

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

<b>Reference Number:</b>	3521
<b>Author:</b>	Laura Pattman
<b>Department:</b>	Strategy and Resources
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**Subject:** Financial Advice Framework Agreement

**Total Value:** Indicative value to be determined at point of award. Within Portfolio Holder approval levels. (Type: Revenue)

**Decision Being Taken:**

- 1) To develop a framework for financial advice;
- 2) To start the tendering process for places within the framework;
- 3) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Commercial Services to award places on the framework subject to the successful completion of the tendering process.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)** It is not always economic nor effective to retain expertise for all specialised project specific finance work. In addition there are benefits to getting outside perspectives and knowledge about alternative methods of working or what approaches have been considered elsewhere.

By setting up our own framework agreement the Council can be more specific about the terms of the agreement and how we engage advisors, which in turn will provide more control than using an existing contract. Delegation of the decision to extend the agreement, will allow the options within the framework to be used without requiring a specific additional report.

Delegation of the decision to award places on the framework will remove the need to produce another similar report for approval after the evaluation process, which will speed up the award process.

It should be noted that appointment to the framework does not guarantee any work over its life. Any use of the framework will be considered as part of the budget and approval process for any scheme that uses it and it will be subject to a separate approval.

**Other Options Considered:** 1) Do not set up a framework agreement - this would mean the Council could not get external financial advice for any of its projects without going through a separate procurement process each time. This would create delay and is likely to cost more if they are approached on a case-by-case basis. For this reason, this option was rejected.  
2) Use an existing framework agreement - this would limit the Council to using the standard terms of engagement from any such agreement. There is also a risk that the framework may lapse or not be renewed, which would result in having to carry out a new procurement exercise. For this reason, this option was rejected.  
3) Tender for a specific financial adviser to provide all support for a fixed period. This option is not felt to give the flexibility of a framework, where specific advisers can be engaged from the range of approved providers on a scheme by scheme basis. This will allow the Council to choose the most appropriate adviser for any particular piece of work, given their specific experience and skills. For this reason, this option was rejected.

**Background Papers:** None.

**Published Works:** None.

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** None.

**Consultations:** Date: 01/05/2019  
Other: Councillor Graham Chapman, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Commercial Services.  
Supportive of decision.  
Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:** None.

**Equality:** EIA not required. Reasons: The decision does not relate to new or changing policies, services or functions.

**Social Value Considerations:** None.

**Decision Type:** Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:** Yes

**Call In Expiry date:** 16/05/2019

**Advice Sought:** Legal, Finance, Procurement

**Legal Advice:** This report raises no significant legal issues provided the framework is awarded in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the City Council's Financial Regulations. Executive approval will be required to award call-off contracts under the terms of the framework.  
  
Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 26/04/2019.

**Finance Advice:** As and when work is commissioned from the framework, the appropriate approval process will be undertaken in accordance with the constitution which will also reference an identified funding stream.  
  
Advice provided by Ceri Walters as Finance Co-ordinator (Head of Commercial Finance) on 25/04/2019.

**Procurement Advice:** The report author has already engaged with procurement to ensure compliance with the Council's financial regulations and contract procedure rules. A tender will be conducted in order to secure best value for the Council and the citizens it represents. On this basis there are no procurement concerns with the approach.  
  
Advice provided by Rosalie Parkin (Category Manager) on 26/04/2019.

**Signatures**

Jon Collins (Leader & PH for Regeneration and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 09/05/2019
Candida Brudenell (Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources)
SIGNED and Dated: 08/05/2019