

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	3145
Author:	Lisa Lopez
Department:	Strategy and Resources
Contact:	Lisa Lopez (Job Title: Commissioning Manager, Email: lisa.lopez@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158762746)
Subject:	Sign Language Interpretation Service (SLIS)
Total Value:	£85,000 (total proposed contribution from Nottingham City Council £26,901.50) (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	1) To approve dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) to award an extension of current contract for 6 months from May 2018 to November 2018 2) To approve funding of 6 months extension at a cost of £85,000, of which Nottingham City Council would contribute £26,901.50

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The SLIS assists deaf people to effectively communicate their needs with the local authority and primary health care services. Engagement with Nottingham's deaf community has highlighted that, in addition to verbal communication, deaf citizens experience multiple difficulties with written communication and organising appointments with professionals. The SLIS is easily accessible by both deaf citizens and commissioning partners across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County. The service has local knowledge and understanding so can respond to local needs using local dialects. SLIS offers both 121 interpretation, local drop ins and offers out of hours support. Each deaf citizen receives a consistent interpreter which helps build a relationship that best supports the citizens interest. This ensures as much as possible that the citizen does not have to keep repeating their personal/medical information and has proved to reduce likelihood of unfulfilled appointments and cancellations. The drop-ins are extremely valued by the deaf community and are the main route through which they can directly request planned interpretations.

The current contract is a joint arrangement with Nottinghamshire County Council, and NHS Nottingham City and County CCGs. The total annual value of the current contract is £170,000:

- Nottingham City Council - £53,803 (£26,901.50 for 6 month extension)
- Nottinghamshire County Council - £40,000 (£20,000 for 6 month extension)
- Clinical Commissioning Groups (City and County) - £76,197 (£38,098.50 for 6 month extension)

The current contract is due to expire on 31st May 2018. It is proposed that a full procurement exercise will be undertaken for a 3 year contract with the option to extend for 2 years. Extension of the current contract for 6 months is needed to enable a full tender process to take place (approval for procurement to follow).

Other Options Considered:

1) **Do nothing:** This option is not viable as the current contract is due to expire. The Equalities Act (2010) requires reasonable adjustments are made to enable deaf citizens (and others) to access and use services. Nottingham City Council is also a signatory to the British Sign Language Charter which includes a pledge to ensure access for deaf people to information and services. Therefore action is required to ensure our commitment.

2) **Spot purchase sign language services from the Translation Framework:** This option is rejected as the Translation Framework comprises national providers and cannot assure the local, consistent standard of provision. The current SLIS block contract offers value for money as it includes Drop In services which are much valued. Such face-to-face support would not be available via the Translation Framework, so would exclude deaf citizens from booking planned interpretations themselves. The current SLIS contract also offers value for money by offering consistency of support, reducing failed/cancelled appointments.

3) **Allow contracts to end, re-model and procure through open tender now.** Re-procurement of any new services is planned to take place during 2018/19, for the services to commence from November 2018. It is unlikely that savings would be made through the competitive tender process, or that any new services could be in place before November 2018. An extension of existing services is required to provide continuity of service until November 2018.

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Delegated Decision 2298 - Continuing Services for the Nottingham Deaf Community (November 2016) Delegated Decision 0501 - Tendering for deaf interpretation services (November 2012)

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

None

Dispensation from Financial Regulations:

Yes

Consultations:

Date: 31/03/2018
Minority Groups: Nottingham City and County Deaf citizens
Consultation is planned for late April/early May 2018, to inform the specification for the planned tender process. This will focus on preferred methods of communication, and access to communication, for Deaf citizens.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

Not affected

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: Decision is for continuation of services

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

11/05/2018

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

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

The services are considered as 'light touch regime services' under the Public Contracts Regulations. The total value of the extension when combined with the previous extension (approved under earlier DDM 2298), remain below the threshold for advertising for tender in the official journal of the EU.

The extension will ensure continued service delivery and support in the community and it is deemed to offer value for money whilst a re-procurement of the services will be undertaken for future provision beyond the extended term.

Legal services will support colleagues alongside the procurement team as and when required to facilitate the new tender process.
Advice provided by Dionne Claire Scream (Solicitor) on 04/04/2018.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval to extend the Sign Language Interpretation Service for a period of 6 months for a total contract value of £85,000. As detailed within this decision, Nottingham City Council is the holder of this contract with funding received from health partners under Section 256 arrangements whilst Nottinghamshire County Council pays the contract provider direct. The cost to Nottingham City Council over the extension period is £26,901.50.

The cost will be met from existing revenue budget provision through the Adult Social Care contracts budget included within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and this extension will not impact on 2018/19 budget savings.

This decision requires dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules (5.1.2) in accordance with Financial Regulations 3.29, and considering the reasons detailed by the report author, is deemed appropriate in these circumstances.

Longer term value for money will be achieved through a full tender process which will be subject to further approval.
Advice provided by Darren Revill (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 20/04/2018.

Procurement Advice:

The decision to extend the Sign Language Interpretation Service by six months (from 31 May 2018) at a cost to Nottingham City Council of £26,901.50 is supported by Procurement, on the basis that the service will be reprocured during this time (approval for the procurement to proceed to be secured in due course). The procurement will be led by Nottingham City Council's Procurement Team on behalf of NCC and the partner authorities. Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 04/04/2018.

Signatures

Nick McDonald (PH for Adults and Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 03/05/2018
Candida Brudenell (Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources)
SIGNED and Dated: 02/05/2018
Laura Pattman (Strategic Director of Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 01/05/2018
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: