

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

**Reference Number:**

**2685**

**Author:**

**Celina Adams**

**Department:**

**Chief Executives Group**

**Contact:**

**Celina Adams**

**(Job Title: Commissioning Manager, Email: celina.adams@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158764923)**

**Subject:**

**Grant funding for Refugee Support Provision**

**Total Value:**

**£218,833 (over 2 years and 5 months) (Type: Revenue)**

**Decision Being Taken:**

**To increase the Community of Identity (COI) grant awarded to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum (NNRF) by £89,000 per year from 1st November 2016 to March 31st 2019.**

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

**\*\*\* ERROR \*\*\* - CONTAINS CHANGES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE DECISION AUTHOR**

Service provision for refugees in the City currently includes:

- An Independent Living Support Service (ILSS) contracted with TunTum Housing Association which was due to expire at the end of September and has been extended to the end of October 2016. This contract provides a traditional outreach based housing support model to a set number of refugees.

- Community of Interest (COI) grant funded provision for refugees and asylum seekers, delivered by the Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum (NNRF). The current COI grant awarded to NNRF is in the second round of a 3 year allocation.

Following a review of the refugee provision it is felt that the ILSS service model is not deemed suitable in meeting the emerging needs of refugees in the City. This is due to the impending requirement to provide support for increasing numbers of refugees (approx. and additional 200 expected in 2016/17), as well as feedback from users and stakeholders around duplication within the current system of service provision. Increased demands require refugees being supported to access a broad range of information and support services, including the teaching of English which will support them to become more independent. It is therefore proposed, that support for refugees to find and become settled in long term accommodation should be included within the wider support and advice role of the COI provision. Increasing the level of funding for this service would allow for an holistic approach which would offer a seamless delivery with existing services. The COI grant funding was awarded to NNRF through an open grant application process. The grant guidelines stipulate that if further funding becomes available during the lifespan of the COI agreement, it can be added to the existing grant and the Lead organisations would be expected required to undertake additional activity for receipt of additional funding. Additional outcomes would be expected to be delivered by increasing the COI award and NNRF would be expected to increase access to a drop in service which will allow greater capacity to meet the needs of an increased number of clients and improved access to other services that will support Refugees independence (e.g. English classes and volunteering opportunities.) The purpose of the NNRF COI grant is to provide: Information Advice and Guidance (delivered through a 1 stop shop); ESOL delivery; Basic Needs support; Infrastructure support. Going forward, the accommodation support required by refugees who have recently received permission to remain, is in keeping with what is already being delivered through the NNRF COI grant, as opposed to being a more conventional housing related support service.

It is therefore proposed that the value of the grant to NNRF be increased annually by £89,000 in order to provide additional capacity to support this activity. In order to support an effective transfer of existing cases, a one month extension has been sought for the Tun Tum service. Proposal rationale: The delivery of all provision in the City for refugees through grant funding to one organisation will maximise value for money through delivering economies of scale. Increasing the COI grant will enable a more flexible service to be offered which includes the sorts of activities already being delivered by NNRF. The arrangement will allow greater capacity to meet the increasing need. There would be seamless service delivery, alignment with other services provided by NNRF, allowing refugees to access services that will increase their ability to be less dependent on other services in the future. NNRF has involvement with housing support as part of the Syrian resettlement programme. NNRF have extensive volunteer programme delivered as part of COI grant funding. These volunteers increase general capacity and could be used for translation services. The arrangement would provide specialist expertise in a wider range of services tailored for refugees

**Other Options Considered:**

**1. Do Nothing: The current COI provision meets existing need but does not take into account anticipated increased demand so action needs to be taken to prevent increased backlog and gaps in service delivery. The extension of COI funding will allow such needs to be met with increased expected outcomes from NNRF.**

**Background Papers:** None.

**Published Works:** None.

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** None.

**Consultations:**

<b>Date: 26/07/2016</b>
<b>Minority Groups: Service Users from NNRF, Refugee Futures and British Red Cross</b>
Service Users report that they access advisors from Refugee Futures, NNRF, and Housing Aid simultaneously. They do not distinguish between the 2 orgs and are often confused as to which service should be meeting their needs.

<b>Date: 19/07/2016</b>
<b>Other: YMCA, G4S</b>
Wider stakeholders report that backlogs in system are due to poor service user throughput. Stakeholders report that they refer into both services, causing duplication. Recommendations included a more drop in style of service and increased opportunities for service users networking would increase self help options and group working.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:** None

**Equality:** Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Refugee EIA (2).pdf

**Decision Type:** Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:** Yes

**Call In Expiry date:** 23/12/2016

**Advice Sought:** Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity

**Legal Advice:**

The proposals in this report seek to provide additional funding under the COI grant process to NNRF who have already been awarded grant funding to deliver similar services.

In line with the COI process, this decision proposes to give NNRF an increase in their funding in return for placing extra requirements upon them with respect to service delivery, including but not limited to supporting increasing numbers of refugees in addition to the existing service.

The current contract with Tun Tum which delivers an element of refugee service in the City is due to expire. The services delivered under that contract will be transferred to be delivered under the NNRF COI grant agreement which will allow an alignment in the service provision and will see additional improved support offered to existing and new refugees in the City.

The funding to NNRF under this decision is in the form of a grant so is not a service contract and is not therefore subject to the EU procurement regulations.

Employment Advice provided separately in uploaded document.  
Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screamon (Solicitor) on 10/10/2016.

Advice documents: 2016-10-04 legal advice (employment).pdf

**Finance Advice:**

The increase in funding has been identified as coming from the Housing Revenue Support budget.

There is no impact on the MTFP as a result of this decision.

Within the SLA we have the option to terminate the agreement, with no reason, by giving three months' notice in writing. This contract can therefore be considered as part of the review of the overall budget position in 17/18+. Advice provided by Dee Fretwell (Finance Analyst) on 28/09/2016.

**Procurement Advice:**

The proposed increase in funding for the NNRF Communities of Interest Grant for refugees will enable the increasing needs of refugees and asylum seekers in the City to be met through a flexible and holistic model of service provision. NNRF offer a range of activities for refugees to meet their needs flexibly and in a seamless way, reducing dependence on other services. The proposal is therefore considered to offer the best value for money. The COI grant funding was awarded to NNRF through a fair and open grant application process, which allowed for the award of additional funding in future, and for additional outcomes to be delivered as a result of such additional funding. The funding is awarded through a grant agreement with the organisation rather than a contract for the provision of services, therefore is not subject to the EU Procurement Regulations. Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 27/09/2016.

**Equality and Diversity Advice:**

Due consideration has been made for the needs of service users to enable them to access a simple, easy to use process. Equally due consideration will be important for affected staff impacted by changes. A robust monitoring process will be important to ensure that any unintended outcomes are alleviated and remedial action taken to minimise adverse impacts and improve those that are positive and beneficial to citizens and staff. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 10/10/2016.

**Signatures**

<b>Alex Norris (Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 14/12/2016</b>
<b>Candida Brudenell (Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 13/12/2016</b>