

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

3508

Author:

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Department:

Strategy and Resources

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Subject:

MHCLG Rapid Rehousing Pathway

Total Value:

£645,156 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

Portfolio Holder decisions:

- 1. To accept the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Rapid Rehousing Pathway funding award of £645,156 for use from Q4 2018/19 to the end of the 2019/20 financial year;**
- 2. To approve funding for contracts listed in exempt Appendix 1;**
- 3. To grant dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Operational Issues) to allow for the direct award of contracts listed in exempt Appendix 1;**
- 4. To approve funding to appoint 1.5 FTE members of staff to the Nottinghamshire Private Rented Assistance Scheme service to provide a dedicated service to assist rough sleepers.**

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Severe pressures caused by benefit changes, the lack of availability of settled accommodation, loss of funding for preventative services and other factors have led to a marked increase in rough sleeping nationally over recent years.

On the 16th October 2018, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government issued an invitation for, local authorities to apply for funding to become an early adopter of the Rapid Rehousing Pathway (RRP) set out in the government's Rough Sleeping Strategy. The Rapid Rehousing Pathway seeks to establish or strengthen local pathways into settled accommodation for rough sleepers, to include:

- rapid assessment of need and eligibility;
- rapid rehousing into an appropriate settled home with referral into support services where needed.

Nottingham City is one of 11 local authorities nationally (out of over 140 that applied) that were successful in applying for funding to become an early adopter of the RRP. This funding will be used to strengthen the City's existing response to help people sleeping rough (and also those at risk) through the addition of the following new measures:

- A new Safe Space to Stay (SSStS) Hub providing 24 hour shelter and support to rough sleepers;
- A tenancy support service (Supported Lettings) to help people who have slept rough to resettle into and sustain permanent accommodation;
- Specialist 'navigators' who will work to help and encourage and assist people who sleep rough to access support to attend to their health and wellbeing, and to help work through individual barriers (e.g. substance misuse, mental health needs, etc) that keep them from moving off the streets and into accommodation;
- Additional, dedicated staff within the Nottingham City Private Rented Assistance Scheme (NPRAS) service to help people who have slept rough to access private tenancies.

These services are being established in the last quarter of the 2018/19 financial year and will continue until the end of the 2019/20 year.

Other Options Considered:

Not to implement Nottingham's Rapid Rehousing Pathway and/or to implement an alternative set of measures. This option was rejected as the funding received through the Rapid Rehousing Pathway early adopter award from MHCLG is restricted to use to put in place these services as set out in Nottingham's bid. This is further reinforced by a memorandum of understanding between Nottingham City Council and MHCLG for the use of these funds. Furthering existing work to help rough sleepers off the streets and into settled accommodation is also a priority for the Council. The measures put forward represent the Council and its partners' best judgement on the use of funding to help rough sleepers in the City off the streets and into settled accommodation in accordance with the conditions of the award.

To hold a competitive tender to appoint providers to deliver services comprising Nottingham's Rapid Rehousing Pathway. The invitation to apply for funding to become an early adopter of the RRP was advertised by MHCLG on the 16th October 2018 with expressions of interest to be submitted by 31st October 2018. Local authorities were also asked to detail delivery partners as part of their expression of interest (see bid detail in Exempt Appendix 2) and demonstrate that services could be in place in Q4 2018/19. Final confirmation of Nottingham's award was received on 21st December 2018. This option was rejected as, under these circumstances, the direct award of services is considered the only viable way of appointing providers to deliver Nottingham's RRP in order to meet the conditions of the bid for funding from MHCLG. Delivery partners were selected on the basis of expertise in supporting rough sleepers (as demonstrated through other services commissioned by or delivered through partnerships with NCC) and consideration of their ability to deliver eligible activities and to timescales required by MHCLG under the RRP prospectus.

Background Papers: **None**

Published Works: **None**

Affected Wards: **Citywide**

Colleague / Councillor Interests: **None**

Any Information Exempt from publication: **Yes**

Dispensation from Financial Regulations: **Yes**

Exempt Information:

Description of what is exempt:
Appendix 1 - Proposed Award of Contracts
Appendix 2 - Excerpt from Nottingham City Council's application to MHCLG to become an Early Adopter of the Rapid Rehousing Pathway

An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Appendix 1 and 2 to this decision are exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 because they contain information on negotiations with organisations contracted to deliver services and, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information because doing so may compromise the Council's position in respect of ongoing contract negotiations.

Documents exempt from publication:

EXEMPT Appendix 2 - Nottingham City RRP Early Adopter EOI (Excerpt).docx, EXEMPT Appendix 1 - Proposed Award of Contracts and Staff Appointments.docx

Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act requires local authorities to do all they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder. The implementation of this decision will contribute to a reduction in crime and disorder by helping to alleviate rough sleeping in the City.
Equality:	Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA - MHCLG Rapid Rehousing Pathway (004).docx
Social Value Considerations:	None
Relates to staffing:	Yes
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	03/05/2019
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Equality and Diversity
Legal Advice:	<p>It is understood following discussions with colleagues from Commissioning and Procurement that each of the proposed contracts can be considered separately and are for different type of services and their financial value does not need to be aggregated. On that basis each of the contracts is below the financial threshold applicable to the 'light touch ' regime and a direct award can be made.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above the City Council must ensure that the grant award from MCHLG permits the City Council to make direct awards to suppliers and that quotes or tenders are not required. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 10/04/2019.</p>
Finance Advice:	<p>Nottingham City Council applied for the grant and the application detailed how this would be spent in accordance with the grant purpose. The exempt Appendix contains the breakdown of the spend.</p> <p>The direct award of the contracts are in line with the grant application and are specialist services and the requested dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule (5.1.2) in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 is considered appropriate in these circumstances.</p> <p>The total grant is allocated for the last quarter of 2018/19 and 19/20 and the accounts will need to be adjusted to show the correct financial year apportionment to ensure it is not absorbed.</p> <p>The grant requires no specific match funding but will support work the Council is already doing.</p> <p>Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 15/03/2019.</p>

Procurement Advice:

Dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules 5.1.2, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (operational issues) is supported by Procurement in order for the direct awards as specified in exempt Appendix 1 to be granted. The contracts will enable a range of measures to be put in place to support local pathways for rapid rehousing into settled accommodation for rough sleepers in Nottingham. The value of these direct awards all fall below the EU procurement threshold applicable to the "light touch" regime. Contracts should be put in place for these services.

Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 29/03/2019.

HR Advice:

Management are proposing to create an additional 1.5 FTE NPRAS Officer roles which are due to additional funding. The roles will be Fixed Term for 2019/2020, and have already been evaluated previously using the GLPC scheme grade confirmed as F. Management will need to ensure that recruitment is conducted through the appropriate processes, including redeployment. Management should be aware that the selected potholder's should commence on a starting salary of level one within the respective grade, unless the appointed colleague is already in employment at the council and on level two of the same grade, in which case the employee would be matched over at the rate of pay they currently receive. There will be need to be a support and development plan for the new post holder once appointed in line with managing performance through the new probationary policy. As the post is initially temporary, an appropriate exit strategy must be in place in order to terminate the contract in line with NCC guidance in the event that the post cannot be made permanent at the end of the fixed term period. Management will need to ensure appropriate timelines are in place to notify the affected employee and give appropriate notice. Advice provided by Ian Passey (HR Consultant) on 19/03/2019.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

It will be important that review arrangements are kept to ensure that some of our most vulnerable and marginalised citizens receive all the appropriate care. It will also be important that minority ethnic groups are culturally catered for as they will face a number of multi faceted barriers to access. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 11/04/2019.

Signatures

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (Portfolio Holder Planning, Housing and Heritage)
SIGNED and Dated: 25/04/2019
Candida Brudenell (Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources)
SIGNED and Dated: 25/04/2019
Laura Pattman (Strategic Director of Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 25/04/2019
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: