

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

3171

Author:

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Department:

Development and Growth

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Subject:

Proposal to extend European Social Fund Youth Engagement Initiative - Nottingham Works and Nottingham Works Plus

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

Yes

Total Value:

£15,996,974 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) For the Council to act as the Accountable Body for the project; and accept European Social Fund (ESF) for an additional £15,871,974 to extend the existing ESF Youth Engagement Initiative (YEI) project, Nottingham Works , between September 2018 and December 2023.
- 2) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Development and Growth to enter into an agreement with Department for Work and Pensions and allocate funding to delivery partners in line with collaboration agreements.
- 3) For the City council to use a proportion of Area Based Grant and NEET prevention budget, as a contribution to local match for the extension in the financial years between 2018-19 and 2023-2024.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Following successful delivery of the ESF Youth Engagement Initiative (YEI), Nottingham City Council has been invited to extend the existing project (working title 'Nottingham Works'), with the potential to draw in £10.665m of ESF YEI funding, creating a project for Nottingham of £15.872m. Local match is required to access this funding, and as such, we have agreements with a range of partners to provide the required match funding.

Under the Project Change Request (PCR), we are proposing to deliver three strands in the proposed new YEI programme, summarised in annex 1. If the PCR is approved, we will secure an additional £10.665m to support 6,986 unemployed 15 to 29 year old residents from 2018 to 2023, into education, training, Apprenticeships and work. There would be a particular focus on support for those with more complex needs. The project will ensure that the 18 to 24 Guarantee is supported until 2023, with a combined communication and marketing approach and an explicit focus on those furthest away from the job market, such as young people not engaged with Jobcentre Plus (the economically inactive).

Extending the Nottingham Works programme will:

1. Ensure continued delivery of the 18 - 24 Guarantee across the City, with funding secured until December 2023. This will include getting 16 - 18 year old NEETs into jobs and education and reaching out to economically inactive 18 - 24 year olds in the community to get them into training and jobs.
2. Deliver high quality projects that are designed to meet ongoing local needs, responding to local partner feedback and evidence of issues in communities.
3. Sustain the Nottingham Jobs service beyond 2019, which is entirely dependent on external funding.
4. Continue enhancing the Area Based Grant with additional funding to community partners, to sustain them to continue to deliver employment programmes in their communities.
5. Secure £10.665m of additional funding for Nottingham and its deprived communities.

If NCC's application for additional ESF funding is successful, Nottingham City Council will act as the Accountable Body, taking responsibility for the funding and delivery of outcomes. In common with our approach to other ESF contracts, we will manage the project and associated risks rigorously.

The project extension will make a significant contribution to reducing youth unemployment, poverty and inequality in the City. In particular, it will engage over 5600 citizens under 25 who are not in education or training, 1,402 will have disabilities and 2,620 will be from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Briefing notes documents:

Appendix 1 YEIX Project Overview.docx

Other Options Considered:

Not to bid for this additional ESF funding - This would mean that Nottingham would not receive £10.665m of additional external funding and this would disadvantage vulnerable young people in the city and reduce their employment support opportunities. This would jeopardise the council's ability to deliver its 18-24 guarantee. It would also put at risk the sustainability of the Nottingham Jobs Service and deny local community partners access to additional external funding.

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Consultations:

Date: 05/04/2018
Ward Councillors: Sam Webster
Agreed in principle to prepare project change request

Date: 18/04/2018
Other City Council Bodies:Corporate Leadership Team
Agreed to prepare and submit project change request

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

The primary objective of the YEI programme is to support young people who are NEET and unemployed into employment. This will include the development of additional provision for groups of young people who face multiple barriers to work, such as those who are at risk of / involved in gang related activity, ex-offenders and those with health issues. By engaging with young people who are NEET and from vulnerable groups, the programme will reduce the potential for them to become involved in crime or anti-social behaviour by providing them with opportunities for employment. The programme will provide employment opportunities for young people who are NEET or in vulnerable groups, including pre-employment training, traineeships and apprenticeships.

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: The activities with the programmes have been designed to ensure equality between genders, to prevent discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. The programme outputs specifies the number of participants in three main categories, Health, BAME and Migrants.

Decision Type:

Leader's Key Decision

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

12/06/2018

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance

Legal Advice:

The City Council acts as the accountable body for the YEI project. The delivery partners it works with are not contractors to the City Council but as the accountable body the City Council is responsible for the administration and management of the grant funding to those delivery partners. Partnering agreements need to be put in place with new delivery partners and existing arrangements extended with current partners. Those partnering agreements should ensure that the City Council is able to recover any funds in the event of claw back by DWP where this is caused by the failure of a delivery partner. In addition the City Council mitigates its risks by ensuring payments are made in arrears and active management of those partners to ensure the risks of failing to meet outputs is dealt with in sufficient time. It should be noted that three of the organizations contributing local match are part of the City Council and therefore the City Council is directly responsible for successfully delivering this local matched funding. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 25/04/2018.

Finance Advice:

Nottingham City Council is currently the Accountable Body for the YEI project and therefore processes and procedures are already in place to ensure the conditions of the ESF Funding are kept and grant claims are submitted in a timely manner. This decision extends the project until December 2023. Nottingham City Council will be responsible for the allocation of funding in accordance with the ESF criteria and partners have been invited to participate in the scheme.

It has been agreed within the Council to use ABG and NEET prevention budgets as contributions to local match. There are no additional financial requirements from this scheme on the City Council and this creates no financial pressure.

Processes are in place to minimize any risk of non compliance with the ESF Funding arrangements but as stated in the legal comments arrangements should ensure that the failure of a delivery partner does not place any financial risk on the Council. Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 08/05/2018.

Signatures:

Jon Collins (Leader of the Council)
SIGNED and Dated: 05/06/2018
David Bishop (Deputy CE, CD for Development and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 24/05/2018