

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:	3221
Author:	Graham de Max
Department:	Development and Growth
Contact:	Graham de Max (Job Title: Partnership and Policy Manager, Email: graham.demax@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158763538)
Subject:	Nottingham Private Rented Assistance Scheme
Total Value:	£50,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	To approve expenditure of £50,000 from the Council's allocation of Flexible Homelessness Support Grant in order to expand and enhance the Nottingham Private Rented Assistance Scheme (NPRAS) operated by the Council's Housing Aid Service.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>Nottingham, like most towns and cities in Britain in the last few years, has seen a significant increase in homelessness. This has led to an outstripping of the supply of temporary accommodation by demand and the need to use bed and breakfast. A number of measures are being put in place to increase the supply of more suitable temporary accommodation and to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of B&amp;B.</p> <p>There is also a need to increase the supply of permanent accommodation to both prevent and resolve homelessness. Given the severe constraints on the social stock, the focus needs to be on the private rented sector. Housing Aid has for some years now delivered the NPRAS service, acting as a broker to assist people into tenancies, primarily through the use of bonds, which give landlords confidence and assurances when letting to Housing Aid customers.</p> <p>The service can be enhanced in order to encourage landlords to offer more properties to people who are homeless, and also to improve the PRS offer for tenants. Many people are reluctant to take up a PRS tenancy as a permanent housing solution (as opposed to a social tenancy) for a number of reasons, such as lack of security or previous bad experiences. Using the extra investment it will be possible to make it a more attractive proposition. The increased supply of accommodation via this route will speed up throughput in temporary accommodation and reduce reliance on B&amp;B.</p> <p>Other initiatives are being developed separately by Nottingham City Homes to support the Council's objectives, including the acquisition of further dispersed houses for temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Flexible Homelessness Support Grant is being paid the local authorities by the Department of Communities and Local Government in the years 2017-18 and 2018-19 in order to assist them in the full range of their homelessness services.</p>

<b>Other Options Considered:</b>	<b>Do nothing: dismissed - as the Council has statutory obligations to limit the time that people spend in B&amp;B and has a target to eliminate its use. This will not be possible unless more people are housed in the PRS as a viable alternative to social housing.</b>
<b>Background Papers:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Published Works:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Affected Wards:</b>	<b>Citywide</b>
<b>Colleague / Councillor Interests:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Consultations:</b>	<b>Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.</b>
<b>Crime and Disorder Implications:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Equality:</b>	<b>EIA not required. Reasons: There are no direct equalities implications arising from this decision. The proposal is for an enhancement and expansion of existing practice, for which an EIA has been completed previously.</b>
<b>Decision Type:</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Call In Expiry date:</b>	<b>07/08/2018</b>
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	<b>Legal, Finance</b>
<b>Legal Advice:</b>	<b>There are no significant legal implications arising from the content of this report Advice provided by Sarah Molyneux (Head of Legal and Governance) on 25/05/2018.</b>

**Finance Advice:**

**There are a number of measures that the City Council and partners are undertaking to reduce the current reliance on B&B. The £50,000 will be a contribution to these measures and the grant is in place. The impact of all the preventative measures are being closely monitored.**

**Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 04/06/2018.**

**Signatures**

**Jane Urquhart (PH for Housing and Planning)**

**SIGNED and Dated: 30/07/2018**

**David Bishop (Deputy CE, CD for Development and Growth)**

**SIGNED and Dated: 27/07/2018**