. This should not be an issue as funding for this is of a permanent nature.

Michelle Pullen - Senior Finance Assistant

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Advice provided by Michelle Pullen (Senior Accounts Assistant) on 19/05/2016.

Signatures:

Andrew (Director - Community Protection)



26.07.2016