

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:	3217
Author:	Robert Dixon
Department:	Development and Growth
Contact:	Robert Dixon (Job Title: Head of Business Growth and International Strategy, Email: robert.dixon@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 64907)
Subject:	Growth Hub 2 ERDF Project
Total Value:	£49,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To bid for the Growth Hub 2 ERDF grant and, if the bid is successful, to act as the accountable body.</li><li>2. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director Economy to negotiate and sign the grant agreement with MHCLG and agreements with its delivery partners and to allocate funding to those partners.</li><li>3. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director Economy to implement a grant award policy and award grants as the accountable body.</li><li>4. To commit £49,000 of match funding from existing reserves including from Growth Hub 1 project.</li></ol>
Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>This is a continuation project of Growth Hub 1, where Nottingham City Council is the accountable body for the D2N2 Growth Hub. This involves receiving the grant from MHCLG, making payments to partners (Notts County Council, East Midlands Chamber, Derby City, Derbyshire County, South Derbyshire Council, Erewash Council, Chesterfield Council and Derbyshire Dales Council). The Growth Hub is a successful LEP wide initiative which supports businesses across the region, boosting productivity and growth. Nottingham City Council has acted as the accountable body for the past 2 years. Continuing this role will give the Growth Hub continuity. The accountable body role is paid for partly through the ERDF grant and partly through match funding from LEP/BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy). Risks are managed partly by service level agreements with delivery partners, regular internal review meetings and performance management through the Growth Hub board and LEP board. We have a successful track record and zero claw back to date.</p>

<b>Other Options Considered:</b>	<p><b>Not bidding. The project is a key business support project for the city and wider D2N2 area. We are already accountable body for the current GH1 project, so this secures this key business programme and maintains employment in the City Council for ca 10 staff and for this reason this option was rejected.</b></p> <p><b>Bidding but for a smaller scale project in some form. An option, but wouldn't significantly impact on risk but would reduce delivery. This bid maximizes the grant funding available to support businesses, with business advisors, and integrated programme across D2N2, and a strong local Nottingham presence with 4 local business advisors funded by the project and for this reason this option was rejected.</b></p>
<b>Background Papers:</b>	N/A
<b>Published Works:</b>	N/A
<b>Affected Wards:</b>	Citywide
<b>Colleague / Councillor Interests:</b>	N/A
<b>Consultations:</b>	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
<b>Crime and Disorder Implications:</b>	NA
<b>Equality:</b>	EIA not required. Reasons: The project is a continuation of an existing project, which supports all SMEs in the city.
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Officer
<b>Executive Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Scheme of Delegation Reference Number or Other Source of Delegation:</b>	1
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	No
	The call-in procedure does not apply to the decision because the value of the decision is below the call in threshold.
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	Legal, Finance

**Legal Advice:**

**As the accountable body the City Council will be responsible for compliance by its delivery partners with the terms of the Growth Hub 2 grant funding rules. The City Council should put in place a partnership agreement with its partners which enables the City Council to hold those partners to account and to recover any grant funding from them in the event the City Council is subject to financial clawback. The City Council should have a scheme in place to enable organizations to bid for grant awards and have grant agreements with successful bidders to enable the City Council to monitor and report on the use of the grant funding and as with its delivery partners to recover funding in the event the City Council is subject to financial clawback. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 04/06/2018.**

**Finance Advice:**

**The Council are already Accountable Body for Growth Hub 1 grant and therefore this bid is an extension of current arrangements. The match funding that is required is available and not earmarked for other purposes, and the GH1 reserve will be earmarked to ensure that the money is kept for this purpose. An Officer has responsibility in Economic Development for monitoring and managing the Grants within the section, ensuring all appropriate records are kept and that the Council is not at risk of financial clawback, reducing the risk to the Council.**

**Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 05/07/2018.**

**Signatures:**

**David Bishop (Corporate Director Development & Growth)**

**SIGNED and Dated: 23/07/2018**