

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

3452

Author:

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Department:

Development and Growth

Contact:

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Subject:

Local Government Association ' Building Council Homes Programme' grant funding

Total Value:

30000 (savings) (Type: Capital)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) to accept the offer of a grant of £30,000 from the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government Association (IDEA) subject to the terms set out in the IDEA grant agreement.
- 2) to enter into the IDEA's grant agreement

Reasons for the Decision(s)

In December 2018 the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government Association launched the 'Building Council Homes Programme' Grant scheme to provide support to councils wanting to access specialist skills and advice to increase the delivery of homes via the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

With the support of the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Heritage and the Corporate Director of Development and Growth the Regeneration Team submitted a bid in January 2019 for £30,000 which received approval from the Local Government Association on 8th March 2019.

IDEA require the Acceptance of the Grant letter to be returned by the 15th March 2019, followed closely by the Signed Grant Agreement, this is to facilitate the grant being paid to the Council before 31st March 2019.

Nottingham City Council has undertaken an ambitious new build programme already, in partnership with Nottingham City Homes. a significant amount of the previous new build development has been on small infill or former garage sites. The lifting of the HRA borrowing cap offers a new opportunity for the Council to develop on sites it had previously considered unachievable. The Council is committed to delivering new Council homes, but recognises that HRA investment must be appropriate and achieve a good mix and balance of tenures to build strong communities and neighbourhoods of choice.

As a result the grant funding will be used to appoint a Consultant, the details of which will be the subject of a separate report to the Leader of the Council. The scope of the project will be to seek specialist advice on how the Council can accelerate and extend delivery of homes via the HRA around the North and West of the city. The advice would help to achieve a balanced and considered approach to the tenure splits in each location. The findings of the work will be utilised by the Council to guide investment and assist in the decision making for the HRA new build programme.

Other Options Considered:

The option of not accepting this grant funding will be a lost opportunity to fund strategic, analytical advice which can inform the Council's new build programme going forward. The Council would have to find financial resources to appoint a Consultant to gain the specialist housing advice which cannot be found in current strategic housing management assessments (SHMA). As a result this option was rejected.

Background Papers:

Grant Agreement

Unpublished background papers:

BCHP Grant Agreement Nottingham 30k rev.doc

Published Works:

none

Affected Wards:

Bilborough, Clifton North

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

none

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:	None
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: No impact on new or changing policies, services or functions
Decision Type:	Officer
Executive Decision?	Yes
Scheme of Delegation Reference Number or Other Source of Delegation:	1
Subject to Call In:	No The call-in procedure does not apply to the decision because the value of the decision is below the call in threshold.
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance
Legal Advice:	This report raises no significant legal issues. The City Council must ensure it complies with the terms of the IDEA grant funding terms but it is noted that the use of the funding will be the subject of a further Executive report. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 12/03/2019.
Finance Advice:	The terms of the grant award are set out in the grant letter and it is important these are adhered to. No match funding is required and no additional financial pressure is placed on the City Council in accepting the award. The work generated by the consultant who will be paid for with this funding will require separate approval and financial advice. Given the proximity to the end of the financial year, receipt of the grant must be treated appropriately in the accounts to ensure that it is available next financial year should it be received before the end of March. Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 12/03/2019.
Signatures:	chris Henning (Corporate Director Development and Growth) SIGNED and Dated: 15/03/2019