

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:	3038
Author:	Rasool Bibi Gore
Department:	Strategy and Resources
Contact:	Rasool Bibi Gore (Job Title: Lead Commissioning Manager, Email: rasool.gore@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158762299)
Subject:	Healthwatch Future Funding - 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2023
Total Value:	£585,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	To grant dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 to award a contract to the Healthwatch Board for five years from April 2018 until March 2023 at a cost of £585,000 (£540,000 funded via the Local Reform & Community Voices Grant and £45,000 funded via Adult Social Care budgets) to carry out statutory functions as defined under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>A previous delegated decision (2458) approved that during the 2016/17 financial year Healthwatch would explore other ways of operating that would lead to greater efficiencies. This was extended for a further 12 months (2017-2018).</p> <p>Since January 2017 commissioners have been supporting the Nottingham City Healthwatch Board in coming up with different models as well as supporting them to have conversations with key stakeholders which included Nottinghamshire Healthwatch Board. It has been agreed that the best way of achieving efficiencies which still enables Healthwatch to deliver against its statutory duties is for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Healthwatch to merge into one organisation and for it to set up a separate trading arm which enables it to generate 20% of its core running costs.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Nottingham City Council will direct award a five year contract to the Healthwatch Board on the basis that it is unique in nature (the Board is made up of expert volunteers) and that a previous procurement attempt by Nottinghamshire County Council failed to secure an organisation that was able to deliver this statutory duty.</p> <p>The funding above is on the basis that the Government continues to provide a grant of £108,000. The funding will be used by the Healthwatch Board to fund staffing and running costs which enables them to carry out the statutory functions as defined under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.</p>

**Other Options Considered:** Two other options were considered as follows:  
1) Healthwatch to receive £108,000 grant allocation only - this was discounted as benchmarking with other local authorities has shown that Nottingham City Healthwatch is one of the most efficient models nationally. It has also been discounted as there is a recognition that Healthwatch require a period of time to set up under new merger arrangements along with the development of a trading arm.  
2) To go out to tender- this has been discounted due to the specialised nature of the work. A tender process would not be able to put a new service in place in time as this is likely to be a limited market. Nottinghamshire County Council previously went out to tender and were unable to procure a Healthwatch.

**Background Papers:** None

**Published Works:** DD2458

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** None

**Dispensation from Financial Regulations:** Yes

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

**Crime and Disorder Implications:** N/A

**Equality:** Please login to the system to view the EIA document: HealthwatchEIAOct2017v6.doc

**Social Value Considerations:** N/A

**Regard for NHS Constitution:** Local authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to the NHS Constitution when exercising their public health functions under the NHS Act 2006. In making this decision relating to public health functions, we have properly considered the NHS Constitution where applicable and have taken into account how it can be applied in order to commission services to improve the health of the local community.

<b>Decision Type:</b>	Portfolio Holder
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	Yes
<b>Call In Expiry date:</b>	02/01/2018
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity
<b>Legal Advice:</b>	The City Council has a statutory duty to make contractual arrangements with a social enterprise corporate body to act as the Local Healthwatch. The key activities for the Local Healthwatch are scrutiny and monitoring of local care services. The City Council must secure those arrangements operate effectively and represent value for money and should satisfy itself that the Local Healthwatch has sufficient funding and resources to be able to undertake the required activities and this report authorizes that funding. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 31/07/2017.
<b>Finance Advice:</b>	See attached for finance advice. Advice provided by Darren Revill (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 01/08/2017. Advice documents: Healthwatch Financial Comments.doc
<b>Procurement Advice:</b>	The City Council has a statutory responsibility to set up an independent Healthwatch. Procurement have been involved in discussions around the options for this decision and are satisfied with this solution to secure efficiencies by merging the City and County Healthwatch into one organisation. The expenditure for a direct award of contract to fund Healthwatch for five years from 1 April 2018 is supported and there are no procurement concerns in relation to this decision.  Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 31/07/2017.
<b>Equality and Diversity Advice:</b>	The proposal will require a combined Healthwatch to actively pursue avenues whereby robust data can be gathered and fed into the decision making bodies to ensure that health outcomes for marginalised groups are narrowed. An emphasis on strong cultural competence will be paramount. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 05/10/2017.
<b>Signatures</b>	Nick McDonald (PH for Adults and Health) SIGNED and Dated: 21/12/2017 Helen Jones (Director for Adult Social Services (DASS)) SIGNED and Dated: 13/12/2017 Theresa Channell (Head of Corporate and Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations SIGNED and Dated: 07/11/2017 Chief Finance Officer's Comments: