

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	2795
Author:	Gina Clark
Department:	Communities
Contact:	Gina Clark (Job Title: Performance and Monitoring Officer, Email: gina.clark@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 0115 8763971)
Subject:	Acceptance and spend of DEFRA Air Quality Grant 2016-17
Total Value:	£250k (£200k external grant money supplemented by £50k Council Energy Development Fund match funding (Type: Capital and Revenue))
Decision Being Taken:	To delegate authority to the Corporate Director Commercial and Operations to accept the terms of grant funding for the DEFRA Air Quality Grant 2016-2017 and to authorize expenditure for the £200k grant funding (awarded February 2017) in line with the conditions of grant.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>The Energy Projects Service submitted a competitive bid to DEFRA for their Air Quality Grant Scheme in November 2016. Our bid was to install Fuel Cell technology in Council buildings located within Nottingham's clean air zones. The bid was successful and the project will commence in March 2017, for one year.</p> <p>Background: The project supports the Council's objective of improving air quality in its air clean air zones. The aim of this project is to trial innovative fuel cell technology on a small scale within Nottingham City Council's property portfolio. The trial will enable us to determine the effectiveness of the technology in reducing air pollution and carbon emissions using readily available natural gas as its fuel source, when compared to traditional gas fired boiler technology which exists in the majority of buildings found in the city. The trial will also test the new technology's financial model and enable us to determine whether a large scale roll out and investment is viable for the City Council, partner organisations and stakeholders, in the future.</p>
Other Options Considered:	The alternative option was to not submit a funding bid. We would not be able to fund fuel cell technology, due to its high capital cost and status as an emerging technology.
Background Papers:	N/A

Published Works:	N/A
Affected Wards:	Bridge
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	N/A
Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	This project will replace existing gas boilers and does not have crime and disorder implications.
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: This project has neither a positive or negative impact on equality.
Social Value Considerations:	N/A
Relates to Council Property Assets:	Yes
Relates to Building Services:	Yes
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	04/04/2017
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Property, Building Services
Legal Advice:	Provided that the terms of grant funding are complied with and contract procedure rules are adhered to there are no significant legal implications arising from this decision. Advice provided by Joanne Haslam (senior solicitor) on 16/03/2017.

Finance Advice:

The use of the grant and NCC contribution aligns with the 2016/17 Energy Services Business Plan priorities [1] of:

1. 'Make energy savings across the council (including SCoRE programme in schools) and across Nottingham through behaviour change initiatives' and
2. 'Develop high quality bids into funding opportunities, to bring in money to deliver energy and waste strategies at lowest cost to the council'

Funding is in place for this decision. Grant monies of £0.200m have been awarded from DEFRA. The additional funding of £0.050m from NCC is earmarked within the Energy Development Fund which is managed by Energy Services - Projects.

There is a requirement to report expenditure up to the grant award limit to DEFRA against agreed objectives which will need to be adhered to.

References
 [1] page 32 <http://gossweb.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/nccextranet/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=38808&p=0> Advice provided by Tania Clayton Perez (Commercial Business Partner; Energy, Waste & Highways) on 14/03/2017.

Procurement Advice:

There are no significant concerns with the decision being sought. Where any elements of the project require quotations or tenders to be obtained, Procurement will support the client to undertake these in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules. Advice provided by Sue Oliver (Category Manager - Procurement) on 15/03/2017.

Property Advice:

Property support this initiative which will result in energy saving opportunities Advice provided by Peter Carroll (Head of Portfolio Investment & Development) on 07/03/2017.

Building Services Advice:

There are no significant concerns with the decision being sought and Building Services support this initiative. The Council are seeking to balance the accountability for buildings sitting with building managers alongside the technical and professional input of the Building Services team and all Building Managers (and Budget Holders) are asked to procure works through the Building Services team.

Building Services will support projects with technical skills as well as undertaking the make or buy assessment. Projects that involve architectural design, quantity surveying, CDM, structural or construction project management services - should be discussed as early as possible, and where the choice is to buy, Building Services will advise as necessary and access contractors/consultants via approved routes on your behalf.

This will help ensure that the service and project information from providers is robustly challenged against design, cost and technical content as necessary, and will help offer the Council greater value for money in the services and performance received.

Advice provided by Asaad Raouf (Design Services Manager, C&O Dept) on 17/03/17.

Signatures

Alan Clark (Councillor) (Portfolio Holder For Energy and Sustainability)
SIGNED and Dated: 21/03/2017
Andrew Vaughan (Corporate Director Commercial and Operations)
SIGNED and Dated: 27/03/2017