

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2770

Author:

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Department:

Communities

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Subject:

Keeping the Balance - DCLG funding

Key Decision (decision valued at more than £1million):

Yes

Total Value:

up to £3,000,000 grant fund from DCLG (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To note submission of a bid for funding and to approve receipt of funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for up to £3,000,000 over three financial years;
- 2) To delegate authority to the Director of Community Protection, to allocate this funding and award contracts to Voluntary Community Sector (VCO) Organisations to deliver specific support services to citizens and engagement activity to the wider community following completion of a compliant procurement process or robust and transparent grant process, as appropriate and to establish a variety of posts in accordance with the activity plan;
- 3) To approve the establishment of the posts outlined below within the Community Protection Directorate, to focus on cohesion, rogue landlord and intelligence activity.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

DCLG have released a prospectus and invited authorities to bid into a £140,000,000 fund over four years aimed at supporting existing residents and services.

The proposals that will be considered favourably will address the following:-

Activities to build Community Cohesion and resilience - including working across partners and Voluntary & Community Sector Organisations.

Tackle rogue landlords

Gathering of intelligence and evidence.

The Council Plan 2015-19, clearly recognises the changing demographics of the population and outlines a desire to put the citizen first. The Council Plan outlines how it will ensure service delivery and employees reflect the citizens they serve, in order to deliver this there is a need to fully understand the current community and consistent change in order to respond appropriately, through improved data mapping, partnership intelligence and shared information.

Recent work undertaken including enforcement activity by teams within Community Protection has highlighted the change of demographics within the population, the increase in the need for housing enforcement activity and the growing need for support for vulnerable citizens in the community to reduce homelessness and signpost citizens to relevant services and support agencies.

Nottingham City Council has submitted a bid to DCLG with the intention that the money can be used to create roles (as outlined below), provide events and fund VCS Organisations in accordance with the support proposed by DCLG alongside previous DCLG bids and successful projects. Approval is sought to establish the following posts within the Community Protection Directorate:

- 2 Cohesion/Engagement Officer (grade G)**
- 1 Youth Worker (grade G)**
- 2 Case Workers (Grade G)**
- 1 Intelligence Officer (Grade G)**
- 1 Enforcement Officer (Grade G)**
- 1 Homelessness Prevention and Response Officer (Grade G)**
- 1 Project Officer (Grade G)**
- 1 Liaison and Accountable Officer (Grade I/J)**

Other Options Considered:

Not to bid and accept the funding from the DCLG. This option was discounted as this represents a great opportunity to secure funding to support activity that will benefit citizens and delivery in neighbourhoods - not bidding into this fund was therefore not an option.

Background Papers: **None**

Published Works: **None**

Affected Wards: **Citywide**

Colleague / Councillor Interests: **None**

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

Crime and Disorder Implications: **The Police and Crime Commissioners Plan 2015-18 for Nottinghamshire, highlights emerging trends and need, which encompass addressing complex needs of vulnerable people, places and victims, alongside strengthening a cross agency focus for delivery. The activity associated with this bid will support and enable citizens to engage with service providers and become more cohesive, which will also raise awareness, knowledge, understanding of the changing needs within communities, specifically in relation to the most vulnerable members of the community. This improved understanding will facilitate the reduction in Crime and ASB.**

Equality: **Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA_DCLG_Keeping the Balance_revised1.doc**

Social Value Considerations: **There are none to consider at this stage.**

Relates to staffing: **Yes**

Decision Type: **Leader's Key Decision**

Subject to Call In: **No**
The call-in procedure does not apply to the proposed decision because the delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or Vice-Chair) in his/her absence has been consulted and agreed both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency.

Person Consulted: Councillor Brian Parbutt
Consultation Date: 14/12/2016
The bidding process had strict deadlines and urgent approval is required in order to accept the funding from the DCLG.

Advice Sought:

Legal Advice:

Employment-related legal comments;

With regard to any internal appointments to posts funded by the proposed funding should be made on merit in accordance with Section 7 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. If the posts are dependent on time-limited funding then it is advised that any related appointments are made on a fixed-term basis to coincide with the anticipated expiry of funding availability.

Contract and Commercial related comments;

The proposals in this report raise no significant legal issues and are supported.

The receipt of the funding from DCLG will allow the Council to provide activity within the City to support citizens and in particular vulnerable groups, without which the Council would be unable to deliver.

The funding will be used for various purposes, all of which are required to be in compliance with the Council's Constitution in terms of spend and recruitment as well as ensuring compliance with DCLG grant funding conditions to prevent claw-back.

To that effect, authority is delegated to the Director of Community Protection to award and allocate funding to VCS Organisations following either a compliant procurement process or grants award process, whichever is deemed appropriate in the circumstances. It must be noted however, that if funding is proposed to be allocated to external Organisations which deviates from either of these processes, further advice will be required and approval for such approach must be sought.

Legal services will assist with any required contractual documentation and in reviewing the terms of the DCLG grant award should it be necessary following receipt to ensure the activities are delivered in line with the funding awarded. Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screatton (Solicitor) on 24/02/2017.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval to accept and incur expenditure upto a total of £3.000m from DCLG in respect of Building Community Cohesion and Resilience. The Council's bid is subject to DCLG approving the programme activities and spending plan.

Details of the grant conditions have not yet been provided though the funding is time limited until March 2019. The draft spending plan includes recruitment to 19.5 full time equivalent posts in the delivery of the programme. As the funding to cover the salary costs is temporary, provision will need to be made in the spending plan to cover exit costs if additional funding cannot be secured from April 2019. The staff exit costs will be determined by employee accrued service and so it is not possible to give a definitive cost at this stage.

Having spoken to the Programme Manager, the exit costs could be mitigated by reviewing the overall directorate staffing compliment during the grant funding period and holding vacancies for comparable roles towards the end of the programme.

The Programme Manager will need to put processes and procedures in place to ensure adherence to the DCLG grant conditions such as financial, performance and audit reporting requirements etc. This is necessary to ensure the Council is able recover all the costs incurred and to prevent a clawback of ineligible expenditure.

Advice provided by Maria Balchin (Finance Analyst) on 23/02/2017.

Procurement Advice:

Should the application for funding from the DCLG be successful, the proposed allocation of funding to external organisations to deliver services should be undertaken through a compliant process and in accordance with any conditions of the DCLG funding. It is understood that this process will be a robust and transparent grants process to award funding to organisations delivering services relevant to the themes of the bid. Advice provided by Jo Pettifor (Procurement Team Manager) on 24/02/2017.

HR Advice:

To note and approve receipt of DCLG funding for up to £3,000,000 over three financial years

- To approve the establishment of posts within the Community Protection Directorate, to focus on cohesion, rogue landlord and intelligence activity

Management are proposing to create new post if successful in the funding bid to focus on cohesion, rogue landlord and intelligence activity. All new posts will need to be subject to the job evaluation process. Management will need to ensure that recruitment is conducted through the appropriate processes, including re-deployment.

Should any posts initially be temporary, an appropriate exit strategy must be in place in order to terminate the contract in line with NCC guidance in the result that the post cannot be made permanent at the end of the fixed term period. Management will need to ensure appropriate timelines are in place to notify the affected employee and give appropriate notice. Management will also need to be aware of potential costs in any exit arrangement such as redundancy compensation. There will also need to be a support and development plan for the workforce an appropriate structure and delegated manager.

Advice provided by Anya Vidot (Service Redesign Consultant) on 23/01/2017.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

The proposal has clear benefits for a number of vulnerable groups within the city and it will therefore be necessary to complete a follow-up EIA if and when funds have been awarded to ensure that those groups for which monies have been applied will benefit appropriately. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 20/01/2017.

Signatures:

Jon Collins (Leader of the Council)
SIGNED and Dated: 08/03/2017
Andrew Vaughan (Corporate Director Commercial and Operations)
SIGNED and Dated: 06/03/2017